

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

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

PRESENT: Tim Doherty (Chair), Steve Cousins, Dave Gaffney, Harjinder Nijjar, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Mark Taylor, Inspector Jason Clarke, Galen Simmons (Media), Casey Kenny (Media), Connor Luczka (Media), Casey Riehl (Executive Assistant), Members of the Public

MINUTES

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:29 p.m.

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

Motion by Dave Gaffney | Steve Cousins

THAT the agenda for the regular meeting of September 13, 2023 be adopted as presented. Carried.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

4. Adoption of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 21, 2023

Motion by Steve Cousins | Harjinder Nijjar

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of June 21, 2023 be adopted as presented. Carried.

5. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

None noted.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

6.1 Update on Requested Taxi Fare Increase

Tim Doherty reported that Board members reviewed the request presented by the taxi companies at the June 21, 2023 Police Services Board meeting. The Board will support proceeding with a \$1.00 increase to the regular fares and a \$1.00 increase to the senior fares.

Motion by Dave Gaffney | Harjinder Nijjar

THAT the Stratford Police Services Board supports an increase of \$1.00 for all regular and senior taxi fares effective October 1, 2023.

Regular rate will increase to \$14.00 for one or two people and \$15.00 for 3 or more.

Senior rate will increase to \$13.00 for one or two people and \$14.00 for 3 or more.

Carried

6.2 Update on Indigenous Medical Marijuana Trading Post

Inspector Taylor reported that since the June PSB meeting they have not received any additional complaints from citizens regarding the trading post and there has not been any further response or direction from the Government. Police have received some minor complaints and inquiries from other dispensary owners in the city. Several other trading posts have opened across Ontario over the summer.

7. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – June-August 2023

Board members received the statistical reports for June, July and August 2023. Inspector Clarke reviewed the reports with the Board with respect to Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South and answered questions.

7.1 Stratford - June

Calls for services were down compared to May, with 1994 calls for service and 298 charges laid. There were 75 mental health related calls, 4 suicide calls and 2 calls in relation to overdoses. There were 53 domestic related occurrences. There were 6 assaults, 1 robbery and 1 sexual offence. There were 8 drug offences, 0 impaired by alcohol or drugs. There were 63 motor vehicle accidents, down slightly from May. The top e-ticket issued in June was for no currently validated permit, with 31.

Stratford – July

There were 1915 calls for service, with 369 charges laid. False alarms were high with 60. There were 79 mental health related calls, there were no suicide calls and 1 overdose call. There were 61 domestic related occurrences. There were 12 assaults, no robberies and 8 sexual offences. There were 15 drug offences, 6 impaired by alcohol and 1 impaired by drugs. MVC's dropped slightly from last month with 57.

Stratford - August

There were 1923 calls for services, with 308 charges laid. There were 58 mental health related occurrences, 3 suicide and 2 overdose calls. There were 59 domestic related occurrences. There were 8 assaults and 2 sexual offences in August. There were 29 break & enters in the month of August. The person responsible for most of these has been arrested and is currently in custody. There were 3 drug offences and 3 impaired by alcohol. There were 56 MVC's.

7.2 St Marys – June

There were 286 calls for services, with 33 charges laid. There were 5 mental health related occurrences, 0 suicide or overdose occurrences. There were 10 domestic related occurrences. There was 1 assault, 0 robberies or sexual offences. There was 1 impaired by drug charge. There were 12 MVC's and the top e-ticked issued was for no currently validated permit, with 4.

St. Marys – July

There were 235 calls for service and 58 charges laid. There were 10 mental health related occurrences and 7 domestic related occurrences. There were no violent crime occurrences. There were 2 drug offences, 1 impaired by alcohol and 2 impaired by drugs and 5 MVC's.

St. Marys - August

There were 189 calls for service and 18 charges laid. There were 6 mental health related occurrences and 1 overdose. There were 6 domestic related occurrences, 1 assault and 1 sexual offense. There was 1 drug offense and 7 MVC's.

