

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Services Board was held on the 27th day of January, 2021, held virtually using Zoom.

PRESENT: Dan Mathieson (Chair), Graham Bunting, Steve Cousins, 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).

MINUTES

1. Call to order

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

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Executive Assistant assumed the role of the Chair for the purposes of an election and stated that pursuant to the *Police Services Act*, the Board is required to elect a Chair at its first meeting in each year. The Board chose to vote by a show of hands.

Motion by Tim Doherty | Rosemary Tanner

That Dan Mathieson be nominated as Chair of the Stratford Police Services Board for the year 2021.

No further nominations were received.

Motion by Graham Bunting | Tim Doherty

That nominations be closed. Carried

Dan Mathieson agreed to let his name stand.

After a show of hands, Dan Mathieson was elected as Chair of the Stratford Police Services Board for the year 2021.

The Executive Assistant stated that pursuant to the *Police Services Act*, the Board may elect a Vice-chair at its first meeting in each year. The Board chose to elect a Vice-chair by a show of hands.

Motion by Rosemary Tanner | Graham Bunting

That Tim Doherty be nominated as Vice-chair of the Stratford Police Services Board for the year 2021.

No further nominations were received.

Motion by Dan Mathieson | Rosemary Tanner

That nominations be closed. Carried

Tim Doherty agreed to let his name stand.

After a show of hands, Tim Doherty was elected as Vice-Chair of the Stratford Police Services Board for the year 2021.

The Chair and Vice-Chair were congratulated and the meeting was turned over to the recently-elected Chair, Dan Mathieson.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

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

4. Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15th, 2020

MOTION by Steve Cousins | Rosemary Tanner

That the minutes of the regular meeting of December 15th, 2020, be adopted as presented. Carried.

5. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

5.1 Credence & Co.

The Chief advised that issues that have appeared nationally and internationally regarding systemic racism and inclusion have caused the City of Stratford to look at some strategies to increase education and awareness and look at any changes that would be made regarding training, policy, recruitment and promotion. In looking at strategies from other communities, it was decided to form a Community Equity Action Team (CEAT). An RFP was issued and Credence & Co. has been retained as the consultant to do research, background work and implementation for CEAT. Marg Van Herk-Paradis, Cayla Charles and Jessica Dyck gave a presentation to the Board regarding the purpose, principles, people and what the plan is.

Step 1 - Focus is on research and building relationships with stakeholders in the community to understand the needs in the community.

Step 2 – Promote and recruit members for CEAT.

Step 3 – Developing and training CEAT.

Step 4 - Engage Stratford Police, hold monthly meetings and support CEAT.

Tim Doherty added that the hope is that over time there will be a cultural change within the community and policing leadership and people will become more knowledgeable and gain a deeper understanding of the issues.

The Chief added that once the Board receives feedback from CEAT regarding changes that need to be made in policing, the directive will go to the Service's management team to implement processes in order to achieve the end goal expected by the community and CEAT. Sustainability of the program will be an issue within the Service, and as themes come out of the discussions with the community through CEAT, they will be able to be incorporated into future training for the Service to keep moving forward and changing the culture.

Credence also has a workshop that has been implemented in the annual training for officers this year. The workshop is entitled "Power, Privilege & Prejudice" and all officers will be receiving the training over the next 8-10 weeks.

MOTION by Steve Cousins | Rosemary Tanner

To receive the report from Credence & Co. and that they continue to move forward with implementing the Community Equity Action Team. Carried.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

6.1 Community Equity Action Team

Tim Doherty provided an update regarding the Community Equity Action Team and advised that letters have gone out to key members in the community to begin the information gathering process. It is hoped that the leaders in the community will be able to identify individuals in marginalized populations and eventually provide the feedback and background needed to help make changes in the way people think.

The Chief suggested that the Community Equity Action Team be a standing item on the Board agendas moving forward.

7. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – December 2020

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

7.1 Stratford

There were 1279 calls for service, 57 e-tickets were issued and 75 warnings were given. In comparing 2020 to 2019, due to the pandemic, there have been 3,000 less calls for service and a significant increase in mental health calls.

7.2 St Marys

There were 180 calls for service, 17 e-tickets were issued and 9 warnings were given. Calls for service are also down in comparing 2020 to 2019 with an increase in mental health calls and domestic related occurrences. Due to an arrest, there was a decrease in the number of thefts from motor vehicles for the month.

7.3 Perth South

There were 142 calls for service, 28 e-tickets were issued and 9 warnings were given. Calls for service were down in comparing 2020 to 2019 and there was also an increase in mental health related calls. Auto thefts continue to be an issue resulting from unlocked vehicles and keys left in vehicles.

