

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 22nd day of September 2021, held virtually by Zoom.

PRESENT: Dan Mathieson (Chair), Graham Bunting, Steve Cousins, Tim Doherty, Rosemary Tanner, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Jason Clarke, Constable Rob McMillian (Police Association) and Pat Shantz (Executive Assistant).

ALSO PRESENT: Duane Sprague, Police Services Advisor

REGRETS: Inspector Mark Taylor

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 June 16th, 2021

MOTION by Steve Cousins | Tim Doherty

That the minutes of the regular meeting of June 16th, 2021, be adopted as presented. Carried.

4. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

4.1 Inspectorate of Policing

The Inspectorate of Policing attended the meeting to have an introductory discussion regarding their mandate, the work underway to operationalize the Inspectorate and how they hope to work with the Board and the policing sector overall. Also, to learn about the Board's perspectives related to implementing the new requirements under the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA) and what it sees as the opportunities for the Inspectorate to provide support.

Attending from the Inspectorate was Inspector General Devon Clunis, Deputy Inspector General Ken Weatherill, Executive Data Officer, Michelle Lloyd and Lisa Kourtalis, Executive Assistant.

4.2 Duane Sprague, Police Services Advisor

Duane Sprague provided an update and spoke on the significant number of all Chiefs Memos that have gone out over the last few months, and he thanked the Board for reviewing them.

He advised that much work has gone into regulations for the Community Safety and Policing Act, and it is scheduled to be proclaimed on January 3rd, 2022, and will be in force April 1st, 2022.

They are looking into a tool kit (information and education) for Councillors and people in the community to understand what a Police Services Board is and what their role and responsibility is. Duane asked for feedback from the Board. The Chair felt that it would be a good idea as governance workshops are currently underway in the City to talk about what Councils can and can't do, and the Police Services Board is as aspect of that.

Chief Skinner thanked Duane for all his work and support, especially regarding the All Chiefs Memos.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

6. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – June, July & August 2021

Inspector Clarke reviewed the Statistical Reports with the Board for June, July and August with respect to Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South and answered questions.

6.1 Stratford

June - 1610 calls for service, 107 e-tickets were issued, 54 warnings, 34 mental health related calls and 38 domestic related occurrences.

July - 1736 calls for service, 84 e-tickets were issued, 50 warnings, 25 mental health related calls and 34 domestic related occurrences.

August - 1717 calls for service, 107 e-tickets were issued, 61 warnings, 18 mental health related calls and 43 domestic related occurrences.

Inspector Clarke added that mental health related calls continue to be high and suicides and overdoses occur on a monthly basis. Speed enforcement is the main traffic enforcement initiative.

6.2 St Marys

June - 266 calls for service, 36 e-tickets were issued, 11 warnings, 2 mental health related calls and 3 domestic related occurrences.

July - 273 calls for service, 24 e-tickets were issued, 15 warnings, 3 mental health related calls and 6 domestic related occurrences.

August - 233 calls for service, 31 e-tickets were issued, 12 warnings, 2 mental health related calls.

6.3 Perth South

June - 246 calls for service, 124 e-tickets were issued, 20 warnings, 3 mental health related calls and 4 domestic related occurrences.

July - 286 calls for service, 133 e-tickets were issued, 29 warnings, and 4 domestic related occurrences.

August - 289 calls for service, 127 e-tickets were issued, 27 warnings, 1 mental health related calls and 2 domestic related occurrences.

MOTION by Rosemary Tanner | Graham Bunting

That the Monthly Statistic Reports for June, July and August 2021 be received. Carried.

6.4 Crime Stoppers Report

Chief Skinner reviewed the Crime Stoppers Report for the month of July. Two new drug related tips were received for Stratford. The top tips by type were drugs, Highway Traffic Act and theft. The year to date totals indicate 207 tips were given, 3 charges were laid and \$500 in rewards was approved.

MOTION by Steve Cousins | Tim Doherty
To receive the Crime Stoppers Report for July 2021. Carried.

7. Approval of Monthly Accounts

The Board was provided with a year over year comparison of salaries, wages and payroll premiums showing that 63% of the budget has been spent to date. The Chief reviewed the chart with the Board and advised that there should be a surplus at the end of the year.

