

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICE BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Service Board was held on the 15th day of May 2024, Rotary Complex – Tim Taylor Lounge, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

PRESENT: Tim Doherty (Chair), Steve Cousins, Dave Gaffney, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Councillor Rob Edney (St. Marys), Dave Preston, Casey Riehl (Executive Assistant), Members of the Public

MINUTES

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

2. Adoption of the May 15, 2024 Agenda and Addition of Agenda Items

Motion by Steve Cousins | Dave Gaffney

THAT the agenda for the regular meeting of May 15, 2024 be adopted as presented with the addition of Item 13.2 – OAPSB Zone 5 Annual Membership Fee. Carried

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

4. Adoption of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2024

Motion by Steve Cousins | Dave Gaffney

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of April 17, 2024 be adopted as printed. Carried

5. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

5.1 Dave Preston – Implications for Police Service Boards - CSPA

Dave Preston introduced himself to the Board members and discussed his previous background with the Saugeen Shores Police Service.

With the new Community Safety and Policing Act, which came into effect April 1, 2024, Mr. Preston outlined the items that Police Service Boards will be required to update, change and add:

- Name change
- Training for Board members
- Oversight by the Inspector General
- Updated policy requirements (12 new policies identified)
- Diversity Plan
- Labour relations
- Information sharing protocol with Council
- Operational requirements

- Implications for the Municipality
- Municipal diversity plan
- Budget

Mr. Preston will work closely with the Stratford Police Service Board to ensure that they are compliant with all the new regulations and policies and revising their current policies and procedures. Mr. Preston has also worked with the SPS to update their policies and procedures. He will send the draft policies to Board members for their review.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

6.1 Update on Stratford Police Station

Chief Skinner reported that there is no new update on 17 George Street.

789 Erie Street is administratively operational and open to the public.

Signage is ordered for the building and once everything is in place, they will have an actual launch of the opening.

Tim Doherty inquired if the Grand Trunk Committee has involved Chief Skinner in any conversations regarding locating the new station to that site? Chief Skinner stated that he has not had any discussions with the Committee. He has had previous discussions with the former City of Stratford CAO about the potential of having the police station in that facility, however nothing more has been discussed.

7. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports – April 2024

Board members received the statistical reports for April 2024. Deputy Chief Foster reviewed the reports with the Board with respect to Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South and was available for questions.

7.1 Stratford

- (1582) calls for service
- (110) E-tickets issued
- (47) warnings
- (376) total charges laid
- (72) mental health related occurrences
- (33) domestic related occurrences, with (10) charges laid
- (11) assaults, (1) robbery with a charge laid, (2) auto thefts, (17) mischief calls, (20) fraud calls
- (7) drug offences reported, (2) impaired by alcohol, (1) impaired by drug
- (38) MVC's, (3) MVC's that resulted in personal injury
- Top E-ticket issued for the month was for speeding (21)
- (2) Ride Programs conducted with (225) vehicles stopped

7.2 St Marys

- (231) calls for services
- (28) E-tickets issued
- (14) warnings issued
- (41) total charges laid
- (3) domestic related occurrences, with (1) charge laid
- No violent crimes reported
- (1) auto theft reported
- Frauds calls up with (5)
- No drug or alcohol crimes reported
- (5) MVC's, no personal injuries
- Top E-ticket issued for the month was for speeding (18)
- (2) Ride Programs conducted with (130) vehicles stopped

7.3 Perth South

- (265) calls for service
- (100) E-tickets issued
- (47) warnings issued
- (126) charges laid
- (4) domestic related occurrences, (1) charge laid
- (3) frauds reported, (1) break & enter, (2) mischief calls
- (8) MVC's, with (1) resulting in personal injury
- Top E-ticket issued for the month was for speeding (85)
- (2) Ride Programs conducted with (150) vehicles stopped

Tim Doherty noted the very high number of speeding offences for Perth South. Deputy Chief Foster stated that it is a continuous conversation at CPAC discussing options to manage it. Chief Skinner noted that traffic safety related work with the municipality has been conducted at stop signs and intersections. The information gathered by an independent consultant of vehicles running stop signs and intersections at relatively high speeds is concerning. Perhaps community safety zones with increased fines could be considered in some areas.