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Tim Doherty

That the Monthly Statistic Reports for December 2020 be received. Carried.

7.4 Crime Stoppers Report

The Chief reviewed the reports for October, November and December.

In October, there were 17 tips received for Stratford. The majority of tips received were drug related followed by COVID and impaired driving.

Eight new tips were received in November, mostly drug related.

For December, five new tips were received with thefts and suspicious persons being the reasons for the calls.

The Board also received the Crime Stoppers Stats for 2020 setting out the monthly totals.

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Rosemary Tanner

To accept the monthly Crime Stoppers Reports for the months of October, November and December. Carried.

8. Approval of Monthly Accounts

The Chief reviewed the monthly accounts with the Board as of December 31st, 2020, and answered questions. He advised that as of December 31st, 2020, 92.8% of the budget had been spent with approximately \$830,000 leftover.

Over the course of the past year, every effort was made to ensure that members had what was required to keep them healthy and safe in the COVID environment. Also, there were some operational challenges that resulted in unpredicted costs.

With the approval of the Board, part of the excess funds from 2020 will be moved to 2021 to fund investments for service delivery based on community needs and recommendations from Occupational Health & Safety for the membership.

The Deputy Chief advised that the funds carried over to 2021 will be used for diversity training and a portion of the funds will be added to the reserve account for radio upgrades. Grant funds received for Project Maslo will be pushed into 2021 as there is still work to do on that project. Also, body worn cameras will be launched in 2021 which will include licensing costs which would allow all members access to the system.

The Chief added that the approximate amount required for these projects would be \$385,000, with \$445,000 being returned to the City.

MOTION by Steve Cousins | Rosemary Tanner

That the monthly accounts for December 2020, be approved for payment. Carried.

9. Police Association Business

There was no Police Association business to report.

10. Public Complaints

The Chief updated the Board regarding public complaints that had been received.

A complaint was received in November 2020 regarding how officers dealt with an individual who was let go by their employer. Officers confronted the individual who allegedly changed some electronic information on a company's website and the individual was not happy with how officers dealt with the incident. The OIPRD has advised that it is outside of their mandate to deal with the complaint.

Another complaint was received and investigated by the Service on behalf of the OIPRD. The Chief reviewed the investigation and agreed with the investigative outcome and submitted the report to the OIPRD. The complainant subsequently requested a review of the investigation. The OIPRD did their own investigation and agreed with the outcome and the Chief's decision.

11. Correspondence

There were no comments or questions regarding the correspondence received.

12. Consent Items

12.1 Taxi Driver Licenses

MOTION by Tim Doherty | Rosemary Tanner

That on the recommendation of the Chief, Samantha Bond (Aunt Gail's Taxi) be approved for a taxi license. Carried.

13. New Business

13.1 Annual Report

The Chief advised that the 2017-2019 Annual Report has been finalized and copies will be available over the next few days. It will also be posted to the website once it has been formatted to meet accessibility requirements. The 2020 Annual Report is currently being worked on and should be available over the next couple of months.

13.2 2021 Annual Training Itinerary

The Board was provided with the 2021 In-Service Training Schedule. The Chief reviewed the schedule and advised that the training has been expanded from 3 to 5 days. That mandated training will take place over the first 3 days. Additional training as supported by the Board will take place on Days 4 and 5 and will include an MCRRT presentation and training with respect to de-escalation, autism, diversity, Trauma Violence Informed Care, and scenario-based training.

It will take approximately 9-10 weeks for all members to attend the training sessions due to the current pandemic restrictions of not more than 5 to a class. PPE will be worn and interactions will be at an awareness level only. The physical training will take place when appropriate.

13.3 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Update

The Chief advised that the steering committee has received the first draft of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. Some amendments will be made and the updated plan will be available for review by the steering committee in mid-February, finalized by the end of February and in place by March.

The government has extended the timeline for the implementation of the plan from January 1st, 2021 to January 1st, 2022.

During the focus groups and surveys it was determined that there needs to be a better publication of available supports as many individuals and groups were not aware of services that are available. It's important that collaboration take place and a communication piece is part of the strategy.

13.4 OAPSB Annual Membership Fees

The Chair advised that the 2021 annual fees for the OAPSB membership are in the amount of \$3,447.59.

MOTION by Graham Bunting | Tim Doherty

That payment in the amount of \$3,444.59 be forwarded to the OAPSB regarding the 2021 Annual Membership Fees. Carried.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 17th, 2021.

15. 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 5:30 pm.

"Dan Mathieson"

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Dan Mathieson - Chair