

# STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 17th day of April 2024, Stratford City Hall – Auditorium, 1 Wellington Street, Stratford ON

**PRESENT:** Tim Doherty (Chair), Martin Ritsma, Harjinder Nijjar, Steve Cousins, Dave Gaffney, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Councillor Rob Edney, Connor Luczka (Media), Casey Riehl (Executive Assistant)

## MINUTES

### 1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:29 p.m.

### 2. Adoption of the April 17, 2024 Agenda and Addition of Agenda Items

**Motion by** Martin Ritsma | Harjinder Nijjar

**THAT the agenda for the regular meeting of April 17, 2024 be adopted as presented.**

**Carried**

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

None declared.

### 4. Adoption of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 13, 2024

**Motion by** Dave Gaffney | Harjinder Nijjar

**THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of March 13, 2024 be adopted as printed.**

**Carried**

### 5. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

None noted.

### 6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

#### 6.1 Update on Stratford Police Station

Chief Skinner updated Board members that they are continuing to do a phased move-in to 789 Erie Street. The goal is to have all employees moved in by the end of April and open to the public by mid-May. Deputy Chief Foster is working on a communication strategy to inform the public of the hours of service and services that will be provided at the new location. They will also be getting signage for Erie Street to direct people back to the building, as well as a sign on the building to make it readily identifiable.

## **7. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – March 2024**

Board members received the statistical reports for March 2024. Deputy Chief Foster reviewed the reports with the Board with respect to Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South and was available for questions.

### **7.1 Stratford**

- (1418) Calls for service
- (103) E-Tickets issued
- (71) PON Warnings
- (320) Charges laid
- Many of the stats are consistent with the month and year prior.
- (74) Mental health related calls, down slightly from last month
- Assaults (8) and sexual offence occurrences (6) up slightly from last month
- (17) Frauds reported, down from (25) last month. He noted that it is CRA time and fraudsters know that, so be aware of those types of calls.
- (10) Drug offences, up from (4) last month
- (5) Impaired by alcohol occurrences
- (57) MVC's
- Top 5 E-tickets – speeding is the top e-ticket issued (19)
- (1) Ride program was conducted, (139) vehicles stopped, no charges laid
- (2) Failure to stop/vehicle pursuits
- (834.25) Sick hours for the month of March, up from (540.25) in March 2023
- In Recruitment, the number of applicants for Sergeant should read (7) in total.

### **7.2 St Marys**

- (195) Calls for service, up from (153) last month
- Most calls remained similar to the previous month.
- (2) Domestic related occurrences, down from (7) last month.
- (9) Mental health calls, up from (6) last month
- (4) Assaults, some cases were related to persons with dementia
- (1) Sexual offence, which is currently under investigation
- (2) Frauds, down from (6) last month
- (4) MVC's, same as last month.

### **7.3 Perth South**

- (211) Calls for service, up from (189) last month
- (119) Charges laid, up from (87) last month
- (2) Auto thefts reported
- (2) Impaired by alcohol arrests
- (8) MVC's, down from (12) last month
- Top 5 E-tickets – Speeding (85) top e-ticket issued.

- (4) Ride programs conducted, (293) vehicles stopped, (1) charge laid
- (1) vehicle pursuit/failure to stop

Tim Doherty inquired about the new digital speed sign located on O'Loane Avenue. The Chief noted that these signs are portable and can be moved around the city to warn drivers of their speed. In addition to the speed warnings, the signs collect data on vehicle speeds and reports are generated and sent to the police for their information. Martin Ritsma stated that the City is investing in more of these signs, as they are effective in helping to reduce speeding.

**Motion by** Martin Ritsma | Dave Gaffney

**THAT the Monthly Statistical Reports for March 2024 be received as presented.**

**Carried**

#### **7.4 Crime Stoppers Reports (February/March 2024)**

Chief Skinner reviewed the February 2024 and March 2024 Crime Stoppers Reports with the Board.

##### February

- (62) Total calls for Huron Perth County
- (14) Calls for the City of Stratford – (4) drug related, (11) intelligence related.
- Top tips by type: theft (31), drugs (9), Criminal Code (6)
- There was one child pornography investigation.

##### March

- (32) Total calls for Huron Perth County
- (9) Calls for the City of Stratford – (2) drug related, (7) intelligence related.
- Top tips by type: theft (9), Criminal Code (7), drugs (3), impaired (3), homicide (2), terrorism (1)

**Motion by** Dave Gaffney | Steve Cousins

**THAT the February 2024 and March 2024 Crime Stoppers Reports be received as presented.**

**Carried**

#### **8. Approval of Monthly Accounts (March 2024)**

Chief Skinner reported that the Service would expect to be at 25% of their budget at the end of March. They have currently spent \$3,410,525.00 of their \$13,821,228.00 which equates to 24.7%.

Expenditures to get 789 Erie Street ready for service has resulted in that percentage being higher than anticipated. He assures the Board that they are being very

judicious and fiscally responsible with their purchases. There is a cost overrun for 2023 and he is hoping that it will cover off some of the reserves that are available for expansion of the Police Service.

The Chief noted that many costs related to 789 Erie Street have been recovered with the cost variance and will continue to recover over the next eight months and continue to be in a surplus position at the end of the year.

Tim Doherty inquired about the lease expense shown for 154 Downie Street and if payments are still being made. The Chief stated that the lease expired on March 31, 2024 and no further payments will be made. The Service is completely moved out and the space has been turned back over to the building owner.

**MOTION by** Steve Cousins | Harjinder Nijjar

**That the monthly accounts for March 2024 be approved as presented.**

**Carried**

## **9. Police Association Business**

None noted.

## **10. Public Complaints**

There were no new LECA (Law Enforcement Complaints Agency) complaints from the public that fell within the mandate for the month of March.

## **11. Correspondence**

Chief Skinner noted for the Boards information regarding the Mobile Crisis Response Team Enhancement Grant, Stratford was successful in receiving this grant previously, however they were unsuccessful in their application to continue receiving the funding this last round of applications. SPS expressed their concerns, as did the local O.P.P. detachments that were also not successful in receiving the grant. It has been such a valuable program to the community and the most vulnerable population in need. Through their concerns expressed to the Ministry and the Solicitor General, it is his hope that it had an influence on this enhancement grant being continued.

The grant has now been publicized and SPS will be applying for funding again. It is his hope to expand the MCRT program back to where it is the most useful and viable for the communities.

Martin Ritsma also expressed his gratitude for the assistance and support for this program that MPP Matthew Rae provided.

## **12. Consent Items**

None noted.

**13. New Business**

- 13.1 Mandatory Municipal Police Service Board Training (Community Policing and Safety Act)

Tim Doherty reported that all members of the Stratford Police Services Board have completed and passed their mandatory training.

Chief Skinner stated that all police officers in the province will also be required to complete similar training by 2026.

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

**Motion by** Dave Gaffney | Martin Ritsma

**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 to In-Camera at 4:50 p.m.

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Tim Doherty - Chair