

# STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 17th day of May 2023, at Stratford City Hall – Council Chamber, 1 Wellington Street, Stratford ON

**PRESENT:** Tim Doherty (Chair), Steve Cousins, Dave Gaffney, Mayor Martin Ritsma, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Mark Taylor, Duane Sprague, Councillor Rob Edney (St. Marys), Phil Psutka, Galen Simmons (Media), Casey Riehl (Executive Assistant)

## MINUTES

### 1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

### 2. Adoption of the May 17, 2023 Agenda and Addition of Agenda Items – Business Arising or New Business

**MOTION by** Dave Gaffney | Martin Ritsma

**That the agenda for the regular meeting of May 17, 2023 be adopted as presented. Carried.**

### 3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

### 4. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 19, 2023

**MOTION by** Martin Ritsma | Steve Cousins

**That the minutes of the regular meeting of April 19, 2023 be adopted as amended. Carried.**

### 5. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

None noted.

### 6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

None noted.

Chief Skinner took a moment to recognize the line of duty death of Sergeant Eric Mueller, as well as two additional OPP officers who were wounded on May 11, 2023 as they responded to a disturbance at a residence. Sergeant Mueller is the tenth police officer to die in the line of duty in the last eight months. The Stratford Police Services Board, Stratford Police Service, Council and community members send their condolences to the family of Sergeant Mueller and the families of the officers who were wounded. These killings demonstrate that violence, specifically gun violence, is not solely a big city issue and there is no such thing as a routine call for service for police officers anymore.

### 7. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – April 2023

Board members received the statistical reports for April 2023. Inspector Taylor reviewed the reports with the Board with respect to Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South and answered questions.

**7.1 Stratford**

There were 1656 calls for service, with 295 charges laid. Mental health related calls were down from the previous month, with 54 calls received in April. Domestic related occurrences rose to 56 in April as compared to 45 in March. 7 Charges were laid relating to the domestic occurrences. Theft from motor vehicles rose to 13 this month. Police are aware of 2-3 individuals in the city that are responsible for most of these break-ins, which are mainly unlocked vehicles.

**7.2 St Marys**

There were 222 calls for service, with 29 charges laid. There were 2 mental health calls received. Domestic related occurrences stayed relatively the same as last month. There were 4 thefts from motor vehicle calls in April, compared to no calls last month.

**7.3 Perth South**

There were 176 calls for service, with 86 charges laid for the month of March. All other occurrences remained relatively low.

**7.4 Crime Stoppers Report (March/April 2023)**

Chief Skinner reported that Stratford received (8) new tips in March - (1) drug related and (7) intelligence related. The number one tip received was criminal code (7), followed by impaired driving with (4) and traffic and drugs each with (3).

In April, there were (10) new tips received by SPS – (2) were drug related and (8) intelligence related. Top three tips by type received were traffic with (11), criminal code (7) and drugs with (5).

**MOTION by** Steve Cousins | Martin Ritsma

**That the Monthly Statistical Reports for April 2023 and the Crime Stoppers Reports for March/April 2023 be received as presented. Carried.**

**8. Approval of Monthly Accounts (April 2023)**

Chief Skinner reported that it has been noted that some of the financial documents included in the Board packages may be able to be formatted differently to better explain the financial status of the SPS. The goal is to have the new format in place for the June meeting. Taking the annual budget and dividing it by 12 months as expected expenditure amounts is a good indicator, but it is not exact and may not always provide the full picture of the overall budget, not taking into account grant amounts received and salary details, etc.

Financially, the SPS is currently in a good position and have been the recipient of some additional unanticipated grant money for Next Gen 911. SPS has received \$600,000.00 in funding from the Province to help support the move towards NG-911.

**MOTION by** Dave Gaffney | Steve Cousins

**That the monthly accounts for April 2023 be approved as presented. Carried.**

**9. Police Association Business**

None noted.

## 10. Public Complaints – Chief Skinner

Chief Skinner reported that the Service received (3) new complaints since the May meeting. Two of the complaints have been assigned for investigation the third one was withdrawn by the complainant prior to being assigned for investigation. The OIPRD has provided the Chief with correspondence of two previous complaint investigations indicating that the complainants did not ask for a review of his decision on the outcome of those investigations. In both of those cases, there was no finding of misconduct on the part of the officers involved and the files have been closed.

## 11. Correspondence

- 11.1 Members received a copy of the notes from the April 24, 2023 CEAT meeting.
- 11.2 Members received a copy of correspondence addressed to Chief Skinner from Stratford taxi companies requesting an increase in taxi fares. The Board received the correspondence for review and Chief Skinner will request representatives from the taxi companies attend the June Board meeting to do a presentation regarding their increase request.
- 11.3 Members received a letter in their package from a concerned citizen requesting assistance on how to proceed with ongoing harassment by a former employer and members of the community. This is outside of the Board's jurisdiction and will be forwarded to the SPS. Chief Skinner has already been in contact with the citizen to discuss.
- 11.4 Tim Doherty received a letter from the CFUW asking the Board to re-examine the composition of the Stratford Police Services Board. The CEAT Committee also previously made a request at a Board meeting. The Board will prepare a response for CFUW in-camera, as it deals with members of the Board.

## 12. Consent Items

- 12.1 **MOTION by Dave Gaffney | Martin Ritsma**  
**That on the recommendation of the Chief, John P.J. Aniol (City Cab), be approved for a taxi license. Carried.**

## 13. New Business

- 13.1 Change from Queen's Crown to King's Crown Post Coronation – Chief Skinner  
Chief Skinner has requested the Board's consent to begin the process to change the insignia for the SPS from the Queen's Crown to the King's Crown now that the coronation of King Charles III has taken place. The Sovereign Crown is an integral part of the SPS insignia that appears on letterhead, business cards, badges, cruiser markings, etc. It will take time to implement the changes and there will be additional charges involved. Board members agreed to have Chief Skinner proceed with implementing the update.
- 13.2 Ontario CCTV Grant Program Application – Chief Skinner  
Chief Skinner reported that previously the SPS, in partnership with the City's Social Services Department, submitted an application for the CCTV grant program. Social Services had a 5-year implementation plan already in place to install CCTV in all of their City-managed residential buildings. The cost of this was estimated at \$450,000.00 spread out over the five years. With this grant opportunity, SPS could partner with Social Services and cut the implementation time down to 18 months.

\$250,000.00 was received from the grant and the remaining \$200,000.00 was funded by the Social Services budget.

Chief Skinner inquired if the Board would be open to additional partnerships such as this to help support community safety and frontline policing. Tim Doherty suggested continuing to investigate any future partnerships as they may become available with community groups.

#### **14. Adjournment to In-Camera**

**Motion by** Martin Ritsma | Dave Gaffney

**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 5:06 p.m.

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Tim Doherty - Chair