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner
That the monthly accounts for June, July and August 2021 be approved. Carried.

8. Community Equity Action Team (CEAT)

Tim Doherty provided an update regarding CEAT and advised that two community forums were held over the past couple of months – one in person and one virtual. There was a wide variety of questions from those attending including questions regarding interactions with the police and interactions with marginalized populations.

They are currently in the process of seeking applications from members of the community to sit on the board. Creedence has advised that a diverse cross section of the community has applied, and the members of the initial committee will be determined shortly.

The Chief added that he is happy to see that people are stepping up to be involved as it shows their willingness to support the police and the changes that the community feels need to be made to be more representative of the community that we serve.

9. Body Worn Cameras Update

The Deputy Chief advised that the project is moving along well. It has been identified that the best approach moving forward would be to integrate the body worn camera training with the in service training in the new year. The original plan was to expand the deployment of BWC by the end of 2021, however, it would be more important to get the training package out first.

Through research and observation, it has been determined that staffing and redacting will be problematic and solutions are being considered which may have a budgetary impact in 2022.

10. Police Association Business

There was no Police Association business to discuss.

11. Public Complaints

The Chief advised that there are two new public complaints, both mask related. One was screened out by the OIRPD as it was not in the public's interest to pursue an investigation.

The second complaint involved an interaction with officers at a grocery store. It has been identified for early resolution and is still ongoing.

Another OIRPD complaint had been investigated and finalized and there was no finding of any consequence with respect to the conduct of officers. The SIU was also involved and has cleared the officers of any issues relating to injuries received by the complainant. The complainant has advised that he will be

initiating a civic suit against the officers involved along with the Chief, the investigators from the OIRPD and the SIU.

There is also a complaint that is now beyond the six-month mark and there is no further information available from the SIU at this time.

12. Correspondence

The Chief answered questions from the Board regarding the All Chiefs Memos received from the Ministry.

13. Consent Items

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Steve Cousins

That on the recommendation of the Chief, Cassidy Baillie (Aunt Gail's Taxi), Tammy Lynn Walton (Aunt Gail's Taxi) and Bruce Sim (Radio Cab) be approved for a taxi license. Carried.

14. New Business

14.1 Naloxone Kits for Taxi Cabs

The Chair advised that correspondence has been received from a taxi driver within the City asking for authorization from the Board to have naloxone kits in taxi cabs. The Chief advised that having naloxone available to individuals in the community suffering from an opioid-related overdose is beneficial, however, he has been advised by paramedics that when administered, it may result in violent reactions when the individual comes to. Paramedics have suffered injuries as a result, and they have suspended the administration of naloxone on the street. The patient is stabilized and moved somewhere safe.

The Chief added that the administration of naloxone needs to be done safely and there needs to be some knowledge and awareness of how to do it. Members of the public are allowed to carry naloxone especially when they are around individuals who are opioid addicted. Because of the risks and liabilities involved, the Chief cautioned the Board on mandating or requiring anything to be in place regarding a taxi driver having and administering naloxone.

The Chair stated that since naloxone can be carried by anyone, it would be the choice of the taxi companies to do so.

14.2 Speed Cameras

Graham Bunting provided the Board with a copy of an article regarding speed enforcement cameras in school zones. The Chief advised that legislatively, photo radar devices can be deployed within municipalities and there were some provisions in the legislation that they had to target school zones or designated community safety zones.

Speed cameras are not revenue generating and cost money to operate due to the back office support required to administer the ticketing of drivers. The Chief advised that the Service's proactive speed enforcement has fallen during COVID and they haven't gotten back up to the level of enforcement or vehicles stops pre-COVID. Speeds have increased as noticed by individuals in the community. The Deputy Chief added that photo radar has to be installed and cannot be moved from location to location.

The Chief added that "Speed Spies" are deployed in the community that monitor and provide information including traffic flow and speeds to help with enforcement.

The Chief will provide the Board with more information.

15. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 27th, at 4:30 pm.

16. Adjournment

Motion by Steve Cousins | 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 5:55 pm.

"Dan Mathieson"

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Dan Mathieson - Chair