



**OPEN LETHBRIDGE REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
February 27th, 2013
4:00 p.m. – Lethbridge Council Chambers**

In Attendance

Doug McLaughlin, Chair	A/Chief Catonio
Sandy McKay, Vice Chair	Inspector Ascroft
Alex Hann	Inspector Cove
Alderman Tom Wickersham	Inspector Kaye
Lee Cutforth	Dan Paskuski
Marion Wiebe	Kristen Harding
Adam Zaroni	Monica Elder (Recording Secretary)

Regrets

**Chief McKenzie
Councilor Sherrie Duda
Alderman Liz Iwaskiw**

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
 - The meeting was called 4:02 p.m. by Chair, Doug McLaughlin.
- 2) Approval of Agenda
 - **Motion by Mrs. Wiebe, Seconded by Mr. Hann that the agenda be approved as circulated.....Carried.**
- 3) Enquiries by the Public
 - Mr. Merv Hudemka had an enquiry about a fire at 1224 – 7th Avenue South. Emergency vehicles had blocked the street and residents were unable to move their vehicles. A police officer queried the information on one particular vehicle parked on the street and called a tow truck. The owner of the vehicle came when his vehicle was being towed, spoke to the officer and was allowed to move his vehicle. Mr. Hudemka asked why the officer did not contact the owner when he queried the vehicle before calling a tow truck and why the owner was required to pay the tow truck driver.
 - Inspector Kaye advised all reasonable attempts to notify owners are made and if a vehicle is moved for the Service's needs, the Service pays the bill. Inspector Kaye will contact the neighbour and Mr. Hudemka once he investigates the circumstances.

- 4) Minutes of January 30th, 2013 Open Meeting
 - a) Approval of Minutes
 - o **Motion by Mr. Cutforth, Seconded by Mr. Hann that the minutes be approved as circulated.....Carried.**

- 5) Business Arising
 - a) ALERT Update – A/Chief Catonio
 - o Unit executed a search warrant a few weeks ago and yesterday shut down a couple of grow ops.
 - o Unit is fully staffed, less one – waiting for new RCMP member to arrive.

 - b) Building Expansion Update – Inspector Ascroft
 - o As of yesterday, came to consensus as to the architectural firm – will go to Council for ratification in a couple of weeks.

 - c) Public Complaints Monitor – Doug McLaughlin
 - o Mr. Cutforth volunteered for the position - will shadow Mr. Hann.

- 6) New Business
 - a) Annual Subject Behaviour – Offence Response Presentation – Sergeant George Carscadden
 - o In previous years was reported as Use of Force.
 - o LRPS policy requires a report be completed when an intermediate force option is used, when a firearm is displayed or discharged, when a subject or officer sustains an injury as a result of the application of force. The report is then reviewed by the immediate supervisor, Staff Sergeant on duty, subject matter expert (instructor), Sergeant i/c Training and Executive.
 - o Purpose of the report is for training, analysis and accountability.
 - o LRPS responded to 31,048 calls for service in 2012. In 84 instances the officer had to use a force option requiring a Control Tactics Report to be submitted.
 - o In 99.79% of the instances, the officers were able to deal with the call for service and diffuse possible volatile and violent situations without the use of force. Members are trained in verbal communication, to verbally diffuse, mediate and rationalize a situation in order to resolve the issue at hand without resorting to physical force.
 - o Data was collected on subject gender, age, weight, height. Also collected, was data on perceived mental condition – agitated, emotionally disturbed, intoxicated by drug or alcohol, or combination of same.
 - o Sergeant Carscadden answered questions and invited Commission members to view the simulator which uses all the use of force options.

- Mr. McLaughlin thanked Sergeant Carscadden for his presentation.
- b) Annual Professional Standards Presentation – Sergeant Bill Basso
- Since January 2012 have been using a software program, IAPro, which is a Police Complaint / Use of Force Reporting Initiative undertaken by the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General.
 - Professional Standards Unit has increased by one Sergeant for a total of two.
 - Public Complaint Investigations are down to 13 from 14 in 2011.
 - Service Investigations are internal investigations initiated by the Chief of Police – 2 in 2012, down from 2011 which had 10.
 - Note to File, which are counseling, are comparable to 2011 – 30 in 2012, 27 in 2011.
 - 46.1 Notifications refer to serious incidents – any time there is an incident of serious injury or death or serious/sensitive incidents.
 - Sergeant Basso answered questions from the Commission. He explained that there could be multiple misconducts in a single investigation. Criminal Code matters can double up with Police Service Regulation.
 - Mr. McLaughlin thanked Sergeant Basso for his presentation.
- c) Calls for Service – Inspector Kaye
- Calls for Service for January were distributed.
 - Total calls were consistent with 2012. Selected crimes up for 2013, most notably motor vehicle thefts and thefts.
 - Collisions consistent with last year.
 - Violation tickets down from last year.
 - Staffing levels up by 2 from 2012.
- d) Financial Report – A/Chief Catonio
- Financial Report for the Quarter Ended December 31st, 2012 was distributed. A/Chief Catonio pointed out that these numbers are preliminary as the City of Lethbridge is still reconciling numbers. He received recent info that the quarterly number will improve by \$30,000.
 - Reporting period reflects an overall surplus of \$1400.
 - Revenue accounts generating a surplus of \$124,000.
 - \$6,400 surplus for School Resource Program.
 - \$23,000 generated at the Police Compound.
 - \$95,400 surplus in External Funding for 3 new positions funded by ALERT and the extension of funding for 1 position funded by CISA.
 - Wage accounts generating a deficit of \$84,200
 - \$38,500 surplus for Salaries Permanent and Salaries Non-Permanent.

- \$82,200 deficit for Overtime Expenses for 4 cases, internal training initiatives and Police Day.
 - \$26,700 deficit for Statutory Holiday Overtime.
 - Other Operating Expenses generated a deficit of \$38,400.
 - Most notably, Vehicle Leasing and Maintenance accounts are in a \$65,500 deficit - have asked for an explanation from Fleet Services.

- 7) Enquiries by the Police Commission
 - None

- 8) Enquiries by the Public
 - Mr. Merv Hudemka enquired about the use of taser. Since taser has come into use, he has heard that hundreds of people have died in U.S. and Canada. The cause of death it is attributed to underlying causes – what are they? A heart can be stopped by electric shock – is it not possible to kill a person with electric shock from taser?
 - A/Chief Catonio advised taser does not work on electric shock. The voltages do not cause death and there is no research to prove that tasers cause death. Recent research refers to the condition of the individual at the time. They have high levels of alcohol, drugs etc. which contributes to excited delirium, which leads to death.
 - Sergeant Carscadden added that all officers are trained in excited delirium. The taser incapacitates the subject, allowing officers to handcuff the individual. Officers are trained to recognize situations, are trained in first aid and will activate emergency personnel when required.
 - Inspector Ascroft also pointed out that excited delirium is fatal. Officers are trained to recognize the symptoms and once they are restrained, get medical attention.
 - Mr. McLaughlin stated he understands Mr. Hudemka's concern. The Commission will investigate any improper use of taser.

- 9) Meeting Adjournment
 - **Motion by Mr. Zanoni, Seconded by Mr. Cutforth to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m.Carried.**