

# **STRATFORD POLICE SERVICE BOARD**

A meeting of the Stratford Police Service Board was held on the 16th day of October 2024, City Hall – Auditorium, 1 Wellington Street, Stratford ON

**PRESENT:** Tim Doherty (Chair), Harjinder Nijjar, Martin Ritsma, Dave Gaffney, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Mark Taylor, Inspector Jason Clarke, Sergeant Rob McMillan (Stratford Police Association), Duane Sprague (Ministry of the Solicitor General), Brad Rickert (Radio Cab), Phil Psutka, Connor Luczka (media), Casey Riehl (Executive Assistant)

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Call to order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

### **2. Adoption of the October 16, 2024 Agenda and Addition of Agenda Items**

**Motion by** Dave Gaffney | Harjinder Nijjar

**THAT the agenda for the regular meeting of October 16, 2024 be adopted as presented. Carried**

### **3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

None declared.

### **4. Adoption of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2024**

**Motion by** Dave Gaffney | Harjinder Nijjar

**THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of September 18, 2024 be adopted as printed. Carried**

### **5. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations**

None noted.

### **6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

#### **6.1 Motion to Increase Taxi Fares/Adoption of Amended By-Law (Schedule D Fares)**

After deputations from all three taxi companies at the June and September meetings regarding a request to increase taxi fares, the Board tabled the motion to increase the fees until further discussion with City staff. Martin Ritsma, Tim Doherty and Chief Skinner met with staff to discuss beginning the process to extract the Police Board from some of the administrative duties that are currently associated with the by-law for operating taxis. The Police would still need to be involved as far as criminal background checks for drivers and safety issues. There are other municipalities that have recently gone through the process of transferring the taxi by-law from the Board to the City. The City of Peterborough just completed the process and it took approximately a year and a half to complete.

**Motion by** Martin Ritsma | Dave Gaffney

**THAT the Stratford Police Service Board supports an increase to the taxi fares up to a maximum of \$16.00 per ride (up to a maximum of \$15.00 for seniors per ride) effective October 16, 2024. Carried**

Tim Doherty clarified that it will be up to the individual cab companies to set the tariff up to a maximum of \$16.00 (\$15.00 for seniors).

## **6.2 Update on Part-Time Social Media Position with Stratford Police**

Tim Doherty reported that the Police Service Board voted to extend Alec Bish's contract for social media work with the Stratford Police to December 31, 2024.

## **6.3 Police Station Update**

No new updates provided at this time.

Inspector Clarke reported that their first committee meeting will be held tomorrow, October 17, 2024

Dave Gaffney inquired if work on the front entrance and steps has started. Inspector Clarke stated that they have started the work and it is ongoing. Pedestrian traffic is being brought over to the entrance on St. Patrick in the meantime. They are hoping the work on the front entrance will be completed within two months.

## **6.4 PSB Policy Review – Approval of Policies**

To date, all of the policies have been reviewed by Deputy Chief Foster. Once all of the policies have been reviewed, they will be brought to the Board for approval. Duane Sprague confirmed the Stratford Police Board is up to date with their requirements.

## **7. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports (September 2024) and Crime Stoppers Report (August)**

Board members received the statistical reports for September 2024. Inspector Taylor reviewed the reports with the Board with respect to Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South and was available for questions.

### **7.1 Stratford**

- (1574) Calls for service
- (354) Charges laid
- Break & Enters up from (8) last month to (22)
- Theft of Motor Vehicles up from (7) last month to (21)

Inspector Taylor noted that all of the break & enters and theft of motor vehicles can be attributed to 4 or 5 individuals who have been identified.

## **7.2 St. Marys**

- (213) Calls for service
- (26) Charges laid
- Mischief calls rose to (9) this month. Many of the calls were targeting EV charging stations and those investigations are ongoing.

## **7.3 Perth South**

- (192) Calls for service
- (95) Charges laid

**Motion by** Harjinder Nijjar | Martin Ritsma

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

## **7.4 Crime Stoppers Report (September 2024)**

Deputy Chief Foster reviewed the September 2024 Crime Stoppers Report:

- (25) total tips received for Stratford in September – (13) were drug related and (12) were intelligence related
- Top tips by type: drugs (15), other Criminal Code (9), fraud (8)

**Motion by** Harjinder Nijjar | Martin Ritsma

**THAT the September 2024 Crime Stoppers report be received as presented. Carried**

## **8. Approval of Monthly Accounts (As of September 30, 2024)**

Deputy Chief Foster reported that the Service is on track to meet or slightly exceed the target for a deficit at year end.

**MOTION by** Martin Ritsma | Dave Gaffney

**That the monthly accounts for September 2024 be approved as presented. Carried**

## **9. Police Association Business**

None noted.

**10. Public Complaints**

None noted.

**11. Correspondence**

None noted.

**12. Consent Items**

**12.1 Motion by** Dave Gaffney | Harjinder Nijjar

**THAT on the recommendation of the Deputy Chief of Police Ryan J. SMALLDON (Aunt Gail's Taxi), Suzanne K. BRENNEMAN (Aunt Gail's Taxi), William R. ROBINSON (City Cab Inc.), and GAURAV (Aunt Gail's Taxi) be approved for taxi licenses. Carried.**

**13. New Business**

**13.1 OAPSB Annual Labour Conference Sponsorship Request (November 26-27, 2024)**

**MOTION by** Martin Ritsma | Harjinder Nijjar

**That the Stratford Police Service Boards spends \$500.00 for sponsorship of the OAPSB Annual Labour Conference. Carried**

**14. Adjournment to In-Camera Meeting**

**Motion by** Dave Gaffney | Harjinder Nijjar

**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 4:47 p.m.

cr

---

Tim Doherty - Chair