

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 17th day of February, 2021, held virtually using Zoom.

PRESENT: Dan Mathieson (Chair), Graham Bunting, Tim Doherty, Rosemary Tanner, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Jason Clarke, Inspector Mark Taylor, Constable Rob McMillan (Police Association) and Pat Shantz (Executive Assistant).

REGRETS: Steve Cousins

MINUTES

1. Call to order

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

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 January 27th, 2021

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Graham Bunting

That the minutes of the regular meeting of January 27th, 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 minutes.

6. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – January 2021

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

6.1 Stratford

There were 1297 calls for service, 66 e-tickets were issued and 60 warnings were given. There has been an increase in shoplifting and out of 15 occurrences, 13 charges have been laid, many of which involved individuals with mental health issues.

6.2 St Marys

There were 216 calls for service, 19 e-tickets were issued and 13 warnings were given. There was an increase in mental health calls.

6.3 Perth South

There were 145 calls for service, 41 e-tickets were issued and 9 warnings were given.

Inspector Taylor added that over the past month the numbers have been affected in all three municipalities due to COVID, the lockdown and weather.

Discussion followed regarding the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT).

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner
That the Monthly Statistic Reports for January 2021 be received. Carried.

6.4 Crime Stoppers Report

The Chief reviewed the Crime Stoppers report for January 2021. There were two new tips received for Stratford and both were intelligence based. Overall, most of the tips received were with respect to theft, drugs and impaired driving.

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Rosemary Tanner
To accept the monthly Crime Stoppers Reports for the month of January 2021. Carried.

7. Approval of Monthly Accounts

The Chief advised that he had no concerns regarding the accounts for January.

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Tim Doherty
That the monthly accounts for January 2021 be approved for payment. Carried.

8. Community Equity Action Team (CEAT)

A report has been received from Credence & Co. setting out the work they have done over the past month. Tim Doherty advised that the Steering Committee meeting has been scheduled for the first week of March. The community is currently being introduced to CEAT, and a number of community members indicated their willingness to participate and were thankful that a committee is being formed.

The Chief added that the community's response to being invited to participate in the surveys, the focus groups and the one on one interviews has been positive and they are happy to be given the opportunity to participate. They have been very complimentary that the Board, City Council and the Police Service are undertaking this initiative.

Letters have been sent out to over 40 key stakeholders in Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South and from that group, six key stakeholders will be chosen to be interviewed. They are currently moving forward with the interviews and surveys and analyzing the data when received. A community forum is planned for early in the spring and may be a Zoom meeting due to the pandemic.

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Rosemary Tanner
To receive the report from Credence & Co. dated February 16th, 2021. Carried.

9. Police Association Business

There was no Police Association business to report.

10. Public Complaints

The Chief advised that no new complaints have been received and there are no updates regarding current complaints.

11. Correspondence

Missing Persons Act – 2020 Annual Reporting and Training Supports – The Chief advised that there is a requirement for the Service to report on missing persons and training. Inspector Taylor has completed and submitted the report. We have no outstanding missing persons to report.

Use of Force & Fire Arms Training - The Chief advised that due to the pandemic, the requirement for requalification has been extended from one year to two years. The Ministry has requested a report on how many officers would be out of use of force qualification in that 2-year period. The training methodology was revised as it was felt that it was important to maintain compliance with the legislative standard. All officers are up to date except for an officer who will be returning from maternity leave.

Basic Constable Training - Tim Doherty asked if the training is being done virtually or in person at the Ontario Police College. The Chief advised that the recruit training is still being done in person at OPC with COVID rules in place. Some of the senior courses are being held virtually to ensure the continuity of training, however, courses where face to face is required have taken place at OPC.

12. Consent Items

There were no consent items to discuss.

13. New Business

13.1 Ceremonial Unit

The Board was provided with a proposal from Constable John Oliva with respect to a Ceremonial Unit for the Service. The Chief advised at the Ceremonial Unit would be a trained precision marching unit and would attend ceremonies such as Remembrance Day, awards and funerals. It would consist of a small group of officers who would support and provide visibility and professionalism to events.

The cost would be approximately \$3,000 - \$4,000 per member for a group of four.

Discussion followed regarding additional costs such as possible overtime costs.

The Chief added that the Ceremonial Unit is a way to build on the pride and morale of the Service.

MOTION by Rosemary Tanner | Graham Bunting

To approve the Ceremonial Unit proposal in principal and to defer approval until the next meeting in order to give the Chief time to bring a full and final report forward. Carried.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 17th, 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 5:10 pm.

"Dan Mathieson"

Dan Mathieson - Chair ps