

## STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 22nd day of June 2022, at the Stratford Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room.

**PRESENT:** Tim Doherty (Chair), Dan Mathieson, Graham Bunting, Rosemary Tanner, Steve Cousins, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Mark Taylor, Casey Riehl (Executive Assistant), Brad Rickert, Gail Cossey, Don Robinson

### MINUTES

1. Call to order

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

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

**MOTION by** Graham Bunting | Steve Cousins

**That the agenda for June 22, 2022 be approved with the addition of one item – Survey from the Ontario Association of Police Boards under New Business. Carried.**

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

4. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 20, 2022

**MOTION by** Rosemary Tanner | Graham Bunting

**That the minutes of the regular meeting of May 18, 2022, be adopted as presented. Carried.**

5. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

5.1 Appeal of Board Decision on Taxi Fare Increase – Brad Rickert

Brad Rickert addressed the Board seeking clarification on why the original submission from the taxi companies was not adopted with the requested fare request. They are concerned the decision to partially increase the fares, as the tariff increase is needed to keep the taxi industry viable within the City of Stratford and the rising costs of all operating expenses. As an example, he stated that in the past two years, Gail's Taxi has had a 270% increase in insurance rates as many insurance companies do not want to insure them and they are placed with facility insurance. Additional costs incurred have been the rise in fuel costs, mechanical repairs, vehicle purchases and the increase to the minimum wage.

Dan Mathieson inquired if the taxi companies had cost comparatives from surrounding communities that they could share with the Board. Brad Rickert stated that Woodstock's current rate is \$14.00. He has researched many communities in the past and Stratford was less per kilometer than other surrounding areas.

Graham Bunting inquired if the taxi companies have considered that the demand for taxi services may decrease in ridership if the rates increase too much, as everyone is feeling the effects of the pandemic. If the customers who rely on taxi's are feeling the brunt of the current economics, will they continue to use a taxi service if the rates are too high? Brad Rickert stated that they have been discussing this issue with their current taxi riders and he states most are in support of the rate increase and well aware that it is coming.

Tim Doherty stated that the Board has the current draft by-law to consider with the amended rates discussed at the May 18, 2022 Board meeting or the Board can delay passing the proposed by-law to consider today's presentation. Dan Mathieson stated that if the decision is to delay passing the by-law, the taxi companies will be required to submit written reports showing statistics that support the increases. Gail Cossey stated that she has previously submitted a report to Chief Skinner in September 2021. Mayor Mathieson stated that updated and current information is required for the Board members to make an informed decision. To date, the Board has only received a letter requesting the fare increase and no other supporting rationale for the increases. If the taxi companies wish to submit updated reports, the Board could consider it at a future meeting. The Board is considering an increase to \$13.00 at this meeting and if the taxi companies wish to provide further documentation to the Board, they will consider at a future meeting an additional increase based on the figures provided.

**MOTION by Dan Mathieson | Graham Bunting**  
**That the Police Services Board pass By-law 1-2022 as outlined at the May 18, 2022 meeting, which would increase the taxi fares as of July 1, 2022. Carried**

**MOTION by Steve Cousins | Rosemary Tanner**  
**That the taxi companies will have fourteen (14) days to provide in writing a detailed dollar breakdown of increased costs, along with justification using comparatives from similar sized municipalities to support their request for further fare increases;**

**And that a subsequent meeting could be scheduled in July by the Board to discuss an additional rate increase, based on the information provided by the taxi companies. Carried.**

Representatives from the taxi companies no longer present at 4:54 p.m.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

7. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – April 2022

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

7.1 Stratford

There were 1586 calls for service, with 343 charges laid. There were 53 false alarms, which was up from the previous month mainly due to storms.

There was a significant increase in theft under (37, up from 14 last month) and theft from motor vehicle (28, up from 3 last month) which they speculate is due to the nicer weather at night and more people out. There were many charges laid in association to the thefts.

7.2 St Marys

There were 308 calls for service, with 65 charges laid. Thefts under and thefts from motor vehicle were also up significantly in St. Marys from last month. There were 6 reports of theft from the landfill and an arrest was made.

7.3 Perth South

There were 180 calls for service and 80 charges laid. There were 3 mischief calls (up from 0 the previous month).

**MOTION by Dan Mathieson | Steve Cousins  
That the Monthly Statistical Reports for May 2022 be received as presented. Carried.**

7.4 Crime Stoppers Report

No report submitted for this month.

8. Approval of Monthly Accounts

Chief Skinner reported that the Police Services is spending an average of \$981,681.00 per month. They have spent approximately 40.5% of their annual budget, which is trending slightly under budget. There has been a decrease in the salary expenditure however there has been an increase in the overtime

expenditure due to staffing issues and trying to maintain minimum staffing levels due to absenteeism, which currently equates to 16 individuals.

**MOTION by** Graham Bunting | Steve Cousins  
**That the monthly accounts for May 2022 be approved. Carried.**

9. Body Worn Cameras Update

Deputy Chief Foster advised that they are continuing to work towards identifying two part-time clerks to handle the visual evidence redaction to take some of the workload off of frontline officers. All cameras are deployed and all officers on the frontline are wearing them.

10. Police Association Business

There was no Police Association business to discuss.

11. Public Complaints

Chief Skinner reported there was one public complaint in May and it has been assigned for investigation.

12. Correspondence

There were no questions or discussion regarding the correspondence received.

13. Consent Items

**MOTION by** Rosemary Tanner | Graham Bunting  
**That on the recommendation of the Chief, Steven Charles Calles (City Cab) be approved for a taxi license. Carried.**

14. New Business

14.1 Ontario Association of Police Service Boards Survey

Rosemary Tanner advised that the Association is looking for feedback from Boards by July 1, 2022. Ms. Tanner will draft a response and e-mail to the Board members to review prior to submitting on the Boards behalf.

15. Next Meeting Dates

**MOTION by** Dan Mathieson | Steve Cousins  
That the following meeting dates be set for the remainder of 2022:

Wednesday, September 21, 2022 – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 19, 2022 – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 16, 2022 – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 – 4:30 p.m. Carried

16. Adjournment

**Motion by** Steve Cousins | Rosemary Tanner

**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 p.m.

"Tim Doherty"

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Tim Doherty - Chair

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