



**OPEN LETHBRIDGE REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 25, 2015  
City of Lethbridge Council Chambers  
4:00 p.m.**

**In Attendance**

**Sandy McKay, Chair  
Lee Cutforth, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Sherrie Duda  
Peter Deys  
Marion Wiebe  
Adam Zanoni  
Jenn Ward (Recording Secretary)**

**Acting Chief Colin Catonio  
Inspector Tom Ascroft  
Kristen Harding  
Brenda Kenward**

**Regrets**

**Chief Robert Davis  
Inspector Bill Anderson  
Inspector Jason Dobirstein  
Councillor Joe Mauro  
Councillor Bridget Mearns  
D. Jean Valgardson**

- 1) Swearing In of Councillor Sherrie Duda
  - Swearing In Ceremony – Councillor Sherrie Duda was sworn in as the Coaldale council member for the Lethbridge Regional Police Commission.
- 2) Meeting Called to Order
  - The meeting was called to order by Chair Sandy McKay at 4:00 p.m.
- 3) Approval of Agenda
  - **Motion by Mr. Deys, Seconded by Mr. Cutforth that the agenda be approved as circulated.....Carried**
- 4) Enquiries by the Public
  - None
- 5) Approval of Minutes of October 28, 2015 Open Meeting
  - **Motion by Mr. Deys, Seconded by Mrs. Wiebe that the minutes be approved as circulated.....Carried**

- 6) Business Arising
  - a) Letter to Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
    - o Letter regarding ALERT support was sent to Minister Ganley on behalf of the Commission and in agenda package for information.
    - o Letter was copied to the two Lethbridge MLAs.
  
- 7) Standing Items
  - a) ALERT Update – Acting Chief Catonio
    - o Presented November 2015 monthly report for Lethbridge Region ALERT
    - o Members of CFSEU recently concluded an investigation that began in August.
    - o Execution of a search warrant on November 15 resulting in the arrest and charge of three people for possession for the purpose of trafficking.
    - o Seized 41 pounds of marihuana, \$19,000 in Canadian currency, an ounce of cocaine, 3.6 grams of heroin, half a pound of weed oil, a money counter, several cannons of bear spray, and a 2012 Jeep Wrangler.
    - o Mr. Zanoni asked if bear spray would be used as a weapon or as some form of new drug. Acting Chief Catonio explained that it would be used as a weapon for self-defense.
    - o Chair McKay thanked Acting Chief Catonio for his report.
  
  - b) Building Expansion Update – Inspector Ascroft
    - o Majority of the front counter/reception area has been turned over and the public is able to access the building via the front doors.
    - o Collision Reporting Centre will remain off-site until adequate parking has been restored.
    - o The new parking structure is essentially complete and is expected to be turned over early next week.
    - o Paving competed around the entrance to the parking structure and west side of the site. We anticipate staff parking will be moving back on site shortly.
    - o Siding is currently being installed on the addition, and the majority of the windows have been installed.
    - o Demolition of the remaining parts of the original building will be proceeding in 2016, including cells, Patrol Operations, and Executive area.
    - o Turnover of second floor and basement of the addition is on track for the end of January 2016.
    - o Chair McKay asked if the Collision Reporting Centre will move back when the building has more space. Inspector Ascroft explained they will move back once the parking situation is alleviated.
  
  - c) Calls for Service – Inspector Ascroft
    - o Calls for Service for October was distributed in agenda package
    - o Inspector Ascroft provided highlights from the report
    - o Year to date up 881 calls for service over 2014. Up 2783 over 2013
    - o There has been an increase in thefts, including bike thefts due to warm weather. Majority of people involved have been identified and apprehended.
    - o Mrs. Wiebe asked if it was a small number of people doing a large amount of crimes? Inspector Ascroft confirmed that it is a few that can do a lot of damage in a short period of time.
    - o Chair McKay asked if the thefts were drug related. Inspector Ascroft explained that a lot of the thefts are to supply drug habits.
    - o Chair McKay asked if the thieves targeted homes or businesses? Inspector Ascroft explained that it is a bit of both.

- Chair McKay noticed that Personnel per Shift was 3.5 less per shift. Inspector Ascroft explained that currently there are four members on maternity leave and five members were attrited out for Coaldale. It could also be because of sickness or people taking more time off.
  - Mr. Zanoni read a report from Edmonton regarding an increase in crime as a result of the slowdown in the oil sector. What kind of impact are we experiencing? Inspector Ascroft is unable to make that correlation in Lethbridge. Acting Chief Catonio noted that he is familiar with the report. Calgary and Edmonton have been busier this year than 2014 and it is drug related. Spoke with Calgary Deputy Chief Murray Stooke recently who thinks that it is a part of the fentanyl drug trade. Edmonton calls for service are up inexplicably more than last year, not sure if this is a short term trend.
  - Chair McKay thanked Inspector Ascroft for his report.
- 8) New Business
- a) Letter to MLAs – Chair McKay
- Received a request from the Alberta Association of Police Governance to write a letter of support to our MLAs regarding equitable police funding.
  - **Motion by Mr. Zanoni, Seconded by Mr. Deys that the Lethbridge Regional Police Commission write a letter of support for equitable police funding to Lethbridge East MLA Maria Fitzpatrick and Lethbridge West MLA Shannon Phillips.....Carried**
  - Chair McKay to write a letter of support on behalf of the Commission.
- 9) Enquiries by the Police Commission
- Mr. Deys had a question regarding the fatal accident that occurred on Whoop-Up Drive on November 13 and the large outcry that followed regarding the need for a third bridge. Are there any tools or resources that the Service could acquire that could speed up the process opening up the highway considering the large number of traffic challenges experienced that day?
  - Acting Chief Catonio had conversations with Sergeant Davidson and Inspector Ascroft whether there can be something done to mitigate the impact on Whoop-Up Drive. There was also a meeting with various departments including Fire, Transportation, and Streets and Roads to come up with some plans for when we have to close Whoop-Up Drive. It all depends on the nature of the collision as we need to protect evidence and the safety of our members at the scene.
  - Plans may include turning east bound lanes of Whoop-Up Drive to temporary east-west lanes. The hope is that we can have three or four templated plans to execute as a group to keep traffic moving, including emergency vehicles.
  - Kristen Harding met with communications staff. They want to produce an app that pushes information to users regarding closures and alternate routes.
  - Chair McKay thanked Councillor Duda and Mr. Zanoni for their service as members of the Commission.
- 10) Enquiries by the Public
- None
- 11) Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.