

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 13th day of December 2023, Stratford City Hall – Council Chamber, 1 Wellington Street, Stratford ON

PRESENT: Tim Doherty (Chair), Martin Ritsma, Harjinder Nijjar, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Jason Clarke, Constable Rob McMillan (Stratford Police Association), Councillor Rob Edney (St. Marys), Galen Simmons (Media), Connor Luczka (Media), Amanda Modaragamage (Media), Casey Riehl (Executive Assistant), Members of the Public

MINUTES

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Adoption of the December 13, 2023 Agenda and Addition of Agenda Items – Business Arising or New Business

Motion by Martin Ritsma | Harjinder Nijjar

THAT the agenda for the regular meeting of December 13, 2023 be adopted as presented with the addition of a Zone 5 Update from Tim Doherty under New Business.

Carried.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

4. Adoption of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 15, 2023

Motion by Harjinder Nijjar | Martin Ritsma

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of November 15, 2023 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 – Tim Doherty

Chief Skinner reported that he has met with the City's CAO, Joan Thomson, for preliminary discussions regarding the motion passed at the last Police Services Board meeting and the desire of the Board to maintain the Police Headquarters in the downtown core. From a due diligence perspective, it was decided that the first priority would be to investigate the existing site to

determine the capacity of the site to support the infrastructure, which includes a preliminary assessment of the environmental status of the site. They also discussed the next steps beyond the initial site assessment, including public input for transparency. Once that assessment has been completed, the Chief will report that information back to the Board to determine the next steps.

7. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – November 2023

Board members received the statistical reports for November 2023. 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

- (1492) Calls for service.
- (320) Charges laid this month
- There were no hate/bias incidents reported.
- (37) Mental health related occurrences.
- (48) Domestic related occurrences.
- (14) Assault occurrences.
- (13) Break & Enters – one individual was involved in most of these occurrences which took place at commercial properties and resulted in an arrest and 35 charges laid against the individual.
- (1) Impaired by drug and (2) impaired by alcohol offences
- (52) Motor vehicle collisions, with (36) being property damage only
- Top E-ticket issued was for no currently validated permit (21)
- There were (5) RIDE programs conducted this month.

7.2 St Marys

- (199) calls for services
- (44) charges laid this month.
- (4) Mental health related occurrences.
- (12) Domestic related occurrences.
- There were no drug or impaired by alcohol charges laid.
- (10) Motor vehicle collisions
- Top E-ticket issued was for no currently validated permit (5)
- There was one RIDE program conducted this month.

7.3 Perth South

- (183) Calls for services
- (102) Charges laid.
- (2) Mental health related calls.
- (5) Domestic related occurrences.
- (18) Motor vehicle collisions
- Top E-ticket issued was for speeding (45)

Chief Skinner noted that calls for service are up approximately 10% from last year. Certain statistics, such as mental health calls, suicide calls, domestics calls and charges and assaults have all increased significantly. These statistics will all be included in the year-end report that will be prepared in January. There are significant increases in these areas as continued residual from Covid and he suspects it will carry through to 2024 as well.

7.4 Crime Stoppers Report (October 2023)

Chief Skinner reviewed the Crime Stoppers report submitted for October 2023. There were (9) new tips received for Stratford (8 were intelligence related and 1 was drug related).

The top tips by type in Huron-Perth were attempted murder with (5) and drug related tips with (4).

Motion by Martin Ritsma | Harjinder Nijjar

THAT the Monthly Statistical Reports for November 2023 and the Crime Stoppers Report for October 2023 be received as presented. Carried.

8. Approval of Monthly Accounts (November 2023)

Chief Skinner reviewed the Statement of Operations as of November 30, 2023. The monthly budget is approximately \$1,000,000.00 per month and the Service is averaging approximately \$989,000.00 per month to date, which may leave an operating surplus at the end of the year. The Service would expect to have spent 91% of the allocated budget by the end of November and have currently spent 86% of the budget. As per the City's surplus/deficit policy, any operating surplus realized by the Police Service will be transferred to a capitol reserve account for future capital needs of the Service.

Deputy Chief Foster noted that the full-time salary line is in a relatively good position to be in this time of the year, given that 90% of the budget is salary related. However, retroactive payment from the collective bargaining will still need to be included in this line item. It is yet to be determined if this will come out of the current budget or if it will come out of the 2024 budget. The City's Finance department has the information now and are continuing to work on processing the payments.

The part-time salaries and wages budget line is higher than budgeted due to a large number of maternity and paternity leaves in that unit.

Deputy Chief Foster noted that Conference Expenses and Travel/Mileage are quite a bit above budget, however the Service feels sending members to these conferences and giving them that education and opportunity to learn is important and have made the decision to support this.

The Materials – CISO Projects line has a grant opportunity that they were able to leverage and are receiving funds back from CISO.

MOTION by Martin Ritsma | Harjinder Nijjar

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

9. Police Association Business

Constable McMillan has no new items to report to the Board.

10. Public Complaints – Chief Skinner

Chief Skinner reported that the Service received one new public complaint since the last meetings. After discussions with the complainant and the respondent, the investigating officer was able to resolve the complaint and as a result the complaint file has been closed and no further investigation is required.

11. Correspondence

All-Chiefs Memo's as received in agenda packages.

Deputy Chief Foster explained that in 2023 the Police Service submitted an application for Year 2 funding for the NG-911 grant cycle through the Ministry. They applied for \$381,996.00, which included software, hardware and some facility upgrades to support NG-911. The Service has been informed that they have been successful in securing the full amount. The funds must be spent by March 31, 2024. They are expecting there will also be a Year 3 funding round.

12. Consent Items

None noted.

13. New Business

13.1 Zone 5 Meeting Update – Tim Doherty

Tim Doherty provided members with an update on the December 12, 2023 Zone 5 meeting. A very informative presentation from Chief Cobey from Guelph on budgeting steps that they have taken and also discussed an organizational review from KPMG.

With new legislation affecting the Safety in Policing Act, coming into effect tentatively in the spring, there will be mandatory training provided to all new members on the legislation and how it is going to change the governance model. It is estimated that it will take approximately 3 hours to complete and will be offered virtually.

13.2 MCRT Grant Process – Chief Skinner

Chief Skinner discussed revisiting the grant submission to inquire if there was any opportunity to secure funding. During the Zone 5 meeting, there was support to champion some discussion with the government and the Ministry around the opportunity for some changes to the grant process that

are currently in place, which seems to not be as supportive of Police Service of Stratford's size. He noted that it is difficult to be expected to expand service delivery with the current budget if there is no grant money to support it. Tim Doherty has written a letter to MPP, Matthew Rae, expressing disappointment in the cutting of the funding.

14. Adjournment to In-Camera Meeting

Motion by Harjinder Nijjar | 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 4:58 p.m.

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Tim Doherty - Chair