



LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 27, 2016
City of Lethbridge Council Chambers
4:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Lee Cutforth, Vice-Chair (elected Chair)
Peter Deys, (elected Vice-Chair)
Councillor Joe Mauro
Victoria Chester
Simon Griffiths
Shilpa Stocker
D. Jean Valgardson
Marion Wiebe
Carmen Hellowell (Recording Secretary)

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

Regrets

Inspector Jason Dobirstein
Councillor Bridget Mearns

- 1) Swearing In of New Commission Members
 - Swearing In Ceremony – Victoria Chester, Simon Griffiths and Shilpa Stocker were sworn in as members of the Lethbridge Police Commission by Judge Derek Redman.
- 2) Recruit Constables, Completion of Probation
 - Chief Davis shared that Constables Lauren Boyer, Terry Fieguth, Tianna Harland, Stewart Kambeitz, Jamie Kenyon, Timothy Kreft, Daryl Pike and Matthew Schoenroth have completed their probation with the Lethbridge Police Service. Chief Davis presented the officers with a congratulatory letter along with the transcript from their 2014 swearing in ceremony.
 - Vice-Chair Cutforth provided congratulations on behalf of the Commission.
- 3) Meeting Called to Order
 - The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Lee Cutforth at 4:15 p.m.
 - **Motion by Vice-Chair Cutforth, Seconded by Mr. Deys that Carmen Hellowell be named as the Recording Secretary for the Lethbridge Police Commission....Carried**

- 4) Approval of Agenda
 - Addition to Agenda: 12.d. CAPG Membership Fee
 - **Motion by Vice-Chair Cutforth that the agenda be approved as amended....Carried**
- 5) Presentation to retired Commission Members
 - Vice-Chair Cutforth made a presentation to retired Commission Members Sandy McKay, Councillor Sherrie Duda, Councillor Liz Iwaskiw and Councillor Ryan Parker thanking them for their past service on the Commission. Adam Zanoni was absent.
- 6) Presentation to Inspector Tom Ascroft
 - Chief Davis presented an engraved Cross pen to Inspector Tom Ascroft for achieving his Bachelor of Applied Arts Degree – Justice Studies.
 - Vice-Chair Cutforth provided congratulations on behalf of the Commission.
- 7) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
 - **Nomination by Mr. Deys and Seconded by Mrs. Wiebe that Mr. Cutforth become Chair of the Lethbridge Police Commission.** As there were no other nominations, Mr. Cutforth accepted and was acclaimed Chair.
 - **Nomination by Mrs. Wiebe, Seconded by Mrs. Valgardson that Mr. Deys become Vice-Chair of the Lethbridge Police Commission.** As there were no other nominations, Mr. Deys accepted and was acclaimed Vice-Chair.
- 8) Enquiries by the Public
 - Mr. Merv Hudemka
 - Incorrect November meeting date on City Hall foyer monitor. Why the delay in the posting the February 26, 2014 Commission Meeting minutes on the City of Lethbridge website. Chair Cutforth will look into these issues and then advise Mr. Hudemka as both processes involve staff who were not at this meeting.
 - Wondered if cause of death in Kinsmen Park could now be released. Deputy Chief Catonio explained cause will not be released due to privacy rights.
 - Received confirmation that radar systems are being calibrated with tuning forks.
- 9) Approval of Minutes of November 25, 2015 Open Meeting
 - **Motion by Vice-Chair Deys, Seconded by Mrs. Wiebe that the minutes be approved as circulated.....Carried**
- 10) Business Arising
 - a) Letter to MLAs – equitable police funding – Chair Cutforth
 - Letters to MLAs Phillips and Fitzpatrick regarding the need for equitable police funding in Alberta were provided in agenda package for information.
 - b) Letter from Minister – safe sobering site – Chair Cutforth
 - Letter received from Minister Hoffman regarding letter from Lethbridge Police Commission in support of a safe sobering site in Lethbridge was provided in agenda package for information.

- Mr. Deys asked if the safe sobering site is within the Alberta Health Services (AHS) domain and what should Commission's focus be on this issue. Inspector Ascroft advised that it is about who can do what in attaining funding.
- Councillor Mauro asked whether Medicine Hat received funding for their safe sobering site. Inspector Ascroft confirmed they received funding for a detox service. AHS does see the need in Lethbridge but the process can take time.
- Councillor Mauro asked who would fund this potential project. Inspector Ascroft understands it would be funded as a health facility.

11) Standing Items

a) ALERT Update – Inspector Anderson

- Presented January 2015 monthly report for Lethbridge Region ALERT and background on the workings of ALERT for new Commission members.
- Shared the overall activities of ALERT in 2015:
 - Arrested nearly 500 offenders and seized more than \$36 million worth of drugs and proceeds of crime
 - Individuals were charged with 2,213 criminal offences related to drug trafficking, firearms, organized crime, violent incidents, child sexual exploitation and luring
 - Biggest trend from past year was the emergence of fentanyl and ALERT seized 21,000 of the deadly pills
- ICE units continue to investigate the sexual exploitation of children through the Internet and work to reduce harm through public education and prevention programs. Busy month in January for Lethbridge Region with three search warrants executed on residences and two men being charged with offences.
- Chair Cutforth's observation is that ALERT is performing well with modest resources. Discussion that any further cuts would be detrimental.

b) Building Expansion Update – Inspector Ascroft

- Majority of police fleet now parking in covered portion of parking structure.
- Second floor close to completion, furniture expected in the next two weeks.
- Construction of the sally port for the new cell area underway, should take approx. three months, then demolition of the current cells will begin.
- New locker rooms nearing completion.
- Demolition of the front/west area of the main floor underway.
- Mrs. Valgardson asked whether front desk access has always been 7:00 am – 7:00 pm. Inspector Ascroft confirmed this has been the case for many years. After hours there is a temporary intercom as a Commissionaire is on duty. Phone will also be installed.
- Chair Cutforth asked about the request for office space for the Commission at the Old Courthouse. Inspector Ascroft will look into this and report back.

c) Calls for Service – Inspector Ascroft

- Calls for Service for November and December were distributed in agenda package and Inspector Ascroft provided highlights from the reports.

- Up 750 calls for service end of November from previous year.
 - Increase in thefts, mainly auto on the west side involving prolific offenders.
 - Up 764 calls for service end of December from previous year.
 - 22.2 personnel per shift in November, 22.6 in December.
 - Step initiatives
 - November – Pedestrian Safety with seven violation tickets issued
 - December – Impaired Driving
 - Changed the way check stops were delivered, saved approx. \$20,000 from previous year, resulting in eight impaired drivers, up from previous years.
 - Mrs. Valgardson asked whether impaired driving is a focus during other months. Inspector Ascroft advised the initiatives are chosen by the Provincial Traffic Safety Community which also includes public messaging.
 - Chair Cutforth wondered if the impaired driving numbers were up due to Operation Red Nose not operating. Inspector Ascroft doesn't think that is a correlation, rather the check stop process was performed different this year.
 - Councillor Mauro asked how it is decided when