Motion by Dave Gaffney | Steve Cousins

THAT the Monthly Statistical Reports for April 2024 be received as presented. Carried

8. Approval of Monthly Accounts (April 2024)

Chief Skinner reported that after four months into the year they would expect to have spent approximately 33.3% of their budget. Currently they have spent \$1.15 million per month, at this rate they should be slightly under budget by year-end. With respect to salaries, wages and payroll premiums, they have spent 29% of their allocation, however the front-end costs related to the renovation, furniture, telecommunications and security systems for 789 Erie Street continue to carry

forward and impact the bottom line. Once all of these costs are finalized, they will meet with the Director of Corporate Services to discuss what can be allocated to cover some of these costs.

Steve Cousins noted the line items for conferences is higher. Chief Skinner explained that they have been sending more members to various conferences for additional training. Deputy Chief Foster also noted that the Project line is higher than usual, as it includes some software that was purchased from Waterloo. Grant funding will be applied to this item later in the year. Chief Skinner added there will be some reconciliation processes that will change the bottom line.

MOTION by Steve Cousins | Dave Gaffney

That the monthly accounts for April 2024 be approved as presented.

Carried

9. Police Association Business

None noted.

10. Public Complaints

Chief Skinner reported that they have received three new public complaints since the last meeting.

One is being investigated as a service complaint, one was deemed by LECA to not be in the public interest to proceed to investigation, and the third complaint has been accepted for investigation even though it involves an incident that occurred in late 2022 and is beyond the six month limitation period. The limitation period is irrelevant as soon as LECA states it is to be investigated and they will proceed with investigation.

11. Correspondence

Chief Skinner reported that with respect to the Special Constable Employers, Chiefs from small and medium sized services met to discuss the new legislation and some of their frustrations. The Special Constable piece is difficult for the Chiefs and the training that OPC is to be doing.

With regard to the Mobile Crisis Response Team Enhancement Grant, Chief Skinner stated that the local MPP is very supportive of another round of grants to support this very worthwhile program in our community. SPS initially applied for the grant to renew their program and the application was turned down, as was the OPP in Perth and Huron County. This program has really suffered as a result of the lack of funding. However, the HPHA has contributed some funds to help keep the program going. It is the Chief's hope that they will be successful in this new round of applications for a 3-year renewal to continue and expand the program. The new deadline for applications is June 19, 2024.

12. Consent Items

None noted.

13. New Business

13.1 Status of Community Equity Action Team (CEAT)

Tim Doherty reported that CEAT has had a decrease in membership over the last year with member resignations for various reasons. This has resulted in a lot of extra work and heavy work for the remaining members of the Committee. After a conversation with the Chair, it has been decided that they will take a hiatus with the work they are doing, knowing that when they started this there was not much EDI support in the area. They hope to add members to the Committee in the future. They will also investigate options to recruit additional members with the help of the City.

Chief Skinner stated that one of the original mandates for CEAT was to advise the Board on policies and procedures. As the Board is tasked with reviewing and improving all their policies, there needs to be some thought given to whether there is an EDI lens put to these and whether that EDI lens comes from the City or from CEAT or is this the full purview of the Board to review and improve them.

13.2 OAPSB Zone 5 Annual Membership Renewal

Motion by Dave Gaffney | Steve Cousins

THAT the Stratford Police Service Board renews their Ontario Association of Police Service Boards – Zone 5 annual membership in the amount of \$250.00. Carried

14. Adjournment to In-Camera Meeting

Motion by Dave Gaffney | 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 meeting adjourned to In-Camera at 5:28 p.m.