



Town of Niverville Press Release

February 19, 2019

Niverville Policing Strategy

After having an independent Policy Study completed by Rick Hiebert Consulting (former Police Chief of the City of Winkler) for the Town of Niverville and having given Niverville Town Council time to review the report, Town Council has set a strategy for policing going forward.

In setting the vision Council sees benefit to a hybrid model of retaining the RCMP service but augmenting with stronger municipal enforcement mechanisms. While Council acknowledges the great work that the RCMP provides, Council views the RCMP as being a great asset with what Council is calling “higher level” police work as opposed to “lower level” police work. Council defines “lower level” police work as education, surveillance, theft, and highway traffic act violations. While Council also acknowledges that the RCMP have it in their duties to provide service for “lower level” policing, the reality is that all things not “lower level” are consuming their time and limited resources and that this is not likely to change anytime soon. Thus, Council sees it as necessary to assist and lower the pressure on the RCMP services to come to the plate with municipal resources to assist in “lower level” policing issues as the next step.

Thus, Council has put a plan into place to assist with “lower level” policing that will include the following objectives:

1. Council will continue to add to its security camera program by continuing to build the fiber optic infrastructure necessary to place additional cameras around Niverville to assist the RCMP in documenting incidents and discouraging illegal activity in our community.
2. Council will be seeking its own employee(s) to do real time monitoring of these cameras especially during after hours (night time) when most of this surveillance is required.
3. Council is committed to working with volunteers and community groups that make our community safer such as those involved in the COPP program.
4. Council will be investigating and exploring technology and innovation as means to assist with policing.
5. As the Police Act is amended every five years and is being worked on for its 2020 release by the Province, Council sat down with Justice Department personnel to request two items:
 - a. Greater power given to enhance bylaw enforcement to be able to deal with matters related to the Highway Traffic Act including the issuance of tickets. This is already being done in other provinces including Alberta and our Council is asking for our provincial leaders to consider adopting the same legislation here in Manitoba. If granted Council is prepared to go from a contract position for bylaw enforcement to having its own full-time bylaw enforcement officer(s).
 - b. Greater power given to the Community Safety Officers. This is a program established by the Province of Manitoba to augment policing. Recently more authority was granted to these officers so as be able to apprehend persons suspected of consuming too much alcohol and/or consuming drugs in public places. Council met and asked the



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Department of Justice to extend their powers to allow CSO's to question suspicious people including those as an example that are driving around at 3am for no apparent reason. Council was told that CSO's receive a certain degree of training and Council has asked this training to be extended to give them the ability to apprehend or question suspicious persons and then carry the necessary weapons aside from a gun that would be required.

The cost of the enhanced bylaw enforcement and CSO's would be born by the town.

In conclusion after reviewing the police study, and after determining the greatest need in terms of policing for Niverville at this time is in the area of "lower level" policing, that Niverville Town Council sees a hybrid model of the RCMP augmented with municipal employees that includes extending the role of bylaw enforcement and the implementation of CSO's, as well as looking to technology, as a less expensive option than developing a full fledged municipal police force as a way to deliver the desired results of a safer community. This policing strategy will be reviewed annually and will include annual meetings, or more as needed, with the Department of Justice and the "D" division of the RCMP. By having the hybrid approach Council believes that flexibility exists to have policing that meet the needs of the community in the years ahead.



Summary Document of Niverville Police Study by Rick Hiebert

Recommendations

Niverville is looking for a higher level of police presence and proactive work. It's also in a situation where policing costs will rise dramatically after the next census regardless of the policing option chosen.

If the decision is made to stay with the RCMP, the combined cost of the next contract together with providing and maintaining accommodation will be significant. Although the contract is made between Canada and the municipality, I was advised that questions specific to service delivery are best addressed locally. Questions about the exact number of police officers, response times, levels of proactive policing programs, etc. would need to be clearly defined. Depending on the level of dedicated commitment received from the RCMP it would also be recommended to consider the option of entering into a contract with MB Justice allowing Niverville to employ CSO's. This would most definitely have the ability to compliment law enforcement and complete the wants of the citizens. Because this option also includes providing accommodations, it should be asked if this could be accomplished inside the newly acquired administration building or if a new standalone facility would need to be constructed.

If the decision is made to create a Niverville Police Service, then I'd recommend that the inclusion of CSO's be left until it's determined if they are necessary. Such an option may well provide for significant one time cost savings in the construction of a facility if it could be done inside the newly acquired administration building. A police friendly functionality design would need to be drawn and a renovation cost established.

It's no secret that a number of larger urban centers in Manitoba have actively explored going the direction of establishing their own municipal police services but in each case, it's the startup costs that are most concerning. The larger a community gets the more it will cost to make this move. If this is the direction that Niverville feels it needs to go, then the sooner the better.



Costing

Niverville Police Service would be based on 5 officers and 1 support staff member.

A. Niverville Police Service (Startup Costs)	
a. Police Officers Personal Equipment	52,000
b. Cruisers	240,000
c. Office Equipment	120,000
d. Recruit Training	65,000
Total Startup Cost	477,100 or \$227 per Residential Equivalent Unit
B. Niverville Police Service (Operating Costs)	
a. Wages & Benefits	474,000
b. Office	31,000
c. Misc. Expenses	35,000
d. Automobile	20,200
e. Replacement Reserve	15,000
Total Annual Cost	575,200 or \$274 per Residential Equivalent Unit
Projected Revenues	36,000

Community Safety Officer Program (based on one additional officer)

A. Community Safety Officer (Operating Costs)	
a. Wages & Benefits	56,000
b. Misc. Expenses	3,000
c. Automobile	3,500
Total Annual Cost	62,500 or \$29 per Residential Equivalent Unit
B. Community Safety Officer (Startup Costs)	
a. Police Officers Personal Equipment	4,800
b. Cruisers	50,000
c. Recruit Training	4,000
Total Startup Costs	58,800 or \$28 per Residential Equivalent Unit

Media Contacts

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