

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 21st day of February 2024, Stratford City Hall – Auditorium, 1 Wellington Street, Stratford ON

PRESENT: Tim Doherty (Chair), Martin Ritsma, Harjinder Nijjar, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Jason Clarke, Councillor Rob Edney (St. Marys Council), Connor Luczka (Media), Oonagh Vaucrosson – CEAT Member, Casey Riehl (Executive Assistant)

MINUTES

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:23 p.m.

2. Adoption of the February 21, 2024 Agenda and Addition of Agenda Items

Motion by Martin Ritsma | Harjinder Nijjar

THAT the agenda for the regular meeting of February 21, 2024 be adopted as presented with Martin Ritsma’s requested addition of a discussion regarding safety concerns during drop-offs and pick-ups at schools.

Carried.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

4. Adoption of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 17, 2024

Motion by Harjinder Nijjar | Martin Ritsma

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of January 17, 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

Deputy Chief Foster advised the Board that progress is still being made at 789 Erie Street. Currently they are working on finalizing the I.T. aspect, i.e. security systems, servers and phone systems. Possible occupation is anticipated by the end of March, they are currently waiting for confirmation of when the furniture can be delivered.

7. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – January 2024

Board members received the statistical reports for January 2024. Inspector Clarke reviewed the reports with the Board with respect to Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South and was available for questions.

7.1 Stratford

- (1532) calls for service
- (359) charges laid
- (1) hate/bias incidents
- (2) suicides/attempts and (2) overdoses
- (41) domestic related occurrences, (8) resulting in charges
- (10) assaults
- (2) robberies
- (2) impaired by alcohol, (1) impaired by drug
- (65) MVC's
- Top E-ticket issued – No currently validated permit (25)

7.2 St Marys

- (218) calls for service
- (41) charges laid
- (0) hate/bias incidents
- (9) mental health related calls
- (1) suicide/attempt, (0) overdoses
- (10) domestic related occurrences, (2) resulting in charges
- Mischief calls jumped from (4) in December to (8) in January
- (0) drug/alcohol offences
- (6) MVC's
- Top E-ticket issued – No currently validated permit (8)

7.3 Perth South

- (198) calls for service
- (112) charges laid
- (0) hate/bias incidents
- (3) mental health related calls
- (0) suicide/attempts/ (0) overdoses
- (6) domestic related occurrences, (1) resulting in charges
- (1) impaired by alcohol charge
- (16) MVC's
- Top E-ticket issued – Speeding (68)

Motion by Martin Ritsma | Harjinder Nijjar

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

Carried.

8. Approval of Monthly Accounts (January 2024)

Deputy Chief Foster reviewed the statement of operations as of January 31, 2024. There are no budget figures allocated to date, they will be included next month after the budget has been set. Detailed accurate amounts should be posted by the March meeting.

MOTION by Harjinder Nijjar | Martin Ritsma

That the monthly accounts for January 2024 be approved as presented.

Carried.

9. Police Association Business

None noted.

10. Public Complaints

10.1 Correspondence Received by Chair – Tim Doherty

Tim Doherty reported that he has received two separate documents from an individual regarding complaints about members of the Stratford Police Service. He has directed the private citizen to contact the OIPRD to lodge a complaint, as the PSB is not the first course of action if they have complaints regarding the performance of officers or leadership.

*Oonagh Vaucrosson is now present at the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

10.2 January 2024 Complaints – Deputy Chief Foster

Deputy Chief Foster reported that there were no new complaints issued for the month of January. They have been advised by the OIPRD that they reviewed a complaint from 2023 and have since requested some further data related to this complaint.

11. Correspondence

11.1 Facial Recognition & Mugshot Databases: Guidance for Police in Ontario

Deputy Chief Foster stated that a lot of their technology is either now or will in the future have the capacity for facial recognition technology. They are not currently utilizing facial recognition technology. If they were to use a digital mugshots system for example, they would work in compliance with the IPC recommendations. At this time, none of their technology is set up to do this, but most likely it could be turned on relatively easy if approved to do so.

Tim Doherty inquired if there are closed circuit cameras at various locations around the community and how they are utilized. Deputy Chief Foster stated that most of the cameras are city-owned and they do not have access to them. They would need to put in a request for footage from these

cameras. Mr. Doherty inquired if facial recognition could be used with these cameras in the future. Deputy Chief Foster stated that it most likely could.

Harjinder Nijjar inquired if other police forces are using facial recognition technology. Deputy Chief Foster stated that there are a few, it has a significant privacy impact that come with it and the possibility of over policing.

12. Consent Items

12.1 **Motion by** Martin Ritsma | Harjinder Nijjar

THAT on the recommendation of the Deputy Chief of Police, Cadeer Kashgar Tayirbeck (Aunt Gail's Taxi) be approved for a taxi license. Carried.

13. New Business

13.1 New Mandatory Online Learning for the Public Safety Sector (All-Chiefs Memo 24-005)

Tim Doherty reviewed the new mandatory online training that will be coming up for the public safety sector as a result of the implementation of the Community Safety and Policing Act on April 1, 2024. All members of the Police Service Board will be expected to complete (8) hours of online training on the topics of:

1. Human rights;
2. Systemic racism;
3. the diverse, multicultural, multiracial nature of Ontario society;
4. Rights and cultures of First Nation, Metis, Inuit Peoples

The training is not yet available and will be forwarded to Board members once it is received. The current deadline to have the training complete is April 1, 2024. Tim Doherty is attending a conference next week regarding the new Police Services Act and is hoping to find out more about when they expect to have the training available. Sub committees of the Police Board are also eligible to take the training, Mr. Doherty has shared the information for the CEAT Committee, who have expressed an interest in doing it. He also received some information yesterday indicating if you wanted some more specific information on how the Act will be impacting the Board, there are two optional days that Board members can sign up. He will forward the information to Board members.

13.2 PSB Meetings – Location/Date/Tim

Members would like the PSB meetings to remain on the same date and time and will move forward with all future meetings taking place in the City Hall Auditorium.

13.3 School Safety – Martin Ritsma

Martin Ritsma received a call from a local elementary school principal regarding concerns about the safety of students for both before school drop offs and after school pick-ups. In most cases, it revolves around people parking illegally on streets directly behind or in front of the school, which impacts students crossing the street safely. He visited the school with Constable Fisher to view the area, which verified the safety concerns not only at this school but also at several other schools. They will set up a meeting with City staff, by-law officers, Constable Fisher and Mr. Ritsma with regards to signage, i.e. changing parking to only one side and additional enforcement. There will be more follow-up on this and he will keep the Board informed on updated safety in the school zones.

13.4 Intersection cameras/Photo Radar – Martin Ritsma

Martin Ritsma inquired if the possibility of intersection cameras and photo-radar could be explored in the future in Stratford. Deputy Chief Foster stated that this issue has come up in the past, in particular with photo radar. The Chief has done some research on this already and one thing they have learned is that setting up the equipment is probably one of the easier components, however contracting another service to manage the e-ticket service is quite expensive and involved. The Deputy Chief will forward the inquiry to the Chief to prepare an updated report for a future meeting.

14. Adjournment to In-Camera Meeting

Motion by Martin Ritsma | Harjinder Nijjar

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 4:52 p.m.

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Tim Doherty - Chair