



Friday, Sept. 14, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Town of Rocky Mountain House to establish Municipal Police Committee**

Rocky Mountain House, Alta. – The Town of Rocky Mountain House has taken the first step to establish a municipal policing committee. Councillors passed Bylaw 2018/26V on Tuesday, Sept. 11.

Under the [Alberta Police Act](#), the Town is responsible for having its own municipal police force. The Town meets this obligation by contracting the RCMP through a [Municipal Police Service Agreement](#).

The Police Act also provides for towns to implement police committees where the RCMP serves as the municipal police force.

Bylaw 2018/26V, also known as the [Police Committee Bylaw](#), paves the way for the Town of Rocky Mountain House to establish a committee to oversee the administration of the Municipal Police Service Agreement. The RCMP will continue to provide municipal policing in the Town of Rocky Mountain House as per the terms of the agreement. The new committee will work with the RCMP in establishing yearly plans for the strategies and policing priorities of the municipal police force, among other duties as laid out in the Police Act.

“The Town of Rocky Mountain House is excited to further our close relationship with the RCMP as our municipal police force,” said Mayor Tammy Burke. “The Police Committee will support the great work of our municipal police force and ensure priorities are met in the best interest of our residents and visitors.”

RCMP Acting Detachment Commander Sgt. Jason Penner stated, “The Rocky Mountain House RCMP feels this initiative will only serve to enhance and strengthen the already positive relationship it shares with the Town of Rocky Mountain House.”

Council recognizes the importance of public members on the committee and will be seeking applications from Town residents to fill three public positions this fall.

For more information, please refer to the attached backgrounder or contact:

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## Backgrounder: **Town of Rocky Mountain House to establish Municipal Police Committee**

### ***What is the current status of policing in the Town of Rocky Mountain House?***

Under the [Alberta Police Act](#), the Town is responsible for having its own municipal police force. The Town meets this obligation by contracting the RCMP through a [Municipal Police Service Agreement](#). Five RCMP clerks are directly employed by the Town to support the municipal force.

The 2018 budget for the contracted RCMP municipal police force is \$2,258,000. The net cost of policing is 12.5 per cent of property taxes collected from ratepayers.

### ***What is the role of a policing committee?***

Under section 23 of the Police Act, a policing committee shall, with respect to the municipality for which it is established, oversee the administration of the Municipal Police Service Agreement, assist in selecting the officer in charge, represent the interests of the council to the officer in charge and collaborate on a yearly plan of priorities and strategies for municipal policing among other duties. Police Committees' authority and responsibilities are regulated by the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General and must comply with Policing Committee standards in accordance with the Alberta Police Act.

### ***Who can sit on the policing committee?***

Bylaw 2018/26V allows for a maximum of seven members who shall be appointed by resolution of Council. Voting members shall consist of two members of council and three volunteer public members, who normally reside in the Town of Rocky Mountain House. The Rocky Mountain House RCMP Officer in Charge and the Town of Rocky Mountain House CAO shall sit as advisory non-voting members.

### ***Related links:***

Alberta Police Act <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/P17.pdf>.

Town of Rocky Mountain House Municipal Police Service Agreement:

<http://www.rockymtnhouse.com/DocumentCenter/View/1924>.

Bylaw 2018/26V Police Committee Bylaw:

<http://www.rockymtnhouse.com/DocumentCenter/View/1927>.