

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 15th day of March 2023, at the Stratford Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room

PRESENT: Tim Doherty (Chair), Steve Cousins, Dave Gaffney, Councillor Harjinder Nijjar, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Mark Taylor, Councillor Rob Edney (St. Marys), Katia Maxwell (CEAT), Phil Psutka, Galen Simmons (Media), Casey Riehl (Exec. Assistant)

MINUTES

1. Call to order

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

2. Addition of Agenda Items – Business Arising and New Business

None noted.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

4. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 15, 2023

MOTION by Harjinder Nijjar | Dave Gaffney

That the minutes of the regular meeting of February 15, 2023 be adopted as presented. Carried.

5. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

None noted.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

6.1 Police Services Board – Policy Review/Approval

Tim Doherty stated that one of the mandates of the CEAT Committee is to assist the Board in reviewing their policies. Mr. Doherty suggested that the CEAT Committee could review the new policy and procedures manual that Ron Shaw has provided and provide the Board with feedback. He will forward an electronic copy to members. Deputy Chief Foster noted that they have secured the services of Dave Preston to review local policies, which support Board policies. He suggested a second review of the Board policy once this process is also complete.

7. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – February 2023

Board members received the statistical reports for February 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 1354 calls for service, with 257 charges laid. There were 40 mental health related calls for the month, which was down from 66 in January. There was an increase in charges laid for no currently validated permit (expired sticker) with 51 charges, as compared to one last February. People are not going online to renew their plates, despite it being free of charge now. March is Fraud Prevention

Month and Darren Fisher has been frequently sharing media releases regarding fraud and how people can protect themselves. Despite information being shared, fraud calls continue to increase, with Stratford having 15 calls regarding fraud.

7.2 St Marys

There were 208 calls for service, with 42 charges laid. Domestic related occurrences rose to 8 this month, compared to 4 last month. Mental health related calls were up to 9, compared to 3 in January. There were 8 fraud calls in St. Marys this month.

7.3 Perth South

There were 120 calls for service, with 64 charges laid for the month of February, which rose from 45 last month.

7.4 Crime Stoppers Report

Deputy Chief Foster reviewed the Crime Stoppers Report for February 2023. Stratford received a total of 13 tips. One was drug related, the other 12 were intelligence related. Tips are actively being received from both Huron and Perth County.

MOTION by Dave Gaffney | Harjinder Nijjar
That the Monthly Statistical Reports and Crime Stoppers Report for February 2023 be received as presented. Carried.

8. Approval of Monthly Accounts (February 2023)

Deputy Chief Foster reviewed the accounts for February. He also noted that some of the budget numbers are not populated yet, as they are waiting on budget approvals from City Council for the capital and operational budgets.

Overall, the SPS is slightly ahead of where the budget numbers should be. This is related to a retirement payout and also grant cycles. The cost for St. Marys and Perth South has also not been adjusted.

Deputy Chief Foster reported that annually the Police Services makes an application for a RIDE grant. They have been approved for \$14,900.00 from the Ministry to assist with conducting RIDE programs throughout the year. They also received notification that SPS is eligible to receive up to \$600,000.00 for NG-911 support.

MOTION by Steve Cousins | Dave Gaffney
That the monthly accounts for February 2023 be approved. Carried.

9. Police Association Business

None noted.

10. Public Complaints – Deputy Chief Foster

Deputy Chief Foster reported that there was one public complaint received in February. After review, the OIPRB opted not to do an investigation and the complaint was screened out.

11. Correspondence

11.1 Board Transparency – Tim Doherty

Tim Doherty received an e-mail from a citizen regarding the transparency of the Board. His main concern was not being able to contact Police Board members. Staff will have City of Stratford I.T. move the link to contact members so that it is located directly below the list of members (currently it is in a drop-down box under "Contact the Board"). This link will go directly to the Board's Executive Assistant to distribute to members. Personal e-mails for members are not permitted to be posted on the City's website. Moving forward, staff will post the upcoming agenda for the open session on the City's website. Staff has ensured that all the approved minutes are also up to date on the website. Deputy Chief Foster reported they are working on their Annual Report & Diversity Plan, which should be completed later this spring or early summer.

12. Consent Items

- 12.1 **MOTION by Harjinder Nijjar | Dave Gaffney**
That on the recommendation of the Deputy Chief, William "Don" Strahan (Aunt Gail's Taxi), be approved for a taxi license. Carried.

13. New Business

13.1 Purchase of UAV/Drone – Deputy Chief Foster

Deputy Chief Foster reported that one of their members put together a proposal on securing two drones for use by the Service. One is smaller in stature and the other is larger, and both serve different purposes depending on how they are deployed. The cost is approximately \$3,000.00 for both drones. The drones will be used for accident reconstruction, emergency situations, etc. Funding for these was covered by a local grant. Chief Skinner has already notified the Stratford Fire Department so that they are aware they have secured this technology if they are interested in joining some training.

13.2 OAPSB 2023 Spring Conference and AGM – Annual Sponsorship Request

Representatives for the OAPSB Spring Conference have sent their annual sponsorship request to the Stratford Police Services Board. As the Board has done in the past, they will sponsor the event for \$500.00.

MOTION by Dave Gaffney | Harjinder Nijjar
That on the Stratford Police Services Board sponsor the 2023 Ontario Association of Police Services Boards Spring Conference in the amount of \$500.00. Carried.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Harjinder Nijjar | 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 4:53 p.m.

"Tim Doherty"