

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 26th day of September, 2018 at 4:30 pm, Council Chamber, City Hall.

PRESENT: Dan Mathieson, Graham Bunting, Tim Doherty, Peter Hyde, Rosemary Tanner, Acting Chief Gerry Foster, Acting Inspector Mark Taylor, Acting Inspector Jason Clarke, 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 June, July and August, 2018 accounts for the rental of 154 Downie Street as his wife owns the building.

3. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 27th, 2018

MOTION by Rosemary Tanner | Graham Bunting

That the minutes of the regular meeting of June 27th, 2018, be adopted as presented. Carried.

4. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

There were no hearings of deputations or presentations scheduled.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

5.1 SUI Report

The Acting Chief provided a report to the Board regarding an SIU investigation dealing with an incident that took place on July 3rd, 2017. He advised that in accordance with the Police Services Act, an internal investigation was completed to determine any potential breach of conduct. The SIU completed their investigation and found there was no criminality on the part of the officers involved.

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Peter Hyde

That the Report of the Acting Chief be received. Carried.

5.2 Accessibility Camera & Intercom

The Acting Chief advised that the camera and intercom for those entering the police building with accessibility issues is currently being installed. It has taken longer to install due to electrical issues.

5.2 Accident Support Service International (ASSI)

The Acting Chief advised that the contract with ASSI had been reviewed by the Service's lawyer and insurance company. Some minor changes were suggested, including shortening the commitment time from 10 years to 5 years. ASSI agreed to the changes and it is planned to launch the program sometime in December 2018.

MOTION by Rosemary Tanner | Peter Hyde

That the Accident Support Service International (ASSI) program be launched in December 2018. Carried.

6. Receipt of Monthly Statistic Reports – June, July & August 2018

Acting Inspector Jason Clarke reviewed the Monthly Statistics with the Board. He advised that there was a significant increase in break and enter incidents due to the nicer weather and offenders are outside more often. The calls received primarily involved thefts from laundry mats (coins), storage sheds at residences (bikes) and storage lockers.

He advised that an individual has been arrested who they feel is responsible for the shed thefts. Another individual had been arrested at the beginning of August while breaking into a commercial building. In August, the break and enters decreased significantly from 41 to 17 which may be due to these individuals being taken into custody.

There were also two break and enters at residences, and in the first week of September, an arrest was made and jewellery was found on the individual.

Tim Doherty asked what is being done to heighten awareness regarding cannabis. The Acting Chief advised that he has attended community events including the Legal Cannabis Community Dialogue held at the UW Stratford Campus. Over the past year, a focus has been put on adding Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Officers to the Service. The Service also currently has three drug recognition experts that are able to conduct a 12-step test process to determine if someone has taken cannabis/drugs. Internally, officers have been directed to take the E-learning workshop on Canada's legislation. The Acting Chief feels that they have currently done everything they can, and the information regarding cannabis is coming out in bits and pieces.

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner

That the Monthly Statistic Reports for June, July and August 2018 be received. Carried.

7. Approval of Monthly Accounts – June, July & August 2018

The Acting Chief advised that he had no concerns regarding the accounts to date. There is currently an increase in overtime, however, the full-time wages are trending well. There is currently 42% of the budget remaining regarding fuel.

Motion by Peter Hyde | Tim Doherty

That the monthly accounts for June, July and August 2018, 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 June, July and August 2018, be approved for payment. Carried.

8. Police Association Business

Constable Rob McMillan advised that there was no Police Association business at this time.

9. Public Complaints

The Acting Chief informed the Board that three new complaints have been received.

One individual has filed three complaints regarding her adult son being arrested. One had been investigated and deemed unsubstantiated and she has requested a review/appeal of the decision. A second complaint was filed regarding the investigator who was looking into the complaint. A third complaint was filed regarding the original complaint, but more issues were added to it. The Acting Chief advised that they may not be able to remedy her concerns and she may need to take civil action.

The two other complaints have been assigned to Acting Staff Sergeant Ferguson and should be wrapped up within the next two weeks.

10. Correspondence

Discussion took place regarding the correspondence received and the Acting Chief answered questions received from the Board.

11. Consent Items

11.1 Taxi Licenses

The Acting Chief advised that applications had been received from the following individuals with respect to a taxi license.

- Charlene Rose Edwards - Stratford Taxi
- Brendon Walter Grandy - Radio Cab
- Paul C. Jamieson - Radio Cab
- Sonya J. Larson - Stratford Taxi
- Darryl E. Gerich - Stratford Taxi
- Brodi Burnett - Stratford Taxi
- Allan Lewis – Stratford Taxi
- Beverly McNaught – Radio Cab
- Trevor Carnegie – Stratford Taxi
- Glen Whetstone – Stratford Taxi
- Ajdar "Eddie" Ghassemi - Stratford Taxi
- Donald Hoffmeyer – Radio Cab

The Acting Chief advised that the increase in drivers is due to the new taxi company, Stratford Taxi.

Motion by Graham Bunting | Peter Hyde

That on the recommendation of the Acting Chief, the aforementioned be approved for a taxi license. Carried.

12. New Business

12.1 Auxiliary Program

The Acting Chief provided a Report to the Board recommending that the Service consider launching an Auxiliary Program. Auxiliary officers are basically volunteers from the community and they will be trained and wear a uniform. They would attend community events on behalf of the Service, increasing a presence in the community, and also freeing up time for paid officers. The costs are associated with start up and would be \$2,000 per member that would include a uniform and equipment. The funding for the program has been included in the 2019 budget or it could be taken from the Operational Reserve Account. As a comparison, the Cadet Program cost \$70,000 per year for two cadets. The Acting Chief also added that an additional expense would be replacing their body armour every seven years at a cost of approximately \$7,000.

Graham Bunting asked if there would be any sort of testing involved such as psychological or physical fitness. The Acting Chief advised that as its a volunteer capacity with very limited capabilities, testing wouldn't be required. However, a background check would be done at the very least.

Peter Hyde asked if there would be any increase in liability and the Acting Chief advised that there would be some insurance and WSIB aspects that they would have to look at.

Motion by Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner

That the Acting Chief move forward with the Auxiliary Program in 2019, subject to more information being received regarding indemnification and WSIB. Carried.

12.2 New Chief and Deputy Chief

The Chair advised that Greg Skinner will begin as the new Chief on October 9th along with Gerry Foster as the Deputy Chief. Congratulations were given to Gerry Foster at the meeting.

MOTION by Rosemary Tanner | Peter Hyde

That Greg Skinner be appointed as the new Police Chief and Gerry Foster be appointed as the Deputy Chief as of October 9th, 2018. Carried.

The Chair advised that the new Chief will be sworn in by Justice Kathryn McKerlie on October 9th and there will be an official Swearing In Ceremony for both the Chief and Deputy Chief in November or December.

12.2 Taxis and Uber

Graham Bunting received a complaint from someone who had used a taxi and they had asked why Uber wasn't in Stratford. Discussion followed and the Acting Chief advised that Uber drivers would have to comply with the current taxi by-law as with other taxi drivers. The Chair added that the Uber Company would first want to come to Stratford, however, they may prefer larger municipalities.

13. Next Meeting

The next meetings are scheduled as follows: October 24th, November 21st, December 19th.

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 5:20 pm.

"Dan Mathieson"

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Chair – Dan Mathieson