



**OPEN LETHBRIDGE REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES  
September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
4:00 p.m. – Lethbridge Council Chambers**

**In Attendance**

<b>Doug McLaughlin, Chair</b>	<b>Chief McKenzie</b>
<b>Sandy McKay, Vice Chair</b>	<b>Deputy Chief Catonio</b>
<b>Lee Cutforth</b>	<b>Inspector Ascroft</b>
<b>Councilor Sherrie Duda</b>	<b>A/Inspector Dobirstein</b>
<b>Alex Hann</b>	<b>Inspector Kaye</b>
<b>Alderman Liz Iwaskiw</b>	<b>Kristen Harding</b>
<b>Alderman Tom Wickersham</b>	<b>Dan Paskuski</b>
<b>Marion Wiebe</b>	<b>Monica Elder (Recording Secretary)</b>
<b>Adam Zaroni (4:15)</b>	

**Regrets**

**Inspector Cove**

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
  - The meeting was called to order by Chair Doug McLaughlin at 4:03 p.m.
  - Mr. McLaughlin introduced Mr. Andrew Minor, Executive Director of Manitoba Police Commission who is in attendance as an observer.
- 2) Approval of Agenda
  - **Motion by Mrs. Wiebe, Seconded by Councilor Duda that the agenda be approved as circulated.....Carried.**
- 3) Enquiries by the Public
  - Mr. Merv Hudemka advised he was stopped at the viewpoint on the Whoop Up pedestrian bridge taking pictures when he was approached by a police officer who asked what he was doing and how long he had been there as a complaint had been received. The officer requested identification which Mr. Hudemka did not have and he advised he was threatened with obstruction until he provided his name and date of birth. Another concern was the officer was wearing sunglasses and did not remove them when speaking to Mr. Hudemka. Mr. Hudemka also felt bikes were speeding as they passed him on the bridge. There was also an incident with an aggressive dog on the pathway by the river.

- Inspector Ascroft will review Mr. Hudemka's concerns and respond to him.
  - Mr. Hudemka also advised for information, Saskatchewan has gone to automated license plate recognition so license plates have no month or year stickers. This would save money.
    - Chief McKenzie answered Motor Transport assigns the plates and stickers. Police write tickets for unregistered motor vehicles, the government wants to make sure vehicles are properly registered. Chiefs have lobbied for a plate change as they are getting old.
- 4) Minutes of the June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Open Meeting
- a) Approval of Minutes
- **Motion by Mr. Hann, Seconded by Mr. Cutforth that the minutes be approved as circulated.....Carried.**
- 5) Business Arising
- a) ALERT Update – Inspector Kaye
- Inspector Kaye provided highlights from the summer.
  - ITRAC was involved in 12 high risk assessments.
  - ICE investigated locally 7 active files resulting in 30 Criminal Code charges being laid in and around Lethbridge.
  - Enforcement Unit wrapped up an investigation into a drug trafficking network operating into Lethbridge which resulted in 21 people arrested, 84 charges being laid and \$190,000 (street value) worth of drugs confiscated.
- b) Building Expansion Update – Inspector Ascroft
- Staff Sergeant Dobirstein and Inspector Ascroft will continue on with the project for continuity.
  - Needs assessment completed over the summer and have confirmed still within the needs of the various areas in what was approved.
  - Stantec conducted blocking and stacking meeting in September to determine other various areas which could be potentially placed within the envelope of the building to maximize efficiencies.
  - Met with project manager to review preliminary draft plans, identified corrections – will now go back to Stantec.
  - Next step will be the plans go to the builders, Dawson Wallace.
  - Current plan is for an electronic presentation to be prepared for consultation with our staff to ensure nothing is missed.
  - Planning for approved plan for late November 2013 and construction to start in the Spring of 2014. Both Stantec and Dawson Wallace were affected by Calgary flooding.
  - Planning for space in old Queen's Bench Court House for temporary accommodations.
  - Plans for temporary parking not finalized yet. Builders planning on building parking structure first.

