

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 25th day of November, 2020 at 4:30 pm, in person in the City Hall Auditorium.

PRESENT: Dan Mathieson (Chair), Graham Bunting, Steve Cousins, Tim Doherty, Rosemary Tanner, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Jason Clarke, Inspector Mark Taylor, Rachelle Willows (Police Association) and Pat Shantz – Executive Assistant.

MINUTES

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof.

3. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 28th, 2020

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Tim Doherty

That the minutes of the regular meeting of October 28th, 2020, be adopted as presented. Carried.

4. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

4.1 Presentation of Retirement Plaques

A retirement plaque was presented to Rob Viani. Rob was an officer for 31 years having joined the Service on December 18th, 1988. In 2013, he was seconded to the Ontario Police College where he was an instructor until his retirement in September 2019.

4.2 Presentation of Badges to Auxiliary

Sergeant Mike Robinson advised that the Auxiliary Officer Program began in September 2019 and they received 85 applications for 10 positions. Training began early in January 2020 and the officers have been representing the Service in the community helping with food and toy drives, parades, the drive thru Halloween and other events.

The Chief thanked Sergeant Robinson for all of his work with the program and also thanked Deputy Chief Foster who instituted the program as part of the succession planning strategy. It is hoped that the auxiliary officers will use their experience to become future police officers.

The Auxiliary Officers were introduced and received their police badges.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

6. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – October 2020

Inspector Clarke reviewed the Statistical Reports with the Board for October with respect to Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South and answered questions.

6.1 Stratford

There were 1530 calls for service, 89 e-tickets were issued and 59 warnings were given. It was noted that the number of calls for service are the same as this time last year.

Mental health related calls have increased from 34 in October last year to 65 this year and is becoming the number one call for service. The Chief advised the Board that two more NSERT qualified individuals in place in the near future.

Discussion took place regarding officer training.

6.2 St Marys

There were 228 calls for service, 34 e-tickets were issued and 13 warnings were given. There is no change in health related calls (6) and domestic related occurrences (9) over last month.

There is an increase in thefts from motor vehicles (7) from last month (3) and the same time last year (1).

6.3 Perth South

There were 136 calls for service, 41 e-tickets were issued and 13 warnings were given. There was a significant decrease in calls for service over this time last year (240).

6.4 Crime Stoppers

The Chief reviewed the Crime Stoppers Report for October for Stratford. There were 17 new tips provided regarding drugs (3) and intelligence (14). There was a significant increase in tips over last month (5) and the Chief attributed it to people becoming more comfortable with providing information.

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Steve Cousins

That the Monthly Statistic Reports for October 2020 be received. Carried.

7. Approval of Monthly Accounts

The Chief reviewed the monthly accounts with the Board as of October 30th and answered questions. Once all accounts have been paid including the payout of overtime, there should be a surplus of approximately \$500,000 at the end of the year.

MOTION by Steve Cousins | Tim Doherty

That the monthly accounts for October 2020, be approved for payment. Carried.

8. Police Association Business

There was no Police Association business to report.

9. Public Complaints

The Chief updated the Board regarding public complaints that had been received.

Regarding the complaint involving an allegation that an officer was uncivil during a phone conversation, the complaint was investigated and found unsubstantiated by the investigating officer. The report was sent to the OIRPD and the complainant has requested a review.

Regarding the complaint involving a 2-year period and non-descript details and names of officers, the OIRPD has narrowed the scope and it has been assigned for investigation based on the new parameters.

10. Correspondence

There were no comments or questions regarding the correspondence received.

11. Consent Items

11.1 New Taxi Company Proposal

The Board was provided with a written overview from the Chief with respect to the request by Gail Cossey to start up a new taxi company under the name "Aunt Gail's Taxi". The Chief advised that Gail has submitted all the documentation required to start a taxi company.

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner

That at the recommendation of the Chief, Gail Cossey be approved to operate Aunt Gail's Taxi within the City of Stratford and that she be issued a new taxi license allowing her to operate two (2) vehicles currently registered with the Stratford Police Service.

That due to the unique circumstances surrounding this request, that Gail Cossey not be charged the \$1,500 to re-register her vehicles under the new business name and that new taxi vehicle licenses be issued to her to affix to her vehicles. Carried.

12. New Business

12.1 Community Equity Action Team

Tim Doherty provided an update regarding the Community Equity Action Team (CEAT). A Request for Proposals has been completed in order to hire a consultant to assist and guide in the development of the committee. Creedance, a company from Waterloo, has been retained and a steering committee made up of Chief Skinner, Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach and Tim Doherty has been set up. The steering committee will be receiving training from Creedance and will be working to seek out a cross section of members of the community to make up CEAT.

Creedance will help with the selection of the committee and Tim asked the Board if they would like to review and make the selections or if they would prefer the steering committee bring forward recommendations. The Chair suggested that as the steering committee has been involved from the beginning setting goals and objectives and looking at geography and demographics, that they should review the applications and make recommendations to the Board. Discussion followed regarding the make up of the CEAT. The training given to the steering committee will also be given to CEAT once the group has been set up.

The Chief added that CEAT will be an advisory committee to the Board and will bring to the Board recommendations for priorities and objectives to be implemented by the Police Service.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 15th, 2020.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Steve Cousins | Tim Doherty

That the meeting adjourn to an In Camera session to discuss personal matters about identifiable individuals, to reconvene in open session if required. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

"Dan Mathieson"

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Dan Mathieson - Chair