

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 21st day of November, 2018 at 4:30 pm, Shakespeare Room, City Hall.

PRESENT: Dan Mathieson (Chair), Graham Bunting, Tim Doherty, Peter Hyde, Rosemary Tanner, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Mark Taylor, Inspector Jason Clarke, Constable Rob McMillan (Police Association), 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 October, 2018 accounts for the rental of 154 Downie Street as his wife owns the building.

3. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 24th, 2018

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner

That the minutes of the regular meeting of October 24th, 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 Cannabis Protocol in Local High Schools

The Chief advised the Board that a meeting/conference call was held with Deputy Chief Foster, Federal Crown Dennis Harrison, representatives from OPP detachments in Perth and Huron Counties, Tim Poole from the Wingham Police Service and Gary O'Donnell, Superintendent of the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board and Superintendent Jodi Baker of the Avon-Maitland District School Board, to discuss high school protocols regarding the legalization of cannabis. They discussed expectations and the constantly changing legislation along with the expectations, roles and responsibilities of both the police and the schools. The protocol agreement is currently being updated and should be completed soon.

Tim Doherty mentioned that there is an issue at Northwestern Secondary School as the Health Unit has told students that they are no longer allowed to smoke cigarettes by the school or on the SERC property. Neighbours are upset as the students are now smoking in the streets. The Chief advised that the police should be called to deal with these complaints.

6. Receipt of Monthly Statistic Reports – October 2018

Inspector Taylor reviewed the Monthly Statistical Report with the Board. He had no concerns, however, he advised that there was an increase in assaults over October 2017 and 2018. Three of the incidents took place in jail while others were a result of a youth having mental health issues assaulting a support worker.

MOTION by Peter Hyde | Tim Doherty

That the Monthly Statistic Reports for October 2018 be received. Carried.

7. Approval of Monthly Accounts – October 2018

The Deputy Chief advised that he had no concerns regarding the accounts to date. Most accounts are where they should be, or in some instances, have a surplus. He advised that the uniform account is currently in a deficit due to the purchase of uniforms for St Marys and Perth South. The cost of the uniforms will be invoiced to the municipalities and credited back to the account.

Motion by Graham Bunting | Peter Hyde

That the monthly accounts for October 2018, with the exception of the accounts regarding the rent for 154 Downie Street, be approved for payment. Carried.

Motion by Tim Doherty | Rosemary Tanner

That the accounts for the rent for 154 Downie Street for October 2018, be approved for payment. Carried.

8. Police Association Business

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

9. Public Complaints

The Chief advised that there is currently one outstanding complaint. It has been investigated and the Chief is in the process of reporting back to OIRPD that there is no issue.

10. Correspondence

Discussion took place regarding the correspondence received.

Regarding the Basic Constable training, the Chief advised that two seats have been allocated for the Service at the Ontario Police College. For strategic planning purposes, OPC has asked each service to provide them with the number of seats they would require from 2019 to 2023. The Service has requested the following seats which are relevant to projected retirements – 2019 (6), 2020 (2), 2021 (0), 2022 (1) and 2023 (1).

Regarding Approved Drug Screening, the government will be funding equipment for roadside drug testing and the Chief has requested three units. Each unit is \$6,000 and how many the Service receives depends on the provincial allocation. Funds will have to be paid up front by the Service and then reimbursed.

11. Consent Items

There were no consent items to discuss.

12. New Business

12.1 OAPSB Membership

The fee for the 2019 OAPSB Membership is \$3,313.72

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Peter Hyde
To pay the 2019 Membership Fees to the OAPSB. Carried.

12.2 Macleans Magazine Article

The Board received a report from the Deputy Chief regarding the Macleans article indicating that Stratford is the 12th least safe community in the country. The ranking is based on a statistical analysis called the Crime Severity Index and the Violent Crime Index that rely on data supplied to Statistics Canada through the Unified Crime Reporting system.

The Chief advised that they have done a review of the reporting and issues in relation to Statistical Analysis that attributed to the Crime Severity Index as reported. He would like the Board's direction on how to move forward with reporting incidents that are contributing significantly to the positioning with respect to the Index, specifically frauds and attempted frauds. The Service currently treats frauds differently than other Services in the province and it has an effect on our statistical position. Many of the frauds reported are actually attempted frauds with no loss, as is the case with the CRA phone scams. The public is encouraged to report the frauds, however, it contributes to the numbers making our community appear to be unsafe.

The Chief advised the Board that the options would be to maintain the status quo, change the way frauds are scored or only deal with actual frauds and not attempted frauds. It was felt that the reporting should be regulated and everyone should be doing it the same way.

MOTION by Rosemary Tanner | Peter Hyde
To receive the Report of the Deputy Chief dated November 21, 2018. Carried.

12.3 Accessible Cabs

The Deputy Chief provided the Board with a report regarding accessible cabs. One of the local cab companies is interested in purchasing, equipping and deploying an accessible cab. Currently, one cab company has a van that is capable of holding a folded wheelchair. The Deputy Chief feels that a conversation should take place to determine what the City or Board should do to require an accessible cab to be available. He advised that some municipalities have suggested having one accessible cab for every 10 cabs that are available. Julia Opie, the Accessibility Coordinator for Perth County advised that it would be best to first understand the demand. If there is a significant demand, determine what the City or Board should do to meet that demand.

The Chair advised that it would be up to the City to conduct a feasibility and needs analysis. It would become the carriage of the transit department of City to decide how they will allocate public transit funding and the City is required under provincial law to have accessible transit. They may decide to subsidize buses with taxis or have more mobility bus hours.

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Tim Doherty
To receive the Report of the Deputy Chief dated November 21, 2018. Carried.

12.4 Updated Organizational Chart

The Board was provided with an updated Organizational Chart showing the change in inspector positions. Mark Taylor is the Inspector of Operations and Jason Clarke is the Inspector of Investigative Support. Other positions are divided accordingly.

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Rosemary Tanner

To approve the Organizational Chart as presented. Carried.

12.5 Resident Letter

The Chair advised the Board that a letter had been received from a resident with respect to a break and enter in her building. She commended Constable Frei for his attention and care in the matter and for taking the time to make them feel safe.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 19th, 2018.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Peter Hyde | 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 5:00 pm.

"Dan Mathieson"

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Chair – Dan Mathieson