

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 20th day of April, 2017 at 4:30 pm, Kiwanis Community Centre.

PRESENT: Dan Mathieson (Chair), Graham Bunting, Tim Doherty, Peter Hyde, 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

Peter Hyde declared a pecuniary interest in the March 2017 accounts for the rental of 154 Downie Street as his wife owns the building.

3. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 23rd, 2017

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner

That the minutes of the regular meeting of March 23rd, be adopted as presented. Carried.

4. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

There were no hearings of deputations and presentations.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

5.1 Unfounded Sexual Assault Cases

The Chief gave a presentation to the Board with respect to the sexual assault review being conducted by the Service setting out the process that will be followed.

The Chair reviewed the categories that were included under the “unfounded” grouping:

1. Charges are laid but withdrawn by the Crown
2. Unable to verify that a sexual assault occurred – lack of evidence
3. Complainant withdraws from the process or recants
4. False allegation made
5. Investigation revealed the sexual activity was consensual
6. Principles of the YCJA were applied in the case of Young Persons and charges were not laid.

The Chief didn't have the number of cases under each category available to the Board but advised that between 2010 and 2014, there were 101 sexual assault complaints and 48% of those were deemed unfounded.

The Chair reviewed the items that came forward from the last meeting:

1. Inspector Trepte from the Peel Regional Police Service will be available, if possible, to speak with victims. The Chief will get in touch with Chief Evans to enquire if this will be possible.
2. Inspector Trepte will review the in depth sexual assault training and protocol as the Chief reported.
3. The Board will consider the hiring of more female police officers.
4. Better facilities (soft room). The Chair advised that a new facility for the Police Service has been needed for a number of years, however, a soft room will be considered.
5. Special services unit such as DART or drug unit. There is a committee currently in place and the Chief advised the Board that the following are members of that committee:

HPHCA Hospital ER staff - Stratford
 HPHCA Hospital ER staff – St. Marys
 HPHCA Hospital ER staff – Clinton
 HPHCA Program Managers
 OPP Huron County
 Huron Perth Childrens Aid Society
 Ministry of the Attorney General - Perth County
 Victim Witness Assistance Program
 Sexual Assault Survivor Representative
 Stratford Police Service

The Chair advised that the Chief has the full support of the Board as he continues with the review process. The Board takes this matter very seriously and is committed to transparency and openness.

Tim Doherty asked the Chief to expand on the other categories that are used along with "founded" and "unfounded". The Chief advised that under "unfounded" cases, there is departmental discretion, unsolved and solved with charges.

The Chair allowed members of the public to provide comments with respect to the Chief's Report. Tahirih McDonnell advised that she still has some unanswered questions and is hopeful that Inspector Trepte will be able to help her with them.

Susan Pasquale questioned the lack of women involved in the review. She was advised that the three civilians pulling the data are women and a female inspector is being brought in to review the report.

Rosemary Tanner advised the group present that as the female Board member, she is confident that the process will be open and transparent and fully supports to process taking place.

Robin Spence-Haffner works for Choices for Change and is a Board member at Emily Murphy Centre. She added that it's important to look at implementing the changes through a true collaboration with agencies and victims themselves. Receiving comments and input wouldn't be enough.

The Chair added that in the past, there was the Domestic Assault Response Team (DART) and perhaps the current committee reviewing the report will become a similar to DART.

MOTION by Rosemary Tanner | Peter Hyde

That the Chief's Report to the Board dated April 3rd, 2017, setting out the process regarding the Sexual Assault Review be accepted. CARRIED.

5.2 One Care

The Chair advised that the City approved a 2017 grant to One Care in the amount of \$13,975 which is split between their transportation program (\$10,975) and support to low income clients (\$3,000). There was concern that with lowering the amount for accessible taxis in the current by-law from \$15.00 to \$9.00 it may mean that One Care will require additional funding from the City.

The current by-law will be amended to reflect an accessible taxi cab fare of \$9.00 to bring it in line with the \$9.00 fare allowed by taxi cabs and brought back to the Board for approval. One Care will be advised of the change.

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Peter Hyde

That the current Taxi By-law be amended to reflect a maximum fare of \$9.00 per ride for accessible riders and that One Care be advised to comply with the amended taxi by-law. Carried.

6. Receipt of Monthly Statistic Reports – March 2017

Inspector Foster advised in comparing statistics from March 2016 to March 2017:

- Activity Report - calls for service are down 19% and e-tickets are also down by 32%.
- Motor Vehicle Report - the numbers are comparable to this time last year.
- RMS Crime Report – there is a decrease in frauds due to less CRA type frauds. There has been an increase in drug enforcement and there is a trend of increased theft under related to shoplifting and in thefts from unlocked vehicles.
- Monthly Activity Report – there was an increase in domestic violence occurrences and an increase in charges laid. There was a decrease in sick time, hours lost and an increase in training due to use of force training.

MOTION by Peter Hyde | Rosemary Tanner

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

7. Approval of Monthly Accounts – March 2017

The Chief reviewed the accounts with the Board and advised that the accounts are trending well with a total of 75.1% remaining. He had no concerns regarding the accounts.

Motion by Peter Hyde | Tim Doherty

That the monthly accounts for March 2017, with the exception of the accounts regarding the rent for 154 Downie Street, be approved for payment. Carried.

Motion by Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner

That the accounts for the rent for 154 Downie Street for March 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. The Chief and Constable Robinson will sign off on the wording which will be forwarded to the Executive Assistant to be added to the Collective Agreement. The Board will approve the amended wording at the next meeting.

9. Public Complaints

The Chief advised that there was a complaint submitted to the OIRPD, however, they did not proceed with it.

10. Correspondence

The Chief advised that the OAPSB response to Police Oversight will be covered at the OAPSB Conference in June.

The Chief advised that the on line street checks were working out well and all officers have received the on-line training.

11. Consent Items

There were no consent items.

12. New Business

12.1 Re-Appointment of Peter Hyde

The Chair advised that Peter Hyde's appointment to the Board has been extended for a six (6) month term.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 25th, 2017, @ 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 5:30 pm.

"Dan Mathieson"

ps

Chair – Dan Mathieson