

## STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 21st day of April, 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, Inspector Mark Taylor, Constable Rob McMillian (Police Association) and Pat Shantz (Executive Assistant).

**ALSO PRESENT:** Duane Sprague, Police Services Advisor, Ministry of the Solicitor General

### MINUTES

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed Duane Sprague, Police Services Advisor for the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

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 March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**MOTION by** Steve Cousins | Graham Bunting

**That the minutes of the regular meeting of March 17th, 2021, be adopted as presented. Carried.**

4. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

There were no hearings of deputations or presentations.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the previous meeting.

6. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – March 2021

Inspector Taylor reviewed the Statistical Reports with the Board for March with respect to Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South and answered questions.

6.1 Stratford

There were 1429 calls for service, 127 e-tickets were issued and 83 warnings were given. There were six auto thefts, two of which were due to two misplaced motorcycles. One individual was arrested for attempted motor theft.

6.2 St Marys

There were 225 calls for service, 37 e-tickets were issued and 16 warnings were given. There were 13 domestic related calls with five of those being from the same household. One domestic assault charge was laid along with one breach of conditions.

6.3 Perth South

There were 192 calls for service, 93 e-tickets were issued and 15 warnings were given.

**MOTION by** Graham Bunting | Steve Cousins

**That the Monthly Statistic Reports for March 2021 be received. Carried.**

6.4 Crime Stoppers Report

Chief Skinner reviewed the Crime Stoppers Report for the month of March. Seven tips were received by the Service – one drug related, and six intelligence related. In Huron and Perth Counties there have been 105 tips received this year resulting in 2 arrests, 2 cases cleared, 3 charges were laid, and some cash and drugs recovered. The top three tips were related to drugs, impaired and breach of probation/outstanding warrants.

**MOTION by** Rosemary Tanner | Graham Bunting

**That the Crime Stoppers Report for March 2021 be received. Carried.**

7. Approval of Monthly Accounts

The Chief advised that the final budget for 2020 has been finalized and approximately \$463,000 was not spent from the \$11,500,000 budget.

At the end of the first quarter for 2021, 23.8% of the budget has been spent. There has been a decrease in revenue resulting from the pandemic as there haven't been as many taxi licenses approved or criminal record checks completed.

Steve Cousins asked if there is any ongoing financial impact regarding the body worn cameras? The Chief advised that the initial rollout was covered by the 2020 surplus, however, there will be some ongoing costs regarding technology, upgrades, and maintenance/transfer of information once the program is up and running.

Deputy Chief Foster and his team have been working on the policy and added that there will be an annualized operating cost to maintain the program moving forward beginning in 2022. The cost will increase as the program expands and more information regarding costs will be available as the program is rolled out.

Body worn cameras will be added to the monthly Board agenda and the Chief will provide an update.

**MOTION by** Steve Cousins | Rosemary Tanner

**That the monthly accounts for March 2021 be approved for payment. Carried.**

8. Community Equity Action Team (CEAT)

Tim Doherty provided an update regarding CEAT and advised that Creedence has completed their interviews with representatives from various groups in the community and surveys have been collected. Twelve in depth interviews were completed and 27 surveys were received.

One of the challenges is having a small group of BIPOC individuals within the community population, however, they participated in 25% of the interviews and 48% of the surveys. The committee is still struggling to reach individuals from the Muslim and Indigenous communities as their input is needed. One of the hurdles to be addressed was some BIPOC individuals wanted to remain anonymous, however, they were assured that confidentiality would be maintained.

They continue to move forward with next steps.

**MOTION by** Tim Doherty | Graham Bunting

**That the update regarding the Community Equity Action Team be received. Carried.**

9. Police Association Business

There was no Police Association business to report.

10. Public Complaints

The Chief advised that one new public complaint was received regarding the Service's response to a domestic violence incident. An arrest had been made and charges are before the Courts. The OIRPD has been advised and an investigation is underway.

The Chief added that they have seen a significant increase in public complaints over the past year. There were 6 in 2019 and 14 in 2020, however, several of the complaints received in 2020 were received from the same individual. Although there has been an increase in complaints, most people feel confident that their complaints are taken seriously, and they have trust in the system. The Chief added that the number of substantiated complaints is very low.

Discussion followed regarding how to get in touch with the Service for various reasons – emergencies, non-emergencies, public complaints and COVID related enquiries.

11. Correspondence

Regarding the 2021 COVID-19 Relief Funding for Municipalities, the Chief advised that the Premier has stated that any additional costs attributed to police services resulting from the recent order are to be tabulated and reported back to the Province for payment. As an example, the protest rally planned for the upcoming weekend will be an enhanced cost for the Service. Any additional costs will be tracked and reported back to the Province.

12. Consent Items

12.1 Taxi Licensing

**MOTION by** Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner

**That on the recommendation of the Chief, Ginger Whaling, Wesley Sweet and Karly Billings (Aunt Gail's Taxi) and Jason Brunault (Stratford Taxi) be approved for a taxi license. Carried.**

13. New Business

There was no new business to report.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 19th, 2021, at 4:30 pm.

15. Adjournment

**Motion by** Rosemary Tanner | Graham Bunting

**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 5:05 pm.

"Dan Mathieson"

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Dan Mathieson - Chair ps