

## STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 27th day of May, 2020 at 4:30 pm, by video conference (Zoom).

**PRESENT:** Dan Mathieson (Chair), Graham Bunting, Tim Doherty, Peter Hyde, Rosemary Tanner, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Jason Clarke, Inspector Mark Taylor, Constable Rob McMillan (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

Peter Hyde declared a pecuniary interest in the April 2020 accounts for the rental of 154 Downie Street as his spouse owns the building.

3. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 22nd, 2020

**MOTION by** Graham Bunting | Tim Doherty

**That the minutes of the regular meeting of April 22nd, 2020, be adopted as presented. Carried.**

4. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

There were no hearings of deputations or presentations.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There was no new business to report.

6. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – April 2020

Inspector Clarke reviewed the individual Statistical Reports for April 2020 with the Board and answered questions.

6.1 Stratford

In April, there were 1067 calls for service, 15 e-tickets were issued and 22 warnings were given. He advised that statistics were down across the board due to COVID-19, and calls for service decreased by approximately 300 calls compared to March.

Discussion followed regarding the increase in speeds compared to those at the onset of the pandemic and the use of speed signs.

## 6.2 St Marys

There were 144 calls for service and no e-tickets were issued and no warnings were given. There has also been a decrease in calls for service compared to March. There were four fraud incidents and two motor vehicle collisions.

## 6.3 Perth South

There were 78 calls for service, 6 e-tickets were issued and 3 warnings were given. There has also been a decrease in calls for service compared to March. There was an increase in break and enters and there were four auto thefts.

## 6.4 Crime Stoppers Report – April

The Chief advised that for the month of April, there were seven Stratford tips – 1 related to drugs and 6 related to intelligence. Overall, the calls were related to COVID-19 and were with respect to non-essential businesses being open and social distancing.

**MOTION by** Peter Hyde | Rosemary Tanner

**That the Monthly Statistic Reports for April 2020 be received. Carried.**

## 7. Approval of Monthly Accounts – April 2020

The Chief reviewed the monthly accounts with the Board and advised that the Service is spending approximately \$943,000 per month which may potentially provide a surplus at the end of the year of just under \$200,000.

He noted that in comparing the first four months of 2019 and 2020, overtime costs have decreased by 260%, however, it may be the result of all hands on deck and the cancellation of vacation during the onset of COVID-19. The Board may see this change as the year goes on as members catch up on their vacation time.

Overall, the Chief had no concerns with the accounts at this time.

**Motion by** Peter Hyde | Graham Bunting

**That the monthly accounts for April 2020, with the exception of the accounts regarding the rent for 154 Downie Street, be approved for payment. Carried.**

**Motion by** Tim Doherty | Rosemary Tanner

**That the accounts for the rent for 154 Downie Street for April 2020, be approved for payment. Carried.**

## 8. Police Association Business

There was no Police Association business for the Board. The Chief wanted the Board to be aware that teleconferences are held every second week with the Association to talk about matters involving administration, operation or policy driven. Feedback from the Association has been taken into account regarding decisions that have been made.

## 9. Public Complaints

At the last meeting, the Chief advised that he was aware of a new public complaint, however, he isn't able to provide an update as a formal complaint hasn't been received from the OIRPD.

## 10. Correspondence

A majority of correspondence received for the Board continues to be mainly information regarding COVID-19. The Chief explained that the correspondence entitled "Screening Guidance for Communication and Dispatch Personnel" provides direction to Police Services having access to COVID positive test results in the community. When officers are being dispatched to a particular residence, the database is checked and if there is a positive test associated with the address or individual, the officers can take the appropriate steps when they arrive. There are very strict rules regarding use of the database and it's a great initiative on behalf the province to protect officers.

## 11. Consent Items

There were no consent items to discuss.

## 12. New Business

### 12.1 Light Armoured Vehicle

The Chief advised that the head of the London Police Service's Tactical Unit reached out to the Service's ERU regarding two vehicles that have become surplus.

The Service has had a couple of armoured vehicles in the past, the last one being a 1969 Brinks truck that was retrofitted and extremely costly to maintain. It had been used for tactical type calls. The Chief added that although this type of vehicle isn't used often, it is beneficial to have should the need arise. It provides a level of professionalism and intimidation and could end a situation more quickly than having to wait for a tactical team to arrive from another police service. There is a responsibility to equip the Emergency Response Unit with the equipment they need to do their job.

Inspector Clarke advised that the cost of the vehicle is \$1.00 and the Service would be responsible for the safety and upkeep. Two members have test-driven the vehicle and were advised by London ERU that it is still being used, however, their vehicle is being updated.

Peter Hyde asked if it would be possible to get a copy of what the London Service has spent on the vehicle over the past five years? Inspector Clarke will provide a maintenance record.

Rosemary Tanner asked if there is adequate storage for the vehicle? The Chief advised that he would discuss having it stored with the City's Transit Department in their yard.

The Chief advised that the company who makes the vehicle is a reputable company that has been in business for decades and parts will be available, if needed. He has been advised that it is a very reliable and versatile vehicle. It has a purpose, and with the Service taking on more policing jurisdiction areas, there is more opportunity to be in situations where there isn't adequate cover, concealment and communications, and these types of vehicles may prove to be invaluable.

Tim Doherty asked if the OPP in Sebringville have access to a similar vehicle? The Chief advised that the OPP has the provincial mandate to provide tactics and rescue capabilities for the entire province and they would dispatch a team when needed. If the OPP weren't available, another Service such as London or Waterloo would be contacted for support. The Service doesn't have a mandate for tactics and rescue, but it does have a responsibility to have an Emergency Response Unit that has a containment priority which is the purpose of this vehicle.

Discussion followed regarding how the vehicle would be used to assist officers. The Deputy Chief advised that this vehicle would provide a level of ballistic protection that none of their other vehicles would provide. An example would be when firearms are being used. It is important to note that Stratford is at least an hour away from Waterloo or London and this vehicle would fill that gap.

Inspector Clarke will obtain the maintenance records and provide them to the Board in an email along with the costs for Stratford Police decals and insurance costs. The Chief added that a further cost could be approximately \$25,000 to equip the vehicle with a radio system which would have to be done to any other vehicle being added to the fleet. He added that the funds are currently in the budget.

The Chief advised that the London Service would like a reply by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Once the information is received from Inspector Clarke, the Board will make a decision.

### 12.2 COVID-19 Update

The Chief advised that they are currently moving from a response plan to a recovery plan regarding COVID-19 and the Emergency Act Orders. Units are being moved from uniform duty back to their regular duties and schedules and vacation time has opened up. Administration staff who have been working from home will gradually return back into the workplace by June 15<sup>th</sup>. After June 15<sup>th</sup>, they will look at how to operate and open to the public. Most low priority calls will be dealt with by phone and email, and by doing so, limit the number of personal visits to the station. Restricted access to the lobby will continue and they are looking at installing a door with remote opening capabilities. Social distancing lines and signage will be place outside.

### 12.3 PRIDE Budget

The Deputy Chief advised that the PRIDE budget process will begin on June 25<sup>th</sup> by conference call. Rosemary Tanner agreed to attend along with the Chief and Deputy Chief.

### 13. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place by video conference on Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### 14. Adjournment

**Motion by** Peter Hyde | Graham Bunting

**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 5:15 pm.

“ Dan Mathieson ”

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Dan Mathieson - Chair