

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 19th day of January 2022, held virtually by Zoom.

PRESENT: Dan Mathieson (Chair), Graham Bunting, Steve Cousins, Tim Doherty, Rosemary Tanner, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Foster, Inspector Jason Clarke, Inspector Mark Taylor, Constable Rob McMillian (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

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof.

3. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15th, 2021

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner

That the minutes of the regular meeting of December 15th, 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 – December 2021

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

6.1 Stratford

There were 1288 calls for service, 55 e-tickets were issued, 50 warnings, 52 mental health related calls and 33 domestic related occurrences.

In comparing 2021 to 2020, there was an increase in calls for service along with mental health reported calls, suicides and overdoses. There were decreases in charges laid, hate and bias crimes and domestic occurrences. There was also a large increase in shoplifting and thefts from vehicles.

6.2 St Marys

There were 175 calls for service, 20 e-tickets were issued, 8 warnings, 4 mental health related calls and 6 domestic related occurrences.

In comparing 2021 to 2020, there was an increase in calls for service along with charges laid and mental health calls. There was a decrease in overdoses and suicides, and shoplifting.

6.3 Perth South

There were 183 calls for service, 51 e-tickets were issued, 19 warnings and 1 domestic related occurrence.

In comparing 2021 to 2020, there was an increase in calls for service and charges laid along with drug and alcohol related crime. There was also a significant increase regarding speeding.

MOTION by Steve Cousins | Graham Bunting

That the Monthly Statistic Reports for December 2021 be received. Carried.

Rosemary Tanner asked about the "How to Contact Police" initiative. The Chief advised that the initiative came through Crime Stoppers and was picked up by St Marys following their public service campaign as they still have members of the public who do not know how to contact the Stratford Police. Constable Darren Fisher created a fridge magnet to be handed out to every household in St. Marys, Perth South and Stratford to ensure residents know when to call police and what line to use. Each municipality is looking at ways to distribute the information to the public.

7. Approval of Monthly Accounts

The Chief advised that they are still waiting for some revenue and expenses to clear in order to close off the accounts for 2021. The revenue payments from St. Marys and Perth South have not been received and would result in a surplus of approximately \$237,000.

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Rosemary Cousins

That the monthly accounts for December 2021 be approved. Carried.

8. Community Equity Action Team (CEAT)

Tim Doherty advised that there was no report for the meeting today and the committee will be meeting next Monday evening.

9. Body Worn Cameras Update

The Deputy Chief advised that the in-service training process began this week which will include Body Worn Camera training.

10. Police Association Business

There was no Police Association business to discuss.

11. Public Complaints

The Chief advised that there were no new public complaints. The OIPRD has put out their annual dashboard of statistics that can be accessed on-line and searched by police service. The Service received

20 complaints for 2021 – 13 were streamed out as they didn't meet the mandate of the OIPRD, six were investigated and two were unsubstantiated, one was withdrawn by the complainant and two were handled through an early resolution.

12. Correspondence

There were no questions or discussion regarding the correspondence received.

13. Consent Items

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Graham Bunting

That on the recommendation of the Chief, April Ashton (Aunt Gail's Taxi), Julie Patterson (Aunt Gail's Taxi) and Casey Champion (Aunt Gail's Taxi) be approved for a taxi license. Carried.

14. New Business

There was no new business to report.

15. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 16th, 2022, at 4:30 pm.

16. Adjournment

Motion by Rosemary Tanner | Steve Cousins

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 Board reconvened the open session at 5:10.

17. Catch and Release Resolution – City of Sarnia

Stratford City Council has asked the Board to endorse a resolution regarding Catch and Release Justice from the City of Sarnia. The Deputy Chief provided the Board with a report.

Catch and Release results from Police arresting an individual for an offence, holding them in custody and subsequently, the Courts release the offender back into the community with little or no detention. The same offender is then arrested again, and the cycle repeats over and over. The rate of the arrests is increasing and is putting a strain on police resources and possibly affecting public safety.

Some recommendations and comments were provided to the Board that could be redirected to Council for their consideration.

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner

That the memo from the Deputy Chief will be provided to City Council for their consideration. Carried.

18. Re-Appointment of Tim Doherty

The Chair advised the Board that Tim Doherty received his re-appointment from the Province for another 3 year term, expiring on January 31st, 2025. Congratulations!

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Rosemary Tanner

That the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20.

"Dan Mathieson"

ps

Dan Mathieson - Chair