

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 23rd day of March, 2017 at 4:30 pm, Council Chamber, City Hall.

PRESENT: Dan Mathieson (Chair), Graham Bunting (by phone), Tim Doherty, Rosemary Tanner, Chief Mike Bellai, Inspector Sam Theocharis, Inspector Gerry Foster, Inspector Steve Shaw 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

No declarations of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof were declared.

3. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 21st, 2017

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Rosemary Tanner

That the minutes of the regular meeting of February 21st, 2017, be adopted as presented. Carried.

4. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

Tahirah McDonnell was present to speak to the Board regarding her experience with the Service in dealing with her sexual assault case. She asked for transparency and accountability regarding an internal review of the Stratford Police Service regarding the “unfounded” sexual assault cases. She asked that the following steps be taken: external agencies oversee the review, indept sensitivity training for officers, new protocol for such cases along with external and internal audits, more female officers, better facilities including a soft room, special services units such as DART and the drug unit and allow survivors to come forward to partake in the review and tell their stories. Tahirah proceeded to advise the Board of her experiences with the Service since she first came forward wanting to press charges regarding her sexual assault.

Mary Beth Jantzi was present as a citizen and woman and spoke to the Board regarding the “unfounded” sexual assaults recently reported in the Globe and Mail. She advised that she found it disturbing that 48% of the sexual assaults reported between 2011 and 2014 were filed as “unfounded”, denying victims of justice and putting their lives at risk. She feels that an internal review isn’t enough and that an annual review of unfounded sexual assault cases should be done not only by an officer, but by a community representative having expertise in sexual assaults and that the results be made public. She would also like to see increased police training and investigations by sexual assault experts. Mary Beth concluded by asking the Board to ensure justice and safety for those who report sexual assault.

Graham Bunting leaves the meeting.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

5.1 One Care – Accessible Taxi Service

The Chief provided the Board with information from One Care with respect to accessible taxi cabs. Currently, the Taxi By-law states that taxi cabs can charge \$8.00 per ride and accessible taxi cabs are allowed to charge \$15.00 and the Board has been asked to look into the higher fee being charged for accessible service. However, One Care has advised that they are currently only charging \$7.75 per ride. The Chief advised that the By-law should be changed to show a fare of \$8.00 for taxi cabs and accessible taxi cabs and it would not affect the fee for One Care. If One Care decides to increase their fares in the future, it would have to come to the Board for approval.

Discussion followed with respect to funding received by One Care from the City.

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Rosemary Tanner

To refer this matter to the Finance Sub-committee to look at funding for One Care to ensure the balance of taxi cab fares. CARRIED.

6. Receipt of Monthly Statistic Reports – February 2017

Inspector Foster advised regarding the Monthly Activity Report, calls for service were down 18% compared to this time last year and e-tickets were down 36%.

Regarding the Motor Vehicle Report, there was a decrease in all categories in comparing February 2016 to February 2017.

The RMS Crime Report indicates a decrease in all offences except there was a slight increase in drug offences.

Regarding the Monthly Activity Report, domestic violence occurrences are down slightly over this time last year along with a decrease in charges laid. There is an increase in sick time and training time.

MOTION by Rosemary Tanner | Tim Doherty

That the Monthly Statistic Reports for February, 2017 be received. Carried.

7. Approval of Monthly Accounts – February 2017

The Chief advised that the accounts are trending well. To date, there should be 83.4% of the budget fund remaining and the accounts are currently at 86.13%. Funds have been spent for a criminal investigator, a special investigation unit and Road to Mental Readiness for all officers and supervisors. Funds have been spent under Law Enforcement with respect to Project SMART (Social Media and Responsibility Training) that involves teens and seniors. An \$80,000 grant has been received from the Ministry for this project.

Motion by Rosemary Tanner | Tim Doherty

That the monthly accounts for February, 2017, be approved for payment. Carried.

8. Police Association Business

Constable Mike Robinson attended on behalf of the Police Association and advised the Board of some wording in the current Collective Agreement that had been omitted in article 14.05.

9. Public Complaints

The Chief advised that there were no public complaints since the last meeting.

10. Correspondence

There were no issues or items to highlight regarding the correspondence received.

11. Consent Items

There were no consent items.

12. New Business

12.1 Support for the Service

The Chief provided the Board with a package of letters of support with respect to the the work of the Service that have been received from individuals and organizations in the community.

12.2 Recruits

The Chief advised that the recruits currently at the Ontario Police College are doing well and will be graduating in two weeks.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20th @ 4:30 pm.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Tim Doherty | 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 5:10 pm.

“Dan Mathieson”

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Chair – Dan Mathieson