



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 – 2:30 P.M.

**POLICE SERVICES BOARD ROOM
(Virtual Option Provided)**

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

We would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory and that the land on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg, specifically the Garden River and Batchewana First Nations, as well as Métis People.

2. Roll Call

Members: J. Bruno
I. MacKenzie
M. Bruni

Staff: Chief H. Stevenson
Deputy R. MacLachlan
Insp. B. Duguay
Insp. D. Dewar
Insp. W. Freeman
S. Miles
L. Hodgson
L. Louttit
A. Davey

Media: B. Kelly (Sault Star)
J. Hopkins (SooToday, virtual)

3. Call to Order

Chair, J. Bruno called this meeting to order at 2: 12 p.m.

4. Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

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

There were no questions or information that arose.

6. **Adoption of Minutes – June 29, 2023**

MOVED BY: M. Bruni
SECONDED BY: I. MacKenzie

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

7. **Motion to Accept Agenda – September 28, 2023**

MOVED BY: I. Mackenzie
SECONDED BY: M. Bruni

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

8. **Communications & Reports – Information Only**

- a) Special Account Ledger (Auction Fund) – August 2023
- b) Monthly Overtime (Paid and Banked) – August 2023

The Chief reviewed the report and noted we have had 12 major occurrences during the past three months, plus annual leave, which has led to increases in overtime. Budgets will not be as heavy on overtime in the future because we will have the bodies available.

- c) Monthly Staff Shortage Overtime Costs (3 Year Comparison) – August 2023

The Chief reviewed the report.

- d) Monthly Staff Shortage Costs (Patrol & CERB) – August 2023

The Chief noted the saving in overtime can be put into the overall savings of the budget.

- e) Court Time Costing – October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023

The Chief reviewed the report.

- f) Use of Force Report

The Chief reviewed the Report.

g) Public Complaints Against Police

The Deputy advised there are 11 new complaints, 9 have been ruled unsubstantiated, closed or not proceeded with and only 2 are currently under investigation. This is a consistent pattern we have with complaints.

Marchy asked if any of these complaints come from the same person and the Deputy advised there are individuals who do continue to complain.

h) Travel Log

The Chief reviewed the report.

9. Notice of Reappointment

John Bruno has been reappointed as a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Police Services Board for a period of 3 years, effective August 17, 2023.

10. Sault Ste. Marie Police Services Board Budget – 2024

Angela reported the budget has been reported to the Board with some new items being requested. There is a 13.52 % budget increase that will include the Axon package for body worn cameras, a downtown substation increasing officers in the city and dispatchers to roll out a more efficient model in our dispatch service.

John advised our base budget is a 6.4% increase and other projects have accounted the remaining increase.

Ian advised the budget indicates we are in indeed of increasing our police services and reflects this well when we compare ourselves to other services across the province. Ian reported he is in favour of the budget.

Marchy asked the Chief to speak about the additional staff being hired for the substation. The Chief advised the base budget is a bit higher than last year, however base budgets in policing across Ontario have gone up. The Chief reported the Service has done their due diligence in trying to keep it as low as possible. The additional increase is the result of three different initiatives and the substation is a result of the request for increase to the downtown core.

The Chief advised that he is responsible for providing adequate policing and we have been policing without a buffer. We need adequate and effective policing on the most basic of 911 calls. The Chief explained the proposed model involving 17 officers and are currently looking for the best location. Police will flood the downtown core and the community will see officers on foot, bike and car. The Chief advised this will be a 24/7 operation so to

run a proper division, the service will need 17 bodies. The community will see the difference in terms of police presence in the downtown core and across the city.

The Chief reported that he has had discussions with the board and politicians. The bodies requested will be over three budget years to help reduce the financial impact on the city.

The second project is a body worn camera package through the company Axon. Many cities already have body worn cameras instituted and this will increase the transparency in our organization. It offers technological advantage to capture data immediately and information is recorded and provided to our court packages more efficiently. It puts us in the proper technological space for a progressive and growing service.

The third area for improvement is our communication operators who have been inundated in the last years and we need four additional bodies to keep this service alive.

Marchy advised that with having our own police presence downtown, these officers will not be strictly downtown and will hit other areas of the city as well. Marchy also noted we are one of the few services without body worn cameras and they are very important. In addition, Marchy supported the need for more operators to hand the calls coming in. Marchy felt the increase was required and we are within range to keep the operations going.

Ian commented that we need additional policing and we've known this for some time. We are going to have a situation where we have a downtown central command, but those officers will not just service the downtown, they will also be used city wide.

John advised that it is an exciting time where the Sault is getting what it deserves and the Axon project is something that is important to help our policing in the future. There is never a good time to increase budgets, but we are resolved in the fact that we think this is the best way to move. John emphasized that the Board is committed to policing in Sault Ste. Marie. John also advised there have been presentation and a process that has been following with regards to determining the budget.

MOVED BY: I. MacKenzie
SECONDED BY: M. Bruni

RESOLVED that the Board approve the 2024 budget as presented in the amount of \$38,956,531, being a 13.52 % increase over 2023, pending finalization of the salaries and benefits.

11. **Capital Reserve Requests**

Angela reported this is money to be used in the future for larger projects. We are asking to have two items funded by this reserve. The Chief advised that our current robot is over 40 years old and this is an officer safety issue if we don't have the best equipment for them. The Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS) is also a part of our technological increase.

MOVED BY: M. Bruni

SECONDED BY: I. MacKenzie

RESOLVED that the Board approve the capital reserve request for \$390,000, to be funded by the Police Capital Reserve for the first year of the Digital Evidence Management (DEMS) implementation in the amount of \$180,000 and the EDU Bomb Robot in the amount of \$210,000. Carried.

12. New Business

13. Next Meeting Date

~~October 26, 2023~~

October 31, 2023

14. Adjournment – Time: 2:39 p.m.

MOVED BY: I. MacKenzie

SECONDED BY: M. Bruni

That the regular meeting is adjourned and the Board re-entered the caucus meeting. Carried.