



MINUTES
Community Policing Advisory Committee

May 20, 2020
9:00 am
Video Conference

Committee Members Present: Councillor Winter
Mayor Strathdee
Doug Diplock
Paul Dunseith
Jacqueline Hibbert

Stratford Police Services Present: Chief Greg Skinner
Deputy Chief Gerald Foster
Community Resources Officer Nick Keating

Staff Present: Brent Kittmer, CAO / Clerk
Jenna McCartney, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Winter called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None declared.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Moved By Paul Dunseith
Seconded By Doug Diplock

THAT the May 20, 2020 Community Policing Advisory Committee agenda be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved By Jacqui Hibbert
Seconded By Paul Dunseith

THAT the February 19, 2020 Community Policing Advisory Committee meeting minutes be approved by the Committee and signed by the Chair and the Secretary.

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5.1 Park Patrol

Deputy Chief Foster provided an update on the park patrol program as it will not be initiated in Stratford for 2020 due to the implications of COVID-19.

6. DELEGATIONS

None.

7. REPORTS

7.1 POLICE MONTHLY STATISTICS

Deputy Chief Foster reviewed the February, March and April 2020 police monthly statistics.

In response to Chair Winter's inquiry about the process for responding to a shop lifting complaint, Deputy Chief Foster confirmed that the police often receive the complaint after the fact and will utilize video surveillance to investigate.

In response to Chair Winter's inquiry about a potential increase in domestic calls for service, Deputy Chief Foster stated that has been an increase in this type of call for service during the pandemic.

In response to Doug Diplock's inquiry about the break and enter calls for service in March, Deputy Chief Foster confirmed that the calls for service were related to residential properties but could not confirm how many had occurred prior to the declaration of a state of emergency by the province.

In response to Mayor Strathdee's inquiry about the protocols for calls for service as the province in preparing for the recovery of the pandemic, Deputy Chief Foster stated that an officer will continue to be deployed to a desk position whereby the officer will respond to specific calls for service over the phone rather than directly in-person. Stratford Police Service are investigating online reporting options like those at other services within the area.

For instances when in-person contact is required, screening from the call centre will be completed prior to police arriving on the scene. The officer responding in-person will determine which personal protective equipment is required taking several variants into consideration.

Following the transportation of a person placed under arrest, the vehicle will undergo a decontamination process.

In response to Chair Winter's inquiry about a person being a large in St. Marys, Community Resources Officer Keating confirmed that the individual has been apprehended as of this morning.

Moved By Doug Diplock

Seconded By Jacqui Hibbert

THAT the February, March and April 2020 police monthly statistics be received for information.

CARRIED

7.2 CRIME STOPPERS REPORT

Chief Skinner reviewed the December 2019, January and March 2020 Crime Stoppers reports.

In response to Chair Winter's inquiry whether prostitution is prevalent in St. Marys, Chief Skinner confirmed that prostitution and human trafficking instances are occurring in the area however, the Crime Stoppers reports do not breakdown the tips into the two counties served other further into the specific municipality.

In response to Chair Winter's inquiry regarding tobacco tax enforcement, Chief Skinner stated contraband tobacco sales are an issue in the area which result in tax evasion investigation. Officers have been trained in tobacco enforcement and will follow up on these specific tips.

Moved By Paul Dunseith

Seconded By Doug Diplock

THAT the December, January and March 2020 Crime Stoppers reports be received for information.

CARRIED

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 2019 Budget Reconciliation

Brent Kittmer provided a review of the correspondence received from Stratford Police Service regarding the 2019 budget reconciliation.

The Town has received notice of surplus from 2019 which will be placed into a reserve for future policing needs.

Moved By Jacqui Hibbert

Seconded By Doug Diplock

THAT the 2019 budget reconciliation from the Stratford Police Service be received for information.

CARRIED

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Response to Pandemic

Chief Skinner provided a detailed overview of the Stratford Police Services' response to the pandemic.

Some of the highlights include:

- suspension of all external training
- suspension of auxiliary training program
- development of operation plan followed by various revisions
- consulted regarding court management process during pandemic
- tracking of COVID-19 related costs
- pandemic resulted in heightened stressors within the community and within the workplace and responded accordingly
- ongoing need to communicate clear and concise expectations of the public as provincial information could be misinterpreted
- criminal investigation and street crimes members were redeployed to assist with enhanced visibility on the streets and to reassure the public that police were present and available to respond to community needs
- public's initial response to the emergency orders significantly decreased the volume of calls for service however, there began an upward trend of speeding, domestic crime and mischief
- increased need to support individuals due to mental health triggers
- implemented voluntary health checks of all members attending work

- constant monitoring and purchasing to maintain enough inventory of personal protective equipment

9.2 Recovery Plan

Deputy Chief Foster presented SPS's approach to recovery planning for its members and the community.

Highlights from the recovery plan approach include:

- phased reintegration to the workplace for those members that have been working remotely during the pandemic with the first phase of members anticipated for return by June 1
- members that were redeployed to another unit in response to the pandemic will return to primary position
- preparedness to respond to the member's and community's needs as emergency orders are extended or lifted

In response to Doug Diplock's inquiry whether a health and safety audit has been conducted at the St. Marys office, Deputy Chief Foster stated that an audit has not been completed but will investigate further.

Brent Kittmer identified the ongoing struggle to interpret messaging from the province and the medical officer of health. As emergency orders are lifted, Mr. Kittmer inquired to what degree the SPS would be able to patrol recreation amenities as they reopen.

Chief Skinner stated that the police will monitor recreation amenities and respond to calls for service based on a priority sequence.

9.3 Impersonating Police

In response to Chair Winter's inquiry whether the act of impersonating a police officer was prevalent in St. Marys, Chief Skinner stated that the situation does exist across the province however, within the areas that SPS provides service, there are no known concerns at present.

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Chair Winter reviewed the upcoming meeting as presented on the agenda.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Jacqui Hibbert

Seconded By Paul Dunseith

THAT this meeting of the Community Policing Advisory Committee be adjourned at 10:11 am.

CARRIED

Chair Winter

Brent Kittmer, CAO / Clerk