



Peace Officers - Q & A

Raymond Town Council
Response
June 2020



Why Now?

Recently, Raymond residents have seen letters suggesting we defund the Raymond Peace Officer Initiative. After careful review of this letter, along with questions sent to the town, we would like to address some of these questions and concerns. While this is not meant to cover all the information on this initiative, we feel it is important to share some critical information with you. Should you have any questions on this correspondence or other matters related to the Peace Officer program, please email any or all of us on council, or email contact@raymond.ca. All emails will be forwarded to council to review and discuss. We appreciate critical and positive feedback.

Sincerely,

Raymond Town Council



- The Ridge Regional Public Safety Services Commission (RRPSSC) provides peace officer services to the communities of Stirling, Milk River, Raymond and the broader County of Warner (a population over 10,000 people). The RRPSSC also contracts services to the town of Magrath and the villages of Coutts and Warner.
- The RRPSS is a regional service, where the goal is to utilize economies of scale and deliver services at a lower cost and higher quality to individual communities.
- The peace officers can enforce provincial regulations and statutes and have authority to issue violations under those regulations (for example Traffic Safety Act). Bylaw officers can only enforce municipal bylaws.
- Peace officers add flexibility to law enforcement by providing a continuum of personnel with varied levels of training and authority. This approach recognizes that many enforcement roles, such as regulatory compliance, do not require highly trained police officers. The use of peace officers for these roles enables police officers to remain focused on more complex and more serious criminal enforcement activities.



- Due to the added value peace officers provide to the local police force, Raymond council is pushing for a reduction to police funding costs for municipalities that employ peace officers.
- The RRPSSC is governed by a board of directors. The board is comprised entirely of elected officials from participating municipalities, which means that the service is responsive to the priorities and needs of each community.
- The peace officers provide monthly reports to each municipal council, as well as semi-annual visits. The reports and visits give each council an opportunity to review peace officer activity, and to direct the peace officers according to council initiatives and emerging priorities. Council has asked the peace officers to focus on bylaw education and enforcement, and traffic safety.

Feedback, Questions and Complaints

- If you have questions or recommendations about the service, please reach out to a member of town council, the peace officers (587-813-0791), or Abe Tinney, the RRPSSC manager at the town office (403-752-3322).
- If you have concerns about the actions or conduct of a peace officer, you can file a complaint by contacting Abe Tinney at the town office.

