

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 18th day of January 2023, at the Stratford Rotary Complex – Hall Meeting Room

PRESENT: Tim Doherty (Chair), Dave Gaffney, Martin Ritsma, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Mark Taylor, Inspector Jason Clarke, Casey Riehl (Executive Assistant), Galen Simmons (Media), Casey Kenny (Media)

MINUTES

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:29 p.m. and welcomed new member Dave Gaffney to the Board.

2. Addition of Agenda Items – Business Arising and New Business

None noted.

3. Election of 2023 Chair and Vice-Chair

MOTION by Martin Ritsma | Dave Gaffney

That the election of the 2023 Chair and Vice-Chair of the Police Services Board be deferred to the next meeting with full quorum present. Carried.

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

5. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 14, 2022

MOTION by Martin Ritsma | Dave Gaffney

That the minutes of the regular meeting of December 14, 2022, be adopted as presented. Carried.

6. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

None scheduled.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

6.1 30 By 30 Update – Chief Skinner

Chief Skinner updated Board Members that there was some recent media attention regarding the 30 By 30 program.

8. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – December 2022

Board members received the statistical reports for December 2022. Inspector Taylor reviewed the reports with the Board with respect to Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South and answered questions.

8.1 Stratford

There were 17,926 total calls in 2021 and a total of 18,142 total calls for 2022, an increase of 216 and 300 additional charges laid in 2022 compared to 2021.

For the month of December, there were 1520 calls for service, with 219 charges laid. There were 61 false alarms received, up from 40 the previous month. The increase was caused by the recent snowstorms. Mental health related calls for 2022 have decreased by approximately 100. Suicides and overdoses also dropped in 2022.

The crime report remained relatively the same as the previous month, no significant increases. MVC PD only accidents increased by 120 occurrences in 2022, compared to 2021.

8.2 St Marys

Overall calls decreased in 2022 with a total of 2763 calls received, compared to 2806 in 2021. Total charges laid decreased from 677 in 2021 to 583 in 2022. Mental health calls also dropped from 100 in 2021 to 54 in 2022. There were 185 calls for service, with 20 charges laid for the month of December in St. Marys

8.3 Perth South

Overall calls decreased in 2022 with a total of 1993 calls received, compared to 2497 in 2021. There were 114 calls for service, with 31 charges laid for the month of December.

8.4 Crime Stoppers Report

Chief Skinner summarized the reports from October, November and December 2022.

There were six new tips to the City of Stratford in October, 3 drug and 3 intelligence related. The top tips by type for October were fraud, drugs and theft.

There were also six new tips to Stratford for November. 3 drug-related and 3 intelligence-related. The top tips by type were again fraud, drugs and theft.

In December, there were five tips received to the City of Stratford. All five were intelligence related. The top tips by type were theft, drugs and mischief. There were also some tips received for child pornography received this month.

MOTION by Dave Gaffney | Martin Ritsma

That the Monthly Statistical Reports for December 2022 and the Crime Stoppers reports for October, November and December 2022 be received as presented. Carried.

9. Approval of Monthly Accounts (December 2022)

Chief Skinner reported that the Service has spent approximately 95% of their allocated budget, leaving a surplus of \$572,756.00. In discussion with the Director of Finance, there may still be some financial obligations that will need to be included in the 2022 budget, such as long-term debt repayments, unspent grant

revenue, payroll accruals and capital adjustments. Once the 2022 budget is closed, he will provide the final financial position of the Service for the year.

Council approved a surplus/deficit policy in September 2022. The impact on Police will be that part or all of the year's surplus will be allocated to a capital reserve account to be used for future capital requirements. This process was recommended for the Police to assist the municipality in addressing identified capital requirements, based on the department, including, but not limited to facilities. The intent of this recommendation by City staff was not to replace the need for the municipalities to officially fund capital projects on a plan basis, rather that unplanned surpluses could assist in meeting the capital and operating goals of the Board.

Nearly 90% of the Police budget is allocated to wages and benefits, with most of the balance of the budget going to non-discretionary spending. Any surplus at the end of the year is largely comprised of unspent salary dollars resulting from employees being on unanticipated, unpredicted, unpaid leaves. Surplus is also derived from funds that are dedicated to the budget for an operational or capital need that is subsequently funded in the year through a grant.

The Chief and Deputy Chief will be presenting the 2023 budget to the Finance and Labour Relations Sub-Committee on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at a virtual meeting.

MOTION by Dave Gaffney | Martin Ritsma

That the monthly accounts for December 2022 be approved. Carried.

10. Body Worn Cameras Update

Deputy Chief Foster advised the Board that they have identified two part-time special constable candidates who will be assisting with the redaction of the visual evidence. They are entering background information now and should be up and running by the end of next month.

11. Police Association Business

There was no Police Association business to discuss.

12. Public Complaints – Chief Skinner

There was one new complaint received though the OIPRD this month. This complaint was subsequently screened out by OIPRD and will not be going to investigation and is closed from an OIPRD perspective.

