



**The Claresholm Local Press (AB)**

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Justice

## Town sends letter opposing provincial police service

Rob Vogt

The Town of Claresholm is happy with the service it receives from the RCMP and is uncomfortable with the provincial government's proposal to create an Alberta police service.

At its May 10 meeting via video conference, town council discussed a presentation made by the National Police Federation at council's April 26 meeting that opposed a provincial police service because of several factors including being more costly and leading to less service.

Mayor Doug MacPherson asked council for their feelings.

"I like the RCMP the way it is," said Coun. Craig Zimmer. "I'm opposed to any changes they (the province) have here."

"I'm in favour of the RCMP hands down," said Coun. Brad Schlossberger.

"I would like to see a letter supporting the RCMP," added Coun. Mike Cutler, noting all of council feels the same way about the cost and the way the RCMP are functioning now.

Council then agreed to send a letter stating the Town of Claresholm is uncomfortable with the province proceeding with plans to replace the RCMP in Alberta with a provincial police force and that more public consultation is needed. That letter will be sent to the minister of justice and solicitor general, with copies going to Premier Jason Kenney; Roger Reid, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod; John Barlow, MP for Foothills; other member municipalities of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association; and "K" Division of the RCMP.

Later in the meeting council also received, for information, letters supporting the RCMP, and opposing a provincial police service, from Russ Barnett, Mayor of the Town of Magrath; Kevin Zahara, Mayor of the Town of Edson; and Rhonda Hunter, Mayor of the Town of Didsbury.

Local Press Writer