



MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, 2026-FEB-11, 4:30 P.M.
Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre
411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC

Members:

Councillor Armstrong
Councillor Eastmure
James Bowen
Scott Brodie
Kim Coulthard
Doug Cowling
Destiny Herman
Kevin Lambert
Collen Middleton*
Ruth Taylor

Absent:

Jennifer Millbank

Staff:

L. Bhopalsingh, General Manager, Community Services/Deputy
Chief Administrative Officer
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
T. Doyle, Fire Chief
D. LaBerge, Director, Public Safety
Insp. D. Tait, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP
N. Vracar, Deputy Corporate Officer
J. Rose, Manager, Transportation
C. Wood, Manager, Social Development
K. Biegun, Planner, Community Development
K. Lundgren, Zoom Moderator
A. Chanakos, Recording Secretary

* Denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by "Council Procedure Bylaw 2018 No. 7272"

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Public Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- a. Agenda Item 8(b) 2026 Active Transportation Unallocated – Phase 1 Initiatives – Add delegation from Bill Manners, President, Dover Community Association.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the agenda, as amended, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on 2025-DEC-10 at 4:00 p.m. be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

5. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

- a. Discussion re: Future Committee Direction

Councillor Armstrong advised that during the 2026-JAN-19 Regular Council Meeting, Council adopted the following motion:

“That Council direct Staff to provide regular updates on the Hub to the Public Safety Committee.”

- b. Lost Lake Road Traffic Calming

Councillor Armstrong advised that during the 2026-JAN-19 Regular Council Meeting, Council adopted the following motion:

“That Council direct Staff to complete design and implementation of Lost Lake Road Traffic Calming Phase 2 as outlined in the Staff Report titled ‘Lost Lake Road Traffic Calming’ dated 2025-NOV-24.”

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6. PRESENTATIONS:

a. RCMP Nanaimo Detachment Priorities 2026 - 2027

Presentation:

1. Insp. D. Tait, Nanaimo RCMP, provided a verbal presentation outlining the Nanaimo RCMP Detachment's priorities for 2026 - 2027. Highlights included:

- The Annual Performance Plan (APP) sets out the RCMP's annual objectives
- The current APP concludes in April 2026, and Staff are seeking input from the Committee on what objectives they would like to see in 2026 – 2027
- APP objectives generally include crime reduction, employee wellness, inclusion and reconciliation, community safety, and recruiting
- The RCMP collaborates with provincial partners on the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII), including the Special Investigations and Targeted Enforcement (SITE) Team that works with more problematic offenders in the community
- Nanaimo's youth remain a priority for crime reduction
- The RCMP mental health liaison position has been established for five years, and a second liaison will be added in the near future
- The Restorative Justice Program is targeted towards youth and helps individuals take accountability for their actions through reconciliation
- Staff are discussing the impending closure of the Hub and how to mitigate its impact
- The Chronic Property and Public Disorder Intervention Initiative (C-POII) is a new program aimed at addressing chronic property crime

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Outlined the relationship between the RCMP and Crown Council regarding prolific offenders and the criteria necessary to hold an offender in custody

- Discussed the youth officers' response to the Tumbler Ridge school shooting, and advised that active shooter lockdown procedures are routinely practiced and reviewed in schools
- Due to the strict criteria of the program, there are currently five offenders in the ReVOII Program
- The current RCMP mental health liaison officer is primarily scheduled for daytime shifts; however, Staff are determining how to integrate the impending second officer into the schedule for additional coverage
- The Restorative Justice Program focuses on sanctions that "repair the harm", including apology letters, community service hours and Indigenous healing circles
- A discussion regarding the perceptions linking shoplifting to the unhoused population advising that during two recent shoplifting enforcement blitzes, arrests were primarily made among youth and organized groups
- The termination of the provincial drug decriminalization pilot program reinstates RCMP officers' ability for search and seizure

It was moved and seconded that the Public Safety Committee recommend that Council endorse the RCMP Nanaimo Detachment Annual Performance Plan priorities for 2026 – 2027 as outlined in the 2026-FEB-11 presentation to the Committee with an emphasis on the toxic drug crisis, mental health teams, concerns regarding the custody release procedures pertaining to prolific offenders, and restorative justice. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Pre-Zoning for Social Housing

Presentation:

