

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 28th day of October, 2020 at 4:30 pm, by video conference (Zoom).

PRESENT: Dan Mathieson (Chair), Graham Bunting, Steve Cousins, Tim Doherty, Rosemary Tanner, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Jason Clarke, Inspector Mark Taylor, Constable 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

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof.

3. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 23rd, 2020

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Tim Doherty

That the minutes of the regular meeting of September 23rd, 2020, be adopted as presented. Carried.

4. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

4.1 Presentation by Macgregor Austin-Olsen – Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team

The Chief introduced Macgregor Austin-Olsen and advised the Board that he has been involved with the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team since October 2019. Macgregor is attending the meeting today to provide an overview of his experiences in Stratford, Perth South and St Marys along with Perth and Huron Counties over the past year.

Macgregor advised that he is a social worker with the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance in partnership with the Stratford Police and the OPP in Huron and Perth Counties. He rides along with officers throughout the week managing mental health with a primary focus on minimizing apprehensions and the amount of time being spent by officers in hospitals waiting for individuals to be assessed. It has also been beneficial to connect with officers and share information and knowledge.

Macgregor currently rides with the Stratford Police three days per week, however, based on call volume, he and feels that it would be beneficial for the Service to have someone full-time.

Macgregor answered questions from the Board.

4.2 Presentation by Jasmine Clark / Lisa Wilde – Optimism Place

Jasmine Clark, Executive Director of Optimism Place and Lisa Wilde, Executive Director of the Emily Murphy Centre, made a presentation to the Board regarding the Advocate Case Review Model.

Jasmine provided the history and implementation of the Advocate Case Review Model along with information regarding the Advocate Case Review Team.

The Chair thanked Jasmine and Lisa for their work in providing the Board with a clear understanding. There are still services and provisions that need to be provided in our community that enhance and drastically improve the experience that victims have and we need to turn our attention to building our coalition so we can continue to do so.

Lisa added everyone around the table should be congratulated. This was the initial pilot and our numbers and successes can be shared nationally. Jasmine advised that they have been contacted by other advocates and police services wanting to know what's happening in Stratford.

The term of the pilot expired at the end of March. The Chief feels that this project is valuable in the way that investigations are completed and officers are trained. He asked if the Board would approve continuing beyond the pilot and continue to expand the program.

MOTION by Rosemary Tanner | Graham Bunting

To make permanent the Philadelphia Model and the Sexual Assault Review and that it be turned over to the Stratford Police Service Administration, Optimism Place and the Emily Murphy Centre representatives to continue with the process and identify training opportunities where necessary. Carried.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

6. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – September 2020

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

6.1 Stratford

There were 1477 calls for service, 131 e-tickets were issued and 71 warnings were given. There was a significant increase in break and enter and theft under incidents. A majority of the break and enters were done by two individuals and both have been arrested. There has also been a rise in backyard marijuana thefts.

6.2 St Marys

There were 246 calls for service, 40 e-tickets were issued and 12 warnings were given. There was an increase in break and enter and theft under incidents and involved a car wash. There was also a theft regarding backyard marijuana plants.

6.3 Perth South

There were 175 calls for service, 67 e-tickets were issued and 21 warnings were given.

6.4 Crime Stoppers

The Chief reviewed the Crime Stoppers Report for September for Stratford. There were five new tips provided all regarding intelligence – drugs, stolen property, assault and missing persons.

MOTION by Steve Cousins | Rosemary Tanner

That the Monthly Statistic Reports for September 2020 be received. Carried.

7. Approval of Monthly Accounts

The Chief reviewed the monthly accounts with the Board as of September 30th and provided an explanation regarding some of the account balances.

Due to COVID, taxi licensing revenue is down significantly as the taxi licencing system was put on hold. A number of operators and drivers did not renew their licences due to a lack of business.

The Board is currently being provided with a new report setting out the month to month actuals to show how the accounts fluctuate during the year.

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Steve Cousins

That the monthly accounts for September 2020, be approved for payment. Carried.

The Chief advised that the draft budget approximately reflects a 2% increase, 90% of which is salaries and benefits. A high-level review of the budget will be given to the Finance Committee on November 27th and will be reviewed at the next Police Services Board meeting on November 25th.

MOTION by Steve Cousins | Rosemary Tanner

To support the submission of the draft budget as presented. Carried.

8. Police Association Business

There was no Police Association business to report.

9. Public Complaints

The Chief advised that there have been 7 public complaints.

- A complaint regarding an officer being uncivil to the public during a telephone conversation. An investigation has been completed and it was found to be unsubstantiated which was supported by the OIRPD.
- A complaint involving a very broad date range over two years and involving unnamed members of the Service and named members of another police service. The Chief advised the OIRPD that it wouldn't be possible to complete an investigation due to the time frame, unnamed individuals and the lack of specificity. The OIRPD will discuss it further as to how it should be dealt with.
- A complaint that had been investigated and found unsubstantiated was returned to the OIRPD as requested by the complainant for a review of the investigation. Following their investigation, the OIRPD supported the Chief's assessment of it being unsubstantiated and the file is closed.
- A complaint that an officer was in the complainant's laneway without permission. The complaint was screened out by the OIRPD.
- A complaint was received regarding a civilian employee and the OIRPD responded saying that it was out of their scope to investigate civilian employees. This complaint had been dealt with internally and the file is closed.
- A complaint wherein the complainant felt that there were sufficient injuries to notify the SIU. The SIU took over the investigation and the OIRPD investigation has been paused pending the outcome of the SIU investigation.

- A complaint currently under investigation by the SIU and the OIRPD advised that it would not be in the public's best interest for them to conduct an investigation at this time. They will wait for the outcome of the SIU investigation.

10. Correspondence

The Chief answered questions and provided further information on correspondence items as requested by the Board.

Regarding the notice of retirement for Pat Kelly, the Chief advised that Pat has been with the Service for approximately 9 years as a Special Constable. He is very knowledgeable and has been a very hard worker and he will be missed.

11. Consent Items

11.1 Taxi Driver License

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Rosemary Tanner

That on the recommendation of the Chief, Joshua John McKay (City Cab) be approved for a taxi license. Carried.

12. New Business

12.1 Memorandum from the Solicitor General

A memo was provided to the Board from the Solicitor General, Sylvia Jones, Minister Responsible for Anti-Racism, regarding anti-racism initiatives, the regulatory work being done to bring the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, into force, new police oversight measures, police training as it relates to de-escalation, mental health and diverse communities, mental health and addictions initiatives and investments, Community Safety and Well-Being Planning and police-hospital transition protocol.

The Chief provided an overview and advised that the information in the memo will answer questions received from the Board over the past few months regarding police oversight, police training, police complaint investigations, police training at OPC, mental health and addiction and other issues.

As it has been of particular interest to the Board, the Chief provided an overview of the Police Training section. He advised that the Ontario Police College has moved into a much more scenario based training model as has the Service with their annual training when dealing with some of the critical trends in our community.

The Deputy Chief advised that the current training plan usually involves three days of training each year to recertify officers and acquire basic skills required on the road as per the Police Services Act. In 2012, the plan is to expand the training to five full days covering off the mandate and expanding on training that's identified in the memorandum from the Solicitor General.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on November 25th, 2020.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Tim Doherty | Graham Bunting

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 5:50 pm.

“ Dan Mathieson”

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Dan Mathieson - Chair