Chief Skinner shared with the Board the 2022 Stratford dashboard report from the Office of the Independent Review Director, who is mandated by the Province to manage all incoming public complaints about police officers and their conduct. In 2022 there were 26 complaints that were managed by the OIPRD for the Stratford Police Service. 20 of the complaints were received in 2022 and 6 were carried forward from the previous year. There were 20 complaints that were screened for the year and the OIPRD screened out 14 of those complaints and screened in 6. When they are screened out, they do not meet the mandate required to go further for an investigation. So in total they were left with 6 complaints to investigate. Of

the 6 complaints, 5 were unsubstantiated and one was resolved through early resolution. There were no conduct issues that required disciplinary action as a result of public complaints. Most of the allegations were discreditable conduct (7), neglect of duty (1) and unlawful/unnecessary exercise of authority (2).

There was one request for review completed by the Chief and his decision was supported by the OIPRD.

There were two service complaints screened in during the year, which were previously reported to the Board. One resulted in action being taken and the second resulted in no action having to be taken.

There were no policy complaints received in 2022.

13. Correspondence

13.1 Meeting Notes from the Community Equity Action Team

Tim Doherty reported that moving forward, the CEAT meeting notes will be included in the Board's monthly agenda packages for their information. Martin Ritsma suggested a presentation by CEAT at an upcoming Council meeting would be beneficial. Chief Skinner reported that beginning Friday, January 20, 2023, CEAT members will be introducing themselves and presenting at the Police Service annual training.

13.2 NG-911 Transition Funding

Chief Skinner reported that the Ontario Government has set aside \$208,000,000.00 to support the implementation of Next Generation 911 communications through a grant process. The Stratford Police Service has been adding funds to a budget reserve account to fund the capital expenditures to support that implementation. The SPS has submitted a grant application to access funds through the NG-911 transition funding grant program, which if successful, will free up a significant amount of money in that reserve account for other capital projects. This grant is for three years of funding, and they should be notified in March 2023 if they have been successful. Deputy Chief Foster has been the lead on this project.

13.3 Modernization of Use of Force Report

Chief Skinner reported that the Ministry of the Solicitor General has implemented a new use of force report for police officers and services to report the use of force by members performing their duties. Specifically when a member draws their handgun in the presence of a member of a public, points a firearm, discharges a firearm, uses a weapon on another person, draws or displays a conductive energy weapon (CEW), points a CEW, discharges a CEW, or uses force on another person, including the use of a horse or dog that results in an injury requiring medical services. The implementation of the new use of force report was January 1, 2023 and all members are currently being trained on the form changes and requirements as part of this year's annual training session.

13.4 Fee Increase for Basic Constable Training Program at OPC

Chief Skinner reported that fees have increase to \$15,450.00 per student for the 12-week program. Some Police Services offer different financial programs for new recruits; however Stratford does not provide financial support for new recruits to cover the fees charged by OPC. SPS does pay their hourly wage while attending the college.

14. Consent Items

None noted.

15. New Business

15.1 2022 Prolific Offender Report – Chief Skinner

Chief Skinner presented the Board the analysis for the 2022 prolific offenders, which also gets distributed to the membership of the Service for their knowledge and awareness, as they will invariably be in contact with the individuals identified on the report.

A prolific offender is identified as an individual who has demonstrated violent tendencies, has been in contact with police multiple times during the calendar year and/or charged with multiple criminal offences. The objective of identifying individuals internally as prolific offenders is to insure that crown prosecutors have accurate and up to date information with respect to the offenders history when being prosecuted for offences, promote the provision of support services for individuals with the goal to reduce future breeches of the law and promote rehabilitation, promote meaningful consequences for offenders, insure appropriate monitoring of individuals when they are on judicial conditions and insure appropriate collaboration between justice sector partners.

This year's list consists of 22 individuals who accounted for a total of 252 significant interactions with police, for an average of 11.5 calls for service per individual. Of the 22 individuals identified, 17 are male and 5 are female. They range in age from under 16 to 60. Many of the individuals identified have either used or been in position of a weapon at the time of their involvement with the police, knives being the most prevalent. Most are suffering from mental health issues, addictions and other diagnosed behavioral issues, including suicidal ideation and some are inflicted with communicable diseases. Ensuring that officers have the most accurate information while responding to calls for service for these individuals, assists them in preparing their approach to ensure their safety and the safety of others present. Unfortunately, 2022 was a bad year for police officers being killed in the line of duty. Statistics show that most were killed upon their initial approach to an individual and did not have time to defend themselves against the attack. The more information that can be provided to the front-line officers as they are responding to a call of services, the better chance they have to protect themselves, respond to a threat and protect the public.

15.2 Ontario Association of Police Services Boards

Tim Doherty reported that the Board has received annual renewals for the OAPSB membership, as well as the Zone 5 annual renewal.

**MOTION by Dave Gaffney | Martin Ritsma
That the Stratford Police Services Board renew their annual OAPSB Membership in the amount of \$3,313.35 and their Zone 5 Membership in the amount of \$250.00 for 2023. Carried.**

15.3 Tim Doherty announced that Chief Greg Skinner has accepted a contract extension to 2027. Mr. Doherty thanked the Chief for his leadership and the Board looks forward to continuing to work with him.

16. Adjournment

**Motion by Dave Gaffney | Martin Ritsma
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 5:04 p.m.

“Tim Doherty”

Tim Doherty - Chair

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