- 6) New Business
- a) Collision Reporting Centre Update – Chief McKenzie
- Pilot Project Report for the Collision Reporting Centre was distributed.
  - Successful for reducing man hours for officers on the street investigating collisions, clearing roadways quickly and providing a level of service that seems to have met 100% approval of those who responded to the survey, as well as acceptance from insurance companies.
  - Edmonton and Calgary are looking at this further. Medicine Hat has implemented the program.
  - In response to Mr. Cutforth's enquiry, Chief McKenzie advised parking is a priority, not only for employees and customers, but also to the Collision Reporting Centre. Architect is aware of it as CRC has made us aware of not only the parking but the office space. Currently exploring some off-site locations and also a way to expand.
- b) CAPB Conference – Marion Wiebe
- Mrs. Wiebe, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Hann, Alderman Wickersham, Mr. Zanoni and Chief McKenzie attended the conference in Saskatoon August 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Theme was "Bridging the Gap: Policing and Mental Health". Conference shed light on mental health issues in the community, how police deal with them, the need for a "community" approach to mental health and the changing views regarding mental health assistance for police officers involved in crisis.
  - Workshops covered topics such as crime free multi-housing, police stressors, graffiti reduction, Internet Child Exploitation and police shootings.
  - Those attending agreed it was an excellent learning opportunity.
- c) CACP Conference - Chief McKenzie
- Conference was held in Winnipeg August 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> and focused on economics of policing.
  - Presentation from Canadian Mental Health focused on front line mental health issues.
  - Social media and sharing of information was discussed – also U-Tube and Facebook.
  - Winnipeg explained their cadet program which provides support to the Police Service. They attend to a lot of quality of life complaints primarily in the downtown area.
  - Use of Peace Bond, 810.1 Order - trying to develop common approach across Canada around High Risk Offenders.
  - Swatting – individuals hacking into systems, displaying themselves as someone else and reporting crimes that send

police to different locations in different situations. Taking away valuable policing resources.

- Heard from representatives from across Canada on the challenges of cost of policing.
  - Other presentations included cruiser safety and use of seat belts, effective management of data, National Missing Persons Update, Calgary's program Staying in the Game, cameras for front line officers in Calgary,
  - Presentation on 911 Centre and how their budgets may increase by 30%. Moving into next generation NG911 which will allow for text messaging, video transfers etc. PSCC is aware this is on the horizon.
  - In response to Mr. Hann's inquiry in regards to decriminalizing marijuana, Chief McKenzie replied this was one of the resolutions brought forward – Chiefs have not asked for decriminalization or legalization. Ticket is a way to deal with front line enforcement of marijuana possession and streamline movement through the court system, similar to a traffic ticket.
- d) Law of Policing Vancouver Conference – Information Only
- Anyone interested in attending, contact Mrs. Elder for registration & hotels.
- e) Facebook Concern – Inspector Ascroft
- Warning on Facebook regarding child abductions came to the attention of Councilor Duda.
  - RCMP was contacted and the alleged incidents did not happen.
- f) CALEA – Deputy Chief Catonio
- Mock assessment was completed on 482 standards and there was very little concern. Some files contained more files than were necessary – will be corrected. On site assessment is scheduled for December.
  - The assessors complimented Sergeant Yee and Ms. Kelly on their excellent work.
- g) Calls for Service - Inspector Ascroft
- Calls for Service for June, July and August were provided.
  - Over the past 3 months calls for service and year to date have decreased from same period last year.
  - Top 5 Calls for Service remain consistent.
  - In response to questions, Inspector Ascroft advised personnel per shift were down somewhat due to annual leave and members off for various reasons. Latest recruit class will be on the street tomorrow. Decrease in violation tickets is a result of issues with photo radar staffing and 45 working days lost due to equipment failure. Traffic Response Unit was short staffed but 2 members were recently transferred there.

- h) Financial Report - Chief McKenzie
- The reporting period for the quarter April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 reflects an overall surplus of \$165,800 with Revenue accounts generating a surplus of \$11,200, Wage accounts a surplus of \$70,000 and Other Operating Expenses a surplus of \$84,600.
  - The reporting period July 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 reflects a monthly surplus of \$54,200 with Revenue accounts experiencing a surplus of \$2,400, Wage accounts a surplus of \$30,000 and Other Operating Expenses a surplus of \$21,800.
  - The reporting period August 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 reflects a monthly surplus of \$81,000 with Revenue accounts experiencing a deficit of \$4,400. Wage accounts a surplus of \$39,300, and other Other Operating Expenses a surplus of \$46,100.
- 7) Enquiries by the Police Commission
- Alderman Iwaskiw – has received inquiries in regards to dogs off leash and vicious dogs, is there anything that police can do and when does someone call 911?
  - Inspector Ascroft advised animal control officers deal with those issues. Police can attend off leash complaints but will be a low priority in the dispatch system. Anyone requiring immediate medical attention should call 911. Police will attend and deal with people in danger until the proper authorities arrive. Regulatory Services are aware of the dogs in question and seeking remedy.
  - Mr. McKay congratulated Alderman Wickersham on his retirement and thanked him for his time on Commission and for his wisdom and skill.
- 8) Enquiries by the Public
- Mr. Hudemka brought forth another concern of more people using cell phones in their vehicles.
    - Inspector Kaye advised 600 tickets have been issued since enforcement began and tickets continue to be issued daily. Distracted driving is targeted by both Patrol and Traffic Members.
  - Chief McKenzie reminded everyone that Police Memorial Day is this Sunday. Bus will be leaving for Edmonton at 5:00 a.m. if any Commission members are interested.
- 9) Meeting Adjournment
- **Motion by Alderman Iwaskiw, Seconded by Mr. Hann that the meeting be adjourned at 5:36 p.m. ....Carried.**