

## STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 22nd day of April, 2020 at 4:30 pm, by video conference (Zoom).

**PRESENT:** Dan Mathieson (Chair), Graham Bunting, Tim Doherty, Peter Hyde, 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.

### 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

Peter Hyde declared a pecuniary interest in the March 2020 accounts for the rental of 154 Downie Street as his spouse owns the building.

3. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 26th, 2020

**MOTION by** Graham Bunting | Tim Doherty

**That the minutes of the regular meeting of February 26th, 2020, be adopted as presented with the addition of information as pointed out by Chief Skinner. Carried.**

4. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

There were no hearings of deputations or presentations.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

5.1 Update on Sick Leave

The Chief advised that they continue to monitor sick leave. Over the past few weeks during the COVID outbreak everyone has been on duty unless self-isolating due to travel or potentially being exposed to someone with the virus. Everyone is doing a great job and he has been impressed with their professionalism.

6. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – February & March 2020

Inspector Taylor reviewed the individual Statistical Reports for February and March 2020 with the Board and answered questions.

6.1 Stratford

In February, there were 1328 calls for service, 135 e-tickets were issued and 79 warnings were given. Inspector Taylor advised that there wasn't anything that stood out to report.

In March, there were 1378 calls for service, 96 e-tickets were issued and 57 warnings were given. There has been an increase in mental health related calls due to COVID. There has also been an increase in mischiefs, theft under, theft from vehicles and graffiti incidents. A press release will be going out tomorrow asking people to ensure their vehicles are locked along with garages and storage sheds.

The Chief added that there has been a significant increase in calls for service in comparing March 2019 to March 2020 due to calls for service in certain areas. Mental health calls have increased by 52%, domestic charges 30%, mischief 140%, auto thefts 400%, theft under 42% and thefts from motor vehicles 120%. There has been an increase in property crime but a decrease in proactive activity that the Service has been able to do. There has been a decrease in violent crime, however, an increase in mental health, family disputes and property crime. The same trend is being seen in the April statistics.

## 6.2 St Marys

In February, there were 220 calls for service, 52 e-tickets were issued and 24 warnings were given. In March, there were 207 calls for service, 14 e-tickets were issued and 11 warnings were given. Calls for service and statistics are similar in nature to those that have taken place in Stratford.

## 6.3 Perth South

In February, there were 136 calls for service, 51 e-tickets were issued and 13 warnings were given. In March, there were 123 calls for service, 43 e-tickets were issued and 7 warnings were given.

## 6.4 Crime Stoppers Report – March

The Chief advised that for the month of March, there were 75 calls made to Crime Stoppers. Nine of the calls were Stratford tips – 5 related to drugs and 4 related to intelligence.

In looking at the tips by type, the second highest number of calls were COVID related. Across Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South, residents are calling to complain about neighbours doing work or businesses operating that may not be an essential service. The calls are being dealt with on a case by case basis and although there are many grey areas, the legislation is being applied as consistently as possible. The Service is currently working on a frequently asked questions document to get more information out to the public. To date, no fines or charges have been laid as people are listening to officers and abiding by the recommendations given.

**MOTION by Graham Bunting | Peter Hyde  
That the Monthly Statistic Reports for February and March 2020 be received.  
Carried.**

## 7. Approval of Monthly Accounts – February & March 2020

The Chief advised that he had no concerns regarding the accounts at this time.

He advised that there are net new costs associated with the COVID outbreak and they are tracking the costs and reporting them to the City for potential reimbursement.

The two new cruisers that were ordered have been outfitted with new lights, radio systems, etc. at a cost of \$80,000 to ensure high visibility during the outbreak. As well, the boardroom has been equipped with video conferencing (to host and participate) at a cost of \$5,000 in order to participate in electronic meetings and deal with ongoing issues.

**Motion by** Rosemary Tanner | Tim Doherty

**That the monthly accounts for February and March 2020, with the exception of the accounts regarding the rent for 154 Downie Street, be approved for payment. Carried.**

**Motion by** Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner

**That the accounts for the rent for 154 Downie Street for February and March 2020, be approved for payment. Carried.**

8. Police Association Business

There was no Police Association business for the Board. The Chief advised that weekly teleconferences are being held with the Association Executive to discuss any ongoing issues regarding the pandemic in an effort to collaborate and put any needed processes in place.

9. Public Complaints

The Chief advised that he is aware of a new complaint that is being investigated by OIRPD and more details should be available at the next meeting

10. Correspondence

A majority of correspondence received for the Board was information regarding COVID-19. The Chief advised that it has been challenging with the amount of communications, emails and teleconferences along the changes that are continually being announced.

There was discussion regarding Special Constables. The Board was advised that there are currently two vacancies for a Constable position and Special Constables Nolan Didomete and Jeremy Dechert will be attending the Ontario Police College as soon as the course is available. Auxillary Officers would have the opportunity to become Special Constables and fill the positions that become vacant.

11. Consent Items

There were no consent items to discuss.

12. New Business

For their information, the Board was provided with a written summary of the Chief's COVID-19 updates provided to the Emergency Control Group.

There was no other new business to report.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place by video conference on Wednesday, March 27th, 2020.

14. Adjournment

**Motion by** Tim Doherty | 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"

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Dan Mathieson - Chair