



**OPEN LETHBRIDGE REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
September 24, 2014
4:00 p.m. – Lethbridge Council Chambers**

In Attendance

**Sandy McKay, Chair
Adam Zanoni, Vice-Chair
Lee Cutforth
Peter Deys
D. Jean Valgardson
Marion Wiebe
Patrick Balfour**

**Chief McKenzie
Deputy Chief Catonio
Inspector Anderson
Inspector Ascroft
Inspector Dobirstein
Dan Paskuski
Kristen Harding
Monica Elder (Recording Secretary)**

Regrets

**Councillor Duda
Councillor Iwaskiw
Councillor Parker**

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
 - The meeting was called to order by Chair Sandy McKay at 4:04 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Agenda
 - **Motion by Mr. Cutforth, Seconded by Mr. Deys that the agenda be approved as circulated....Carried.**
- 3) Enquiries by the Public
 - Mr. Merv Hudemka - in regards to businesses registering cameras, which was mentioned at a previous meeting, what is that all about?
 - Inspector Ascroft advised this is a project for the Quality of Life Unit. Quite often there are no witnesses to what occurred and it is helpful to know who has a camera in the area.
 - Purpose is to locate cameras more quickly to solve crimes more quickly.
 - No one will be forced to register as this is voluntary program.
- 4) Minutes of the June 25, 2014 Open Meeting
 - a) Approval of Minutes
 - **Motion by Mr. Zanoni, Seconded by Mrs. Valgardson that the minutes be approved as circulated.....Carried.**

- 5) Business Arising
- a) ALERT Update – Inspector Anderson
- Brief overview of investigative highlights from 2013/2014 ALERT Annual Report:
 - 684 persons charged, total of 2,427 charges laid. CFSEU Lethbridge made 59 arrests during the year.
 - \$25.4 million dollars of drugs seized.
 - \$4.7 million dollars of property seized.
 - 14,479 marihuana plants seized
 - 149 firearms seized, Lethbridge responsible for seizure of 2 firearms.
 - CFSEU Lethbridge executed search warrant on south side residence in July – cocaine, cash and firearm seized. 3 persons charged with numerous Criminal Code and Controlled Drugs and Substances charges.
 - Two search warrants in August resulted in seizure of drugs, cash, pepper spray, vehicles and resulted in Criminal Code and Controlled Drugs and Substances charges.
 - September 18th CFSEU concluded an investigation early when they noted a newborn baby in a motor vehicle being utilized for illicit drug trafficking and concluded the infant was at risk of harm. Occupants were in possession of cocaine and drug paraphernalia. Two females arrested and charged with numerous Criminal Code and Controlled Drugs and Substance charges. Baby was turned over to Child and Family Services.
 - ICE investigator assisted with numerous seizures related to child pornography at the international border – 12 criminal charges were laid.
 - ICE Unit involved in ICESTORM 2 which will focus on peer to peer sharing of child pornography images locally, provincially, nationally and internationally.
 - ICE investigator also assisted Calgary and Medicine Hat Police Services in apprehension of several persons.
- b) Building Expansion Update – Inspector Ascroft
- Excavation almost complete, started drilling for pylons.
 - Steel erection will be next major project.
 - Court House renovations to be completed end of October. CID and RMU will move in beginning of November.
 - Cell modifications complete.
 - Preparations made to level floor of current basement which will be office and storage space. Construction to start on Quartermasters stores.
 - All paper records have been catalogued, packed and moved offsite.
 - Discussion on paper records. There are retention schedules, serious files, homicides are kept forever. It was too costly to digitize the old paper files. .

- c) Search for New Chief Update – Sandy McKay
 - o Search continuing.