7.3 Perth South – June

There were 193 calls for services and 100 charges laid. There was 1 mental health related occurrences and no suicide or overdoses. There were 2 domestic related offences. There were no assaults, no robberies and 1 sexual offence. There was 1 impaired by alcohol charge and 1 drug offense.

Perth South – July

There were 238 calls for service and 116 charges laid. There were 2 mental health related occurrences and 3 domestic related occurrences. There was 1 sexual offence in July and 1 impaired by alcohol charge.

Perth South – August

There were 171 calls for service and 83 charges laid. There were 2 mental health related occurrences, 1 suicide and 1 domestic related occurrence. There was 1 sexual related offence and 1 impaired by alcohol charge. There were 9 MVC's in the month of August.

Motion by Harjinder Nijjar | Steve Cousins

THAT the Monthly Statistical Reports for June, July and August 2023 be received as presented. Carried.

7.4 Crime Stoppers Report (June & July 2023)

Deputy Chief Foster reported that Stratford received (16) new tips in June. (2) tips were related to drug activity and (14) were intelligence related. The number one tip by type received was traffic with (10) received. In July, Stratford Police received (14) new tips. (1) was drug related and (13) were general intelligence. The top tip received was also for traffic, with (12) tips.

Motion by Dave Gaffney | Harjinder Nijjar

THAT the Crime Stoppers Reports for June & July 2023 be received as presented. Carried.

Deputy Chief Foster also reported that there were 2 months of convocations where members of the service were recognized. In June, Constable Aaron Parsons was recognized by the Court Registrar for his hard work and efforts in court and Heather Monden for going above and beyond in training a new staff member.

In August, SPS conducted a RIDE spot check in the City of Stratford, at which time they stopped a vehicle that resulted in arrests. The excellent work done by Staff Sergeant Dan Gray, Sergeant Rob McMillan, Constable Marc Savoie, Constable Cody Millian, Constable Erica Babb and Constable Mackenzie Nichol led to a sizeable drug seizure.

8. Approval of Monthly Accounts (June - August 2023)

Deputy Chief Foster reviewed the latest figures as of August 31, 2023. Overall, the Service is still projecting to have a surplus at the end of the year. A large amount of the grant money has been received, so projections are on track regarding those funds. Full-time salaries are below the amounts typical for this time of year. Payroll premiums, such as overtime and court calls are on target. Overtime has currently dropped; however members may elect payouts, which will increase this budget line. Some line items, such as uniforms, are above where they would be expected for this time of year. Some are one-offs and some of them will be taken into account for the 2024 budget. Tim Doherty inquired about the new accounting documents that the Board received at last meeting. Deputy Chief Foster will inquire with the Chief on the status of these new documents.

MOTION by Dave Gaffney | Steve Cousins

That the monthly accounts for June, July and August 2023 be approved as presented. Carried.

9. Police Association Business

None noted.

10. Public Complaints – Deputy Chief Foster

Deputy Chief Foster reported that there were four new complaints received from June to August through the OIPRD. Three of the complaints were screened out and the OIPRD decided not to invoke investigations. One complaint was assigned to the service for investigation and that investigation is currently underway. One prior complaint from March 2023 has now been closed and the investigation deemed the complaint was unsubstantiated. A letter was sent to the complainant to advise them of the status.

11. Correspondence

None noted.

12. Consent Items

12.1 **Motion by** Harjinder Nijjar | Dave Gaffney

THAT on the recommendation of the Deputy Chief, Steven M. Whalen (Aunt Gail's Taxi) and Anosh Bacha (Aunt Gail's Taxi) be approved for a taxi license. Carried.

13. New Business

13.1 SIU Investigation – Deputy Chief Foster

Deputy Chief Foster reported that an officer from the Stratford Police Service was the subject of and SIU investigation for an incident that occurred in February 2023. Through the investigation of the SIU, it was determined that the officer should be charged with assault causing bodily harm. The officer has a court date later this month.

14. Adjournment to In-Camera Meeting

Motion by Steve Cousins | 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 at 5:14 p.m.

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Tim Doherty - Chair