



**OPEN LETHBRIDGE REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, October 28, 2015
City of Lethbridge Council Chambers
4:00 p.m.**

In Attendance

**Sandy McKay, Chair
Lee Cutforth, Vice-Chair
Councillor Joe Mauro
Councillor Bridget Mearns
Peter Deys
D. Jean Valgardson
Marion Wiebe
Carmen Hellawell (Recording Secretary)**

**Chief Robert Davis
Deputy Chief Colin Catonio
Inspector Bill Anderson
Inspector Tom Ascroft
Inspector Jason Dobirstein
Kristen Harding
Brenda Kenward**

Regrets

Adam Zanoni

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
 - The meeting was called to order by Chair Sandy McKay at 4:00 p.m.
 - Swearing In Ceremony – Councillor Joe Mauro and Councillor Bridget Mearns were sworn in as new Council Members of the Lethbridge Regional Police Commission replacing Councillor Liz Iwaskiw and Councillor Ryan Parker
- 2) Approval of Agenda
 - Addition to Agenda:
 - 4.b. New Member of ALERT Board – Chair McKay
 - **Motion by Mr. Deys, Seconded by Mr. Cutforth that the agenda be approved as amended.....Carried**
- 3) Presentation
 - Chief Davis explained that the Lethbridge Regional Police Service won the Canadian Blood Services Sirens For Life contest. This is a friendly competition between the Lethbridge Fire/EMS, RCMP, Sheriffs and LRPS for the most blood donations during a specified time frame. Chief Davis presented the framed certificate to the Lethbridge Police Association President Sergeant Jay McMillan. Chair Sandy McKay thanked LRPS members for their efforts.
 - Councillor Liz Iwaskiw was in attendance and Chair McKay thanked Councillor Iwaskiw for her service as a member of the Commission.

- 4) Enquiries by the Public
- Mr. Merv Hudemka - This morning heard long loud bursts from a railway engine which would indicate there was an intrusion on the railway tracks. Mr. Hudemka has noticed a lot of pedestrian traffic going across the railway and holes being cut in commercial fences. He wonders if the police receive calls for service if someone is trespassing. Inspector Ascroft explained that LRPS periodically assists the CP Rail Police but LRPS does not have jurisdiction on their property. Fencing is repaired but as a matter of routine LRPS does not patrol their property.
 - Mr. Merv Hudemka – Wondered if the body discovered in Kinsmen Park was a drug related incident. Inspector Anderson explained that the investigation is still ongoing and he is not able to comment on what has been determined at this point.
 - Mr. Mike Vercillo – Has exchanged emails with the Commission about an issue and recently met with Mr. Deys and Inspector Ascroft regarding the issue. Mr. Vercillo asked what enquiries can be brought forward in this type of public forum. Chair McKay explained it would be enquiries with respect to policies that are set by the Commission for the operations of the police service. Operations are dealt with by the police service. Mr. Vercillo asked if there is a concern about the nature of enforcement whether this is the appropriate forum. Chair McKay explained if there is an amendment of policy or reallocation of certain resources as part of a direction by the Commission then this would be the appropriate forum. It would be beneficial to start with the police to see what the operational arrangement is. Mr. Vercillo indicated he has done that and is hopeful things will improve, if not then he may come back to the Commission. Chair McKay suggested if that is the case then to outline the issue in written form and if it is for a long term solution then the Commission would look towards an interesting dialogue. Mr. Vercillo indicated there may be a group that would like to share concerns with the Commission and hopes they would receive a response with how the issues could be dealt with. Chair McKay assured he would receive a response from the Commission if that were the case.
- 5) Approval of Minutes of September 30, 2015 Open Meeting
- **Motion by Mrs. Valgardson, Seconded by Mrs. Wiebe that the minutes be approved as circulated.....Carried**
- 6) Business Arising
- None
- 7) Standing Items
- a) ALERT Update – Inspector Anderson
- Presented October 2015 monthly report for Lethbridge Region ALERT
 - During September, members assisted with 'operation northern spotlight' relating to human trafficking
 - Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU) has been engaged in several complex and large scale investigations targeting organized and serious crime in the region
 - Work being done relating to the trafficking of illicit drugs at the street level
 - Lethbridge ICE as busy as ever at combating the exploitation of children
 - Chair McKay thanked Inspector Anderson for his report

- b) Building Expansion Update – Inspector Ascroft
 - Project remains on budget
 - Front counter/reception area is nearing completion
 - Paving of the area surrounding the parkade will soon begin and hope to have restored on-site parking once this is complete
 - Construction of prisoner sally port has begun
 - Parkade is still on track for completion before the snow flies
 - Addition will be mostly complete by the end of this year/early in the New Year. Demolition and renovation of the remaining areas of the building will proceed once the addition can be occupied
 - Schedule indicates the entire project to be completed in December of 2016

- c) Calls for Service – Inspector Ascroft
 - Calls for Service for September was distributed in agenda package
 - Inspector Ascroft provided highlights from the report
 - Year to date up 811 calls for service over 2014. Up 2389 over 2013
 - Recent thefts from vehicles – individual has been arrested and charged with several offences
 - Mr. Deys noticed personnel per shift is down and wondered if that is a one-time occurrence or trending as we get closer to Coaldale transition. Inspector Ascroft explained Coaldale is a factor and the support shift puts more officers on the street at peak periods which affects totals. There will be one less beat to cover as of January 2016
 - Chair McKay thanked Inspector Ascroft for his report

- d) Financial Report – Mrs. Kenward
 - Reporting period January 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015, was distributed in agenda package
 - Reflects an overall surplus of \$653,874 with Revenue accounts generating a surplus of \$119,999, Wage accounts a surplus of \$433,959, Other Operating Expenses a surplus of \$156,225 and interdepartmentals a deficit of \$56,775. Overall the service is saving about \$72,653 per month compared to budget through the first nine months
 - From the surplus generated at the end of the year, a minimum \$252,279 will need to be carried forward to cover the budget shortfall in 2016 of \$311,658

- 8) New Business
 - a) ALERT Letter of Support – Chair McKay
 - Inspector Anderson provided background regarding the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) which is a coordinated effort of law enforcement agencies throughout Alberta. Police agencies have contributed or seconded members to ALERT to target serious and organized crime. Collectively they work together and have made significant differences and has been very beneficial in Lethbridge
 - Chair McKay explained that funding for ALERT has been reduced over the last number of years quite significantly. LRPS has five officers who are being funded by ALERT which would affect LRPS budget if ALERT ceased to exist, as LRPS would need to pay for the officers or make other changes to the policing in Lethbridge
 - AAPG had recent discussions regarding providing a letter of support and have asked members to also write a letter to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General (copy of draft letter circulated from AAPG)

- Chair McKay asked whether the Commission supported writing a letter
 - Mrs. Wiebe stated the statistics speak for themselves and ALERT has done a fine job. It can't hurt to write a letter of support
 - Mr. Deys asked whether there has been a funding update from the recent budget announcement and whether to wait until we hear what transpired. Inspector Anderson will be participating in a conference call this Friday where they will report out
 - Mr. Cutforth suggested the importance of being preventive vs. reactive, as historic data indicates a recurring reduction throughout the years so he supported writing a letter now
 - Mrs. Valgardson supported the writing of the letter and emphasized the need for ALERT in southern Alberta
 - Chief Davis explained from an operational standpoint if the budget is reduced any more it would be detrimental to LRPS and encouraged the proactive writing of a letter
 - **Motion by Mrs. Valgardson, Seconded by Mr. Cutforth that the Lethbridge Regional Police Commission write a letter of support to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General regarding the importance of the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT).....Carried**
 - Chair McKay to write a letter of support on behalf of the Commission
- b) New Appointment to the ALERT Board – Chair McKay
- Councillor Iwaskiw was the ALERT representative on behalf of the Lethbridge Regional Police Commission so a new member must be appointed
 - Councillor Mearns volunteered unless a longer standing member was interested
 - Mrs. Valgardson let her name stand and was nominated
 - **Motion by Councillor Mearns, Seconded by Mr. Cutforth that Mrs. Valgardson be appointed as the Lethbridge Regional Police Commission representative on the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) Board....Carried**
- 9) Enquiries by the Police Commission
- None
- 10) Enquiries by the Public
- None
- 11) Meeting Adjournment
- Motion by Mr. Deys, Seconded by Mrs. Wiebe that the meeting be adjourned.....Carried**

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.