1. K. Biegun, Planner, provided an overview of the presentation included in the agenda package. Highlights included:
 - The goal of this project is to accelerate the development of housing for individuals and families that cannot afford market housing rates and do not require additional supports
 - The proposed "Overlay Approach" allows developers and property owners to either use the property's existing zoning, or apply for the overlay zone in order to build to the maximum density and height outlined in the City Plan

- As a fully non-market housing development is not financially viable, Staff are considering allowing market housing and commercial use within this zoning
- To qualify for the overlay zone, Staff are proposing that the land must be owned by a market or non-profit housing developer; however, the dwelling units would need to be operated by a government agency, non-profit housing provider, or housing co-op. In addition, capital costs of the development must be funded in whole by a federal, provincial or municipal government
- The project will focus on providing rental units, and the level of affordability will be based off of funding program requirements
- In order to qualify for pre-zoning, at least 20% of the rental units need to meet the definition of social housing
- Housing conditions are secured through a housing agreement registered on title, and requires the social housing units to be secured for 60 years
- A survey will be available from 2026-FEB-23 to 2026-MAR-15, and information will be available on the City's website and media platforms. In addition, Staff will hold a workshop with non-profit housing providers, developers, and faith-based organizations to provide feedback and collaborate

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Concern that the term "social housing" may not be clear to the entire community and will result in concerned citizens showing little support for this type of housing
- Suggestion to provide clear communication on what social housing is, or consider using a different term
- A desire to include neighbourhood associations in the developer workshop to provide input from a community perspective
- Only the dwelling unit portion of the development needs to be operated by a government agency, non-profit housing provider, or housing co-op, while any potential commercial units would be managed independently

It was moved and seconded that Agenda Item 8(b) 2026 Active Transportation Unallocated – Phase 1 Initiatives be the next agenda item, and to reorder the remaining agenda items accordingly. The motion carried unanimously.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. 2026 Active Transportation Unallocated - Phase 1 Initiatives

J. Rose, Manager, Transportation, provided an overview of the report in the agenda package and advised that a roundabout is being proposed for the intersection at Hammond Bay Road and Brickyard Road due to concerns from the public around speeding on Hammond Bay Road.

Delegation:

1. Bill Manners, President, Dover Community Association, spoke regarding concerns around driveway access for the two properties directly across from the proposed roundabout, the potential cost of the project and a desire to see a three-way stop instead.

Committee discussion took place regarding safety concerns with using roundabouts at three-way stop intersections and their limited ability to control speed.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Consideration for a three-way traffic signal in place of the roundabout; however, roundabouts are preferred to help promote speed moderation
- The funding can be allocated to another project; however, the cost for this project is lessened due to the current construction scheduled for the area
- Preference to avoid raised crosswalks as they are not ideal for emergency vehicles

By unanimous consent, the Committee agreed to reorder Agenda Item 7(c) Hub Update to precede Agenda Item 7(a) 2025 Public Safety Committee Annual Report, and reorder subsequent agenda items accordingly.

b. Hub Update

C. Wood, Manager, Social Development, provided an overview of the report in the agenda package, and advised that as of 2026-FEB-06, 46 people have received access to housing through the Hub services.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Staff are hosting an online information session on 2026-FEB-12 with Mayor and Council to update businesses and residents in the immediate area regarding the closure of the Hub. A question period will take place at the end of the meeting; however, questions are limited only to the information shared and the services that are ending
- To date, Staff have explored 25 properties; however, without capital funding, the potential building must be leasable in its current condition. So far, none of the properties have met the required infrastructure requirements, or property owners are not interested in providing the services based off what is being reported in the media
- The preferred location would include shower services; however, a suitable location that does not have showers would be considered
- A desire to have overdose prevention services offered at a future Hub location; however, these services are provided through Island Health
- Following the closure of Wysteria Community Association's most recent location, the Salvation Army has obtained an outreach vehicle to help distribute outreach meals

Due to time constraints, the following agenda items were deferred to the next scheduled Public Safety Committee meeting:

- 2025 Public Safety Committee Annual Report
- 2025 Public Safety Committee Survey Results
- Verbal Update from Councillor Armstrong, Committee Co-Chair, re: Hammond Bay Road Sewer System Renovation and Road/Sidewalk Repairs Project

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 6:01 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIR

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER