



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020 – 2:00 P.M.

**POLICE SERVICES BOARD ROOM
(Virtual Meeting)**

1. Roll Call

Members – Mayor C. Provenzano
J. Bruno
R. Webb
L. Vezeau-Allen
I. MacKenzie

Staff – Chief H. Stevenson
Deputy R. MacLachlan
S. Miles

2. Call to Order

Chair, C. Provenzano called this meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

4. Questions and Information Arising Out of the Minutes and Not Otherwise on the Agenda

There were not questions or information that arose.

5. Adoption of Minutes – February 27, 2020

MOVED BY: J. Bruno
SECONDED BY: L. Vezeau-Allen

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the regular meeting, as presented, be hereby approved.
Carried.

6. Motion to Accept Agenda – April 30, 2020

The Chair advised an item would be added to the agenda regarding the SSMPA Collective Agreement.

Rick Webb requested an item be added to the agenda regarding Cst. Heidi Stevenson and the Nova Scotia tragedy.

MOVED BY: R. Webb

SECONDED BY: L. Vezeau-Allen

RESOLVED that the Agenda of the regular meeting, as presented, be hereby approved. Carried.

7. Communications & Reports – Information Only

- a) Special Account Ledger (Auction Fund) – March 2020
- b) Monthly Total Overtime Costs (Paid and Banked) – March 2020

The Chief noted these numbers reflected the homicide investigation that occurred. The Service anticipates a deficit in March which should help to balance out the overtime costs of the previous month. Due to the COVID-19 situation, the Service moved to adopt single person vehicle patrols for officer safety and to increase police presence in the community.

- c) Monthly Staff Shortage Overtime Costs (3 Year Comparison) – March 2020
- d) Monthly Staff Shortage Overtime Costs (Patrol & CERB) – March 2020
- e) Court Time Costing Comparison – October 01, 2019 to September 30, 2020

The Chief advised that as long as the pandemic continues, this number will decrease as there is currently no court sitting.

- f) Budget Report - Ending March 31, 2020
- g) Statistical Reports for January & February 2020

The Chief reported that January was relatively steady for over all calls for service. Crimes of violence were up but down in domestics. Crimes of property are the reason there has been the implementation of a break and enter task force as there has been a significant increase in these occurrence during these months.

February monthly calls for service were up; crimes of violence, robberies and crimes of property show a steady increase, much like January. The Chief advised there are a number of factors relating to the increase. What we are noticing is that the deterrent effects of the justice system are limited. The catch and release program prior to Bill C75 were significant; after Bill C75, we are seeing no one being detained, given the new legislation. No one is being brought back for bail and if they are, they are released. Individuals are being released at the street level and the Service then deals with them repeatedly. The purpose of starting a Break and Enter Task Force is so the deterrence

value becomes the fact that the police will be in the area. The deterrence value is a concern for the Chief of police. We start units and get everyone all hands on deck and flood high risk areas to deter the issue through our presence. Ian commented there is something wrong with the justice system and Chief explained they are being released on a warrant on the street which shows things have significantly changed. The Chief advised he looks forward to a reduction in the number of these occurrences due to police presence and we are getting comments from the public that they are seeing more police.

The Chair asked what the Board can do to deal with the provincial issue and questioned if fellow police chiefs are lobbying, should Police Service Boards be working on it together. The Chief noted it is a federal and provincial issue and he firmly believe the Association of Police Service Boards have an opportunity to lobby government. The OACP are constantly being reminded about this issue and are lobbying government in terms of catch and release provisions. Police Chiefs are talking about it, exposing what the numbers are and have a multi-varied approach to it from an operations perspective and chiefs of police perspective.

Rick suggested the Board should consider what options there are or do some other outreach locally as a Board. Lisa agrees we need a collaborative approach as a Board. Lisa asked if the Service is keeping data on repeat offenders with regards to thefts. The Deputy advised that when putting together the task force, they built in compliance checks so when an individual is released, they are bound by law to present themselves to an officer. When an officer has down time, there are a variety of members doing compliance checks. If the individual does not present himself, a warrant is issued. The Deputy noted we are operationalizing this, rather than just having a database. The Chief also noted he raised this issue well over two years ago with our local member of parliament and had one documents that showed seven to eight recognizance for one individual that was released. The Chief offered that if you can continually be released on similar charges related to public safety and property offences, it becomes a mixed bag of issues. We do look at this operationally and we can run a query on how many are out on multiple releases. Lisa advised it is important to have solid data to support our claim of repeat offenders. Chief agreed we could do this.

- h) Provincial Offences Statistics – March 2020
- i) Use of Force Report – February to March 2020
- j) Travel Log – dated April 30, 2020
- k) Public Complaints Against Police – dated April 30, 2020
- l) Notes of Appreciation – dated April 30, 2020

8. Taxi By-law: Application to Operate a Vehicle for Hire

MOVED BY: J. Bruno
SECONDED BY: R. Webb

RESOLVED The Board approved the application of Stephen Findlay and Jeannette Adderley to operate a vehicle for hire (limousine) business provided that they supply all the required documentation under the Bylaw. Carried.

9. For Information: Covid-19 Data Analysis

The Chief reviewed the COVID-19 calls for service and advised the Services has been clear in the media that we have a graduate response to these calls. This community has listened and we have been put into this scenario at this point. There have been community concerns about who is essential and who is not; after we have looked into it, they have all been following the rules. With regards to our domestic violence occurrences, since the state of emergency declarations, we are relatively consistent in the numbers. We will always work to decrease them but we have not seen an increase based on our data.

10. For Information: Break and Enter Task Force

The Chief reported the Service has taken an all hands on deck approach and everyone working in the organization to ensure someone is not re-victimized. The task force is to provide an added level of safety.

Lisa asked what the deployment is looking like on a daily basis. The Deputy advised the Service used our Crime Analyst to do a study for us to find vulnerable areas of the City. They have divided patrol zones into smaller areas and deployed officers to work under the direction of our Crime Suppression Unit. They are deployed daily, keep track of where they go and it is about creating high visibility. Officers focus on suspicious activity and there is an outreach program so we can see what the concerns are of local businesses. The CSU is working hand in hand with patrol officers so there can be follow up conducted. The Deputy noted it is a fluid process and we will respond as required with a goal to try to counteract the perception that if you are caught, there are no consequences.

The Chair commended their efforts.

11. Collective Bargaining and the Sault Ste. Marie Police Association Contract

MOVED BY: L. Vezeau-Allen

SECONDED BY: I. MacKenzie

RESOLVED that the Board agree to ratify the Sault Ste. Marie Police Association contract as negotiated. Carried.

12. Donation re: Cst. Heidi Stevenson

Rick advised the Board shares the view that the recent events in Nova Scotia were a tragedy and wanted to have the Board's condolences noted. As a Board, Rick recommended that the Board contribute to the Fallen Officers Fund for Cst. Heidi Stevenson, as established by the RCMP.

MOVED BY: R. Webb
SECONDED BY: I. MacKenzie

RESOLVED that the Board approve the donation of \$1000 to the RCMP Fallen Officers Fund for Cst. Heidi Stevenson. Carried.

13. Next Meeting Date

May 28, 2020

14. Adjournment – Time: 3:04 p.m.

MOVED BY: L. Vezeau-Allen
SECONDED BY: J. Bruno

That the regular meeting is adjourned and that the Board enter into the caucus meeting. Carried.