- 6) New Business
 - a) Downtown Policing – Information Only
 - o Report was provided in packages for review.
 - o Staff Sergeant Smith, Sergeant Mortensen and Dianne Randell, Community and Social Development Manager, were in attendance to answer any questions.
 - o Complaints were received from businesses in the downtown area claiming incidents of public drunkenness, crime and negative behavior are worse than previous years and affecting businesses.
 - o Statistics for total calls for service in the downtown beat actually showed a decreasing trend. As calls for service appeared to be decreasing, the actions of the Police Service were studied to try and determine what factors, if any, could be attributed to this increase in negative behavior.
 - o Recent changes in policy at the Correctional Centre and sentencing by the courts were identified as possible causes.
 - o In previous years intoxicated subjects were arrested and transported to the Lethbridge Correctional Centre (LCC) and held for a minimum of 5 hours allowing them to sober up, which prevented further complaints regarding that subject.
 - o Requirements for lodging intoxicated subject at LCC has changed – subject must be suffering from “stupefied intoxication” unable to care for themselves and arrested for their own safety.
 - o Shelter has capacity to hold a limited number of intoxicated subjects however is reluctant to accept grossly intoxicated and or violent individuals. LRPS holding cells are available for grossly intoxicated and or violent subjects that will not be accepted at the other facilities, however is limited in holding capacity.
 - o Mobile Urban Response Team (MUST) Van is up and running again which provides transportation and support to the downtown subjects.
 - o Lengthy discussion ensued on the lack of sobering or detox sites in Lethbridge. A sobering site is where people can safely sober with supervision and skilled staff to oversee. Ms. Randell advised this is one of the areas in the City’s 5 year plan and requires discussions with Alberta Health. Another priority for Social Housing In action (SHIA) is permanent supportive housing for people with complex needs.
 - o Mr. McKay thanked Ms. Randell, Staff Sergeant Smith and Sergeant Mortensen for answering Commission’s questions.

- b) CAPG Conference, Halifax
 - Note – Conference Report on CAPG website (www.capg.ca)
 - Mr. Deys provided highlights of the August 21-23 conference in Halifax .
 - Five Commission members attended - 20 sessions in the 3 day conference.
 - Two common themes were changes in policing and how mental health issues are affecting police officers in their work.
 - Sessions included civilianizing certain police duties, social media.
 - Four resolutions passed – Mandatory De-escalation Training, Medical Marijuana Licensing – Police Consultation and Notification, Roadside Drug Screening Tool and Sharing of Mental Health Information on CPIC and Use Made of Such Information by U.S. Border Officials.

- c) Calls for Service – Inspector Ascroft
 - Calls for Service for June, July and August were distributed.
 - All three months total calls for service show increase from 2013, although no trends noticed.
 - School Resource Officers have worked in Patrol Division in July and August.
 - Traffic enforcement up from previous year. Collisions increased slightly.
 - New recruits are on the street – Teams and Support Shift.

- d) Financial Report – Chief McKenzie
 - Financial Reports were provided to Commission in their packages for their review.
 - Mr. Paskuski introduced Patrick Balfour who is the new Financial and Administrative Manager. .
 - Mr. Paskuski retired Sept 16 after 23 years but will stay on a part basis for budget.
 - Mr. McKay congratulated Mr. Paskuski on his retirement and thanked him for his service.

- 7) Enquiries by the Police Commission
 - Mr. Deys inquired if there are issues of wait times for officers transporting individuals with mental health issues to hospital.
 - Inspector Ascroft advised Alberta Health has Community Peace Officers who provide security at Alberta Health sites. When police transport mentally ill individuals to emergency, they are handed over to the CPO on arrival

- 8) Enquiries by the Public
 - Mr. Merv Hudemka inquired about distracted driving – is there an increase in tickets handed out specific to cell phones and texting - if there is a collision is it documented they were on the phone?

- Inspector Ascroft advised distracted driving tickets are being issued. If there is a collision, witnesses are required if distracted driving charged. A court order is required to check phone records.
- 9) Meeting Adjournment
- **Motion by Mrs. Wiebe to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m. Carried.**