

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 16th day of June 2021, held virtually by Zoom.

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

REGRETS: Inspector Mark Taylor

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 May 19th, 2021

MOTION by Steve Cousins | Graham Bunting

That the minutes of the regular meeting of May 19th, 2021, 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

5.1 Red Light Cameras

The Chief provided an update and advised that he recently read an article regarding the Region of Waterloo's experience with red light cameras. The writer completed an in-depth review of traffic collisions, costs and revenue involving 16 intersections. The Chief noted that the cameras only face one way and do not cover the entire intersection. There was a decrease in right-angle collisions (T-bone) in the intersections, however, there was an increase of 31% of rear end collisions. People approaching an intersection known for having a red-light camera, would abruptly stop at a yellow light causing a collision. Collisions in some of the intersections increased by 63%. The cameras cost is approximately \$150,000 each.

The Chief added that various expenses are paid from the money received for each ticket including payment to the camera provider, the Ontario government and Ministry of Transportation for support of the program, administration/back office support, court and prosecution supports, etc. and only a portion remains as income to the municipality.

From a safety perspective, while there was a decrease in some of the more serious accidents, the volume of collisions increased during the time of the study.

The Chief will continue to do more research and report back to the Board.

6. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – May 2021

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

6.1 Stratford

There were 1594 calls for service, 91 e-tickets were issued and 53 warnings were given. There has been an increase in suicides and overdoses, and also an increase in assaults over the last month.

6.2 St Marys

There were 252 calls for service, 28 e-tickets were issued and 15 warnings were given. Mental health calls are down slightly and there was one suicide. There were three assaults and a decrease in mischief occurrences.

6.3 Perth South

There were 223 calls for service, 80 e-tickets were issued and 20 warnings were given. Seventy-four speeding tickets were issued.

Speeding continues to be an issue throughout all three municipalities.

6.4 Crime Stoppers Report

Chief Skinner reviewed the Crime Stoppers Report for the month of May. Six new tips were received for Stratford – two were drug related and 4 were intelligence related. The top tips by type were assault, COVID, drugs and suspicious person.

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Rosemary Tanner

That the Monthly Statistic Reports for May 2021 be received. Carried.

7. Approval of Monthly Accounts

The Chief advised that he had no concerns with the budget unless there are unforeseen expenses. To date the budget is under by \$186,000.

The Deputy Chief provided an update regarding the PRIDE IT account and advised that the majority of IT equipment and licensing comes out of that account. An invoice from 2020 in the amount of \$16,682 was received late and was paid in 2021. There was also a carry over to the 2021 budget of \$43,000 to re-launch Office 365.

MOTION by Steve Cousins | Graham Bunting

That the monthly accounts for May 2021 be approved. Carried.

8. Community Equity Action Team (CEAT)

Tim Doherty provided an update regarding CEAT and advised that meetings have been held and they are working at getting a press release out jointly from the City and the Police Service. They continue to plan for the public Forums while considering barriers that may be in place due to the pandemic.

The Chief added that the relevancy of CEAT is more apparent as we look at the national and local events regarding the discovery of the mass graves at the residential schools and the recent terrorist attack in London, ON. The CEAT Forums will give everyone the opportunity to have the difficult discussions

regarding what is going in our communities and how people from marginalized and BIPOC groups are being impacted.

MOTION by Steve Cousins | Rosemary Tanner

That the update regarding the Community Equity Action Team be received. Carried.

9. Body Worn Cameras Update

The Deputy Chief advised that the small-scale body worn camera project has been launched and three cameras have been deployed. Positive feedback has been received and, in some instances, officers were relieved to have the camera as a backup. A deployment policy is in place to govern and direct the use of the cameras. The plan is to release cameras to front line officers before the end of the year.

MOTION by Rosemary Tanner | Steve Cousins

To receive the update on Body Worn Cameras. Carried.

10. Police Association Business

There was no Police Association business to discuss.

11. Public Complaints

The Chief advised that one new complaint was received by the OIPRD, however, it was screened out and not referred for investigation. The file is closed.

The OIPRD has a new statistical website which provides an overview of each police service in Ontario and the status of their complaints. The OIPRD managed 20 complaints for the Stratford Service in 2020, 15 being received for that year with five carried over from the previous year. Ten of the complaints were screened out as they didn't meet the OIPRD mandate, three complaints were unsubstantiated and three resulted in an early resolution. The Chief urged the Board to check out the website.

The Chief added that 2020 is not a usual year due to the pandemic. In previous years, only four to six complaints had been received.

12. Correspondence

With respect to correspondence received from the Ministry regarding the 2021 Promotional Exams, the Deputy Chief advised that six members attended this past Sunday.

13. Consent Items

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner

That on the recommendation of the Chief, Michael Rodden (Stratford Taxi) be approved for a taxi license. Carried.

14. New Business

14.1 MCRRT

The Chief advised funding for the MCRRT Program comes through the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA). Currently they are funded for three and a half full-time employees to provide support to Huron

County OPP, Perth County OPP and the Stratford Police Service. As a result of an HR review of the program and the positions and qualifications, it was determined that some current members no longer qualify for the position. The individuals have been notified and the positions will be advertised setting out the minimum qualifications required.

The Chief added that the Service supports the program and it has been highly advantageous to the Service and people in the community. It's been 19 months since the program started, and with continued support and commitment to the program, it will move forward.

Upon being asked about a gap in service, the Chief advised that there will be a gap in the mobile response of four to six weeks. However, the crisis social workers will still be at the hospital to provide support, guidance and referrals as needed.

14.2 OAPSB Annual Conference

Rosemary Tanner attended the OAPSB Annual Conference virtually on May 26-28th, 2021, and provided an overview. There was an emphasis on Board training and presentations are on the OAPSB website.

14.3 Annual PRIDE Budget

The Deputy Chief advised that its time to begin the annual Pride budget process for 2022. Last year, efforts were made to keep the increase close to zero percent, however, there will be an increase for 2022 of approximately \$16,708 or 6.4%. There will be a virtual Pride meeting with Police Services Board representatives on June 23rd at 1:00 pm. Rosemary Tanner will attend as the Board's representative.

15. Next Meeting

There will be no meeting for the months of July and August, unless necessary. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 22nd, at 4:30 pm.

16. 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 5:20 pm.

"Dan Mathieson"

Dan Mathieson - Chair

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