

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 7th day of March, 2019 at 4:30 pm, Shakespeare Room, City Hall.

PRESENT: Dan Mathieson, Graham Bunting, Tim Doherty, Rosemary Tanner, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Jason Clarke, Inspector Mark Taylor, Pat Shantz – Executive Assistant.

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Wilhelm (Mayor), John McIntosh, Bill Jeffrey, Angela Baffes and Rebecca Clothier from the Township of Perth South.

REGRETS: Peter Hyde

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 January 23rd, 2019

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner

That the minutes of the regular meeting of January 23rd, 2019, be adopted as presented. Carried.

4. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

There were no hearings of deputations or presentations scheduled.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

5.1 Accident Support Service International (ASSI)

Inspector Clarke provided an update and advised that ASSI is still in the process of hiring staff and they are currently doing another round of interviews. However, the desk and computer is set up and ready to go.

The Chief added that ASSI will be beneficial as they will be able to provide analytical information on collision data enabling the Service to provide better enforcement. The program will eventually expand to St Marys and Perth South.

5.2 Radio System – Spectrum

The Deputy Chief advised that Spectrum has started work on the radio system and there is already an improvement in the signal strength and clarity.

5.3 Police Building Sign

At the last meeting, the Deputy Chief was requested to obtain another estimate regarding the Police building sign. He advised that he received a quote from Image Factory, however, the quote received from Sign Ontario was considerably lower and they have been retained to do the sign work.

6. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – January 2019

Inspector Mark Taylor reviewed the new format for the Statistical Report with the Board.

The Deputy Chief provided an overview of the Unified Crime Reporting (UCR) and advised that calls for service are categorized and once investigated, have a consequence or outcome. These statistics are reported to Statistics Canada. He added that although the numbers help to identify general solve rates, they can sometimes be deceptive.

Discussion followed regarding the Macleans article stating that Stratford was a dangerous place to live and statistics for sexual assaults.

Inspector Taylor reviewed the individual Statistical Reports with the Board and had no concerns to report.

6.1 Stratford

There were 1,388 calls for service in January 2019 and 109 e-tickets were issued.

6.2 Perth South

There were 204 calls for service in January 2019 and 65 e-tickets were issued.

6.3 St Marys

There were 312 calls for service in January 2019 and 77 e-tickets were issued.

MOTION by Rosemary Tanner | Tim Doherty

That the Monthly Statistic Reports for January 2019 be received. Carried.

6.4 Crime Stoppers Report

The Chief advised that he is now receiving the monthly Crime Stoppers Report and felt it would be beneficial to share it with the Board. He noted that Constable Nick Keating is listed as the Liaison Officer for the City of Stratford. The report sets out the number and category of tips received each month along with the year to date number and the total number since the program's inception (1988). The program is successful and allows individuals to report information anonymously. Although there is a cash reward, few people pick up their reward.

The Chief added that community partners are looking for ways to enhance the ability to report with anonymity as many individuals don't trust police, especially if they are involved in criminal activity.

The Chair suggested having the Crime Stoppers Coordinator, Constable Juanita Draper, make an annual presentation to the Board.

7. Approval of Monthly Accounts – January 2019

The Chief advised that as the 2019 hasn't been passed yet by Council, a record of accounts isn't available. The only concerns he had were overtime for staff in the Communications Centre which should be rectified with the hiring of new part-time clerks. There is also a rise in fuel costs due to officers familiarizing themselves with the St Marys and Perth South areas.

Motion by Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner

That the monthly accounts for January 2019, be approved for payment. Carried.

8. Police Association Business

There was no Police Association business at this time.

9. Public Complaints

The Chief advised that there is currently one outstanding complaint with the OIPRD that was received in December. The Chief attempted to resolve the matter informally, however, it has been assigned to be investigated and should be completed over the next couple of months.

10. Correspondence

The Board reviewed the correspondence received from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the OAPSB. The Chief answered any questions that arose and advised that all reports have been sent to the Ministry as required.

Regarding the Basic Constable Training at the Ontario Police College, the Chief advised that two officers will be retiring over the next few months and he has requested one seat for the next OPC Course. He added that he would like to continue to support two officers on staff.

The Chief advised the Board that the Service has been approved for two drug screening units at a cost of \$13,000. The Ministry will be providing full reimbursement.

11. Consent Items

11.1 Taxi Driver Licenses

Motion by Tim Doherty | Graham Bunting

That on the recommendation of the Chief, that Emily Hunt be approved for a taxi license. Carried.

12. New Business

12.1 Bike Patrol

The Deputy Chief advised that they would like to bring back the Bike Patrol Program that was discontinued a few years ago. It would allow officers to become engaged with the community, be more accessible and get into areas unreachable by a cruiser. There are currently two officers in the Community Resource Unit and the intent would be to have them on bicycles 2-3 days per week during the summer months. The cost would be approximately \$900 for the bicycle and equipment and \$500 for a uniform for each officer.

The summer students doing the Park Patrol would stay mainly within the park system and not in the downtown core.

12.2 Training and Commendations

The Chief advised that Member Development/Training is set out on the Statistical Report indicating the number of officers, the training received, the location and duration. In January, 19 officers received training/development.

Member Commendations and Recognitions are also set out on the Statistical Report and 8 officers have been recognized by their supervisors for outstanding work either as a group or individually during a significant event.

12.3 OAPSB Zone 5 Meeting

The Chair advised that the next OAPSB Zone 5 meeting will take place in Owen Sound on March 19th, 2019.

13. Next Meeting

The next meetings are scheduled for April 10th, May 15th and June 19th.

John McIntosh thanked the group for inviting them to take part in the meeting and he felt that the discussion was helpful. He advised that the police presence in Perth South has been raised significantly and he looks forward to working with the Stratford Police Service.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Graham Bunting | 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 5:45 pm.

"Dan Mathieson"

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Dan Mathieson – Chair