

## STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 18th day of May 2022, at the Stratford Rotary Complex, Tim Taylor Lounge.

**PRESENT:** Dan Mathieson (Chair), Tim Doherty, Graham Bunting, Rosemary Tanner, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Jason Clarke, Galen Simmons, Casey Riehl (Executive Assistant), Oonagh Vaucrosson and members of the Community Equity Action Team

### MINUTES

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

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

There were no new items added to the Agenda.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

4. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 20, 2022

**MOTION by** Tim Doherty | Graham Bunting

**That the minutes of the regular meeting of April 20, 2022, be adopted as presented. Carried.**

5. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

5.1 Diane Sims – Accessibility at the Stratford Police Station

Diane Sims addressed the Police Services Board with her concerns regarding the inaccessibility of the Stratford Police Station. She recounted her visit to the station in April and not being able to enter the building. There was no ramp and no signage indicating an alternate accessible entrance. She buzzed and waited outside in the rain. A court official answered and stated that the police station was not accessible and offered to get staff from the police station to come outside to help her. A police clerk eventually came outside to obtain her documents and kindly let her wait inside the court side vestibule near the elevator. She was appalled with the experience and felt like a fourth-class citizen. Once she arrived back home, she emailed the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee and left a phone message for Chief Skinner. Unfortunately, the Accessibility Committee members replied to her that it was an old problem

that has been raised a great many times and there was not a lot that could be done about it. That did not sit well with her. Chief Skinner returned her call and apologized for the experience she had and invited her to come speak at the upcoming Police Services Board meeting. In the past, people have been taken up the judicial elevator, led through the restricted police area and into the public area. Ms. Sims questioned how safe this is for the police or the visitor.

Ms. Sims referenced the AODA and the purpose to implement and enforce standards for accessibility related to goods, services, facilities, employment, accommodations, and buildings. The target date for reaching this goal is no later than January 1, 2025. It all really comes down to four core values: dignity, independence, integration, and equal opportunity. According to Stats Canada, one in five Canadians currently lives with a disability, with the numbers increasing everyday with the aging population. Providing universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible public spaces allows everyone to participate equally within the community. Not being able to enter the inaccessible police station for any reason in your city, leaves people feeling unsafe. No one should feel unsafe in their community. Ms. Sims urged the Police Services Board to prioritize an accessible police station that can be accessed by the whole community.

**MOTION by Graham Bunting | Tim Doherty  
That the Police Services Board refers staff to have an  
accessibility review completed of the current Stratford Police  
Services building. Carried.**

Chief Skinner thanked Ms. Sims for attending the meeting to tell her story and once again apologized for her recent experience at the police station. He stated that they need to do better and they will do better.

Dan Mathieson stated that funding for the police station comes from the City, and it has been identified as a capital need in excess of \$21 million to build a new facility. The Board has had this on Council's radar for many years. There have also been discussions with the Province to commit to a longer-term lease to allow for a business plan to be put into place to move forward with a new facility. However, there has not been a commitment to date.

## 5.2 Oonagh Vaucrosson – Community Equity Action Team

Oonagh Vaucrosson introduced herself and members of the Community Equity Action Team (CEAT). Moving forward the CEAT is looking forward to collaborating with the Police Services Board and supporting the community in community equity issues.

## 6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

### 6.1 Request to Raise Current Taxi Fares

Chief Skinner reviewed that at the previous meeting, Brad Rickert made a presentation and provided the Board with proposed fare increases on behalf of all the taxi owners. The request to raise the fees was based on the upcoming increase of the minimum wage, increased insurance costs and increased operating costs, particularly fuel costs. There was a public notice issued to seek feedback from the community. Chief Skinner received five responses from the public and those responses were provided to the Board. Most of the concerns were from low-income individuals who explained that the increased costs could impact getting their children to school, getting to their place of employment and doctor's appointments.

Tim Doherty received some phone calls from members of the community and their concerns were similar. One suggestion was to phase-in the increases, as opposed to one large increase all at once. Mr. Doherty suggested looking at the increases more regularly to avoid a situation that rising costs are creating a barrier for operators and users are facing such a large increase at once. Chief Skinner reported that the previous increase was approved in 2017 and it was implemented on January 1, 2018.

**MOTION by** Tim Doherty | Rosemary Tanner

**That the Stratford Police Service Board recommends amending the current taxi fares as outlined below and that the new rates take effect on July 1, 2022 with a subsequent review of the fares to occur during the second quarter of 2023. Carried**

	<u>Current</u>	<u>As of July 1, 2022</u>
1-2 pax fare	\$11.50	\$13.00
3 or more	\$12.50	\$14.00
Senior 65+	\$11.00	\$12.00
Stop along the way	\$ 3.50	\$ 5.00
Waiting time	\$40.00/hr+HST	\$60.00/hr (includes HST)

Chief Skinner will contact Brad Rickert to inform him of the Board's decision and prepare correspondence to inform the public.

**MOTION by** Rosemary Tanner | Tim Doherty

**That the Stratford Police Services Board holds a review during the second quarter each year to seek public input and that of the taxi operators with regard to the taxi fare structure. Carried**

7. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – March 2022

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

7.1 Stratford

There were 1483 calls for service, 321 charges laid, 34 mental health related calls for service and 36 domestic related occurrences.

There was an increase in sexual offences, from 7 last month to 11 in April, due to an uptick of historical sexual assaults being reported.

There was an increase in mischief calls from 18 last month to 27 in April. There was a rash of window breaking in the east end of Stratford and an arrest has been made in relation to those.

Alcohol and drug crime remained relatively the same as last month – 4 drug offences and 3 impaired by alcohol.

There were 36 motor vehicle collisions this month, down significantly from 54 in March. There were 51 speeding tickets issued in April.

7.2 St Marys

There were 241 calls for service, with 58 charges laid. There were 10 mental health related calls for service, and 11 domestic related occurrences.

The crime report remains relatively low. There were 2 assaults and 1 sexual offence in April.

There were 5 motor vehicle collisions and speeding was the highest traffic infraction with 19 charges laid.

7.3 Perth South

There were 234 calls for service and 129 charges laid. There were 2 mental health related calls and 1 domestic related occurrence. There were no violent crimes reported.

Collisions were down slightly from 12 last month to 9 in April. There were 82 charges laid for speeding.

**MOTION by Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner  
That the Monthly Statistic Reports for April 2022 be received as presented. Carried.**

#### 7.4 Crime Stoppers Report

Chief Skinner reviewed the April 2022 Crime Stoppers Report. There were 18 new tips called in. Four of those related to the Stratford Police Service, all 4 were intelligence related tips that came forward. In total this year, there have been 68 tips called in, \$10,000.00 in property and cash recovered, \$110,00.00 in drugs seized as a result of tips and \$800.00 in rewards approved.

The highest types of tips in April (with 3 each) are murder, drugs, theft, and criminal code tips.

**MOTION by** Rosemary Tanner | Tim Doherty  
**That the Monthly Crime Stoppers Report for April 2022 be received as presented. Carried**

#### 8. Approval of Monthly Accounts

Chief Skinner reported that the Police Services is right on track as a percentage of allocation spent to date at 33.95% of the budget spent at the end of April. There are a few line items that are higher than that percentage, however they are not significant line items that cause any concern with respect to the bottom line.

**MOTION by** Graham Bunting | Tim Doherty  
**That the monthly accounts for April 2022 be approved. Carried.**

#### 9. Body Worn Cameras Update

The Deputy Chief advised that they have launched the body worn cameras to all the frontline officers as of Monday, May 16, 2022. They hosted two extra training sessions for the officers leading up to the launch. Graham Bunting inquired what the amount of time is that the officers have the cameras activated. Deputy Chief Foster stated that the cameras are worn on the officers' vest and the officers are required to activate the camera during interaction with the public, such as recording a traffic stop. Mr. Bunting inquired what maintenance is required for the cameras and how do they check they are operating properly. The Deputy Chief stated that the system and access to the platform where the system is stored, allows them to do audits, check for compliance and system problems. The camera itself has a green light on it when it is powered on and a ring around the button in the middle turns red when the system is actively recording.

#### 10. Police Association Business

There was no Police Association business to discuss.

#### 11. Public Complaints

Chief Skinner reported there were no new public complaints filed this month.

## 12. Correspondence

The Chief reported to the Board, relating to the Ontario CCTV call for grant applications, that Social Services and the SPS have been working on putting in a grant application to further distribute and install CCTV equipment within the domain of the City that would be able to support investigations. The deadline for submittals is Friday, May 20, 2022.

The Chief also reported that Police Services, with a Right to Disconnect Policy in place with 25 or more civilian staff within their services, that the policy states that after hours, staff would not be compelled to have to respond to any requests of the Services or the Board after hours. SPS has 22 civilian employees, therefore there is no requirement to have a written policy in place until they reach 25. This policy does not apply to police officers and the sworn contingent.

Graham Bunting inquired if there was any consideration given to applying for the anti-hate security measures grant by SPS? Chief Skinner stated they did review the grant application, however they determined there was not a place that they could associate that grant to at this time but could certainly take another look to see if there is an opportunity to move an application forward.

## 13. Consent Items

**MOTION by** Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner  
**That on the recommendation of the Chief, Patricia Ransley (Aunt Gail's Taxi) and Sophia Ayenew (Aunt Gail's Taxi) be approved for a taxi license. Carried.**

## 14. New Business

There was no new business to report.

## 15. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

## 16. Adjournment

**Motion by** Graham Bunting | 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 5:31 p.m.

"Dan Mathieson"

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Dan Mathieson - Chair