

## STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 23rd day of March 2022, held virtually by Zoom.

**PRESENT:** Tim Doherty (Acting Chair), Dan Mathieson, Graham Bunting, Steve Cousins, Rosemary Tanner, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Mark Taylor, Constable Rob McMillan (Stratford Police Association), Casey Riehl (Executive Assistant)

### 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 February 16, 2022

**MOTION by** Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner  
**That the minutes of the regular meeting of February 16, 2022, be adopted as presented. Carried.**

5. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

None scheduled.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

6.1 Grant Update

Chief Skinner updated that they were successful in securing the \$150,000.00 grant to assist with enhanced service delivery for their mobile crisis rapid response team. These funds will go towards net new staff to provide further support to the front line and community and to expand coverage.

6.2 Taxi Fee Update

Chief Skinner updated that this issue has been brought forward from the end of 2021 to February 2022. Representatives from the taxi companies

will be requesting to do a presentation to the Police Services Board at their April meeting to discuss fee increases and other issues related to the taxi business in the City of Stratford.

7. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – February 2022

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

7.1 Stratford

There were 1234 calls for service, 62 e-tickets were issued, 39 warnings, 47 mental health related calls and 24 domestic related occurrences.

There were 48 false alarms, 9 associated with one address and they have been advised of an alarm repair. There were 8 false alarms one morning at various locations due to wind.

There were 2 sexual offences, both advice calls and no charges were laid. There were 3 drug offences, drugs were seized and no charges laid.

7.2 St Marys

There were 209 calls for service, 41 e-tickets issued. Calls for service were up from January, with 71 charges laid.

False alarms were also up in St. Marys for February, also related to windy weather.

7.3 Perth South

There were 122 calls for service, 35 e-tickets were issued, with 48 charges laid.

7.4 Crime Stoppers Report

Tim Doherty reviewed the month-end report for February 2022. There were 40 calls to the Huron-Perth Crime Stoppers – 8 new OPP tips from Huron County, 5 new OPP tips from Perth County, 4 new Stratford Police service tips. All were related to drugs and intelligence. There were 3 calls assigned out to other Crime Stopper programs (Huron County). Year to date calls received is 44, with 1 arrest, 1 case cleared and 1 charge laid.

## 8. Approval of Monthly Accounts

The Chief advised that the current statement of operations the Board received encompasses January and February 2022.

Stratford Police Service has spent a total of \$1,761,376.00 of their budget year to date, which is 16.2% of their budget allocation and on track for the year. For the first two months of operations, they are spending on average \$880,000.00. The budget allocation by line has not been added to the budget documents to date, however he is expecting them to be added prior to the Board's next meeting. The final budget figures for 2021 will also be available from the Finance Department for the next meeting.

Expenses relating to conferences and in-person training are expected to rise, as options for those start to open up again.

**MOTION by Steve Cousins | Graham Bunting**  
**That the monthly accounts for February 2022 be approved. Carried.**

## 9. Body Worn Cameras Update

The Deputy Chief advised that the in-service training group classes will be finished this week and he anticipates the body worn cameras will be rolled out to all members by approximately April 8, 2022 and fully deployed at that time.

## 10. Police Association Business

There was no Police Association business to discuss.

## 11. Public Complaints

The Chief advised that investigations for two complaints were completed during the month, both were classified as unsubstantiated. The Service received one new complaint that the OIPRD reviewed and deemed it did not meet their mandate to assign an investigation and therefore will not be proceeding. There is one previous complaint that had been investigated and classified as unsubstantiated, that the complainant has requested a review of the Chief's decision through the OIPRD. The Chief will report back to the Board on the decision.

## 12. Correspondence

Chief Skinner reported that regarding the promotional exams, they have five constables that have expressed an interest in writing the sergeant exam and two sergeants who would like to write the staff sergeant exam this year. During the pandemic, Stratford has provided a local location for their members to write the exam with OPC providing proctors and he expects that will be the same arrangement this year.

Tim Doherty inquired about the process after the promotional exams and the officers being placed on a list. Deputy Chief Foster explained that for the constable to sergeant process, once the member passes the promotional exam, they submit a written interview process that aims to identify their skills and why they should be promoted. They can submit annual updates and they are scored on their two most recent performance appraisals from their supervisors. If they obtain 75% or more, they are placed on a promotional list and remain in that capacity for up to five years. If after five years they have not been promoted, they are required to re-write. For sergeant to staff sergeant, there is no list. It is run on an as-needed basis. This is also the case for staff sergeant to inspector promotional process as well.

Deputy Chief Foster reported that with the Province eliminating the requirement to display a validation sticker on most vehicles, from a law enforcement perspective, it will place officers in a different position where they will not have the sticker on the license plates to check if a vehicle is validated or not. In response to that, the Ministry will be putting together a grant call totaling \$42,000,000.00 for police services in Ontario to make application to the Ministry to purchase automated license plate reader technology equipment for cruisers at Police Services. Stratford does have one vehicle outfitted with that equipment currently and will be making application for five or more cruisers to be outfitted if they can secure funding from the Ministry to cover the cost. The estimated total cost per unit is \$30,000.00, which includes software and licensing. They have been advised to expect one year of funding with the current Ministry. PRIDE will develop a coordinated approach with vendors with the technology to try and leverage savings if possible.

Graham Bunting inquired what the maintenance costs are for the license plate technology? Deputy Chief Foster reported that they do have some ongoing issues with the current system, which can be expected. They work with PRIDE to come up with solutions and making sure that the data that is required is downloaded on a daily basis. The Ministry provides a list of license plates that might be target vehicles and gets downloaded to the system in the car to be identified by the scanner and alert the officer.

Deputy Chief Foster reported that the Government of Ontario will no longer be requiring basic criminal background checks for volunteers. This does not include vulnerable sector checks. Police Services will no longer be permitted to charge for this service. There will be a loss in revenue that was generated from these types of checks, which would be approximately a \$505.00 loss for Stratford Police Services per year.

### 13. Consent Items

No consent items.

#### 14. New Business

##### 14.1 OAPSB Spring Conference Sponsorship Request

A request has been received to for sponsorship of the annual OAPSB Spring Conference. Mayor Mathieson reported that the Stratford Board has sponsored \$500.00 in the past.

**MOTION by** Rosemary Tanner | Dan Mathieson

**That the Stratford Police Services Board sponsor \$500.00 for the 2022 OAPSB Spring Conference and AGM. Carried**

##### 14.2 Implementation of Jury Recommendation – Paid Duty on Construction Sites

For the Board's information, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster provided an update on policy changes relating to paid duties. Once these recommendations were received by Stratford, the Deputy Chief was able to make specific changes to their paid duty policy to respond to and address the issues identified in the coroner's inquest report. Specifically, they have added language to require that if officers are called to do a paid duty at a construction site, they must acquire a traffic control plan from the site supervisor or employer/contractor and to also acquire and share with the officers responding the traffic control and signaler protocols.

15. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

#### 16. Adjournment

**Motion by** Steve Cousins | 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 5:06 p.m.

"Dan Mathieson"

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Dan Mathieson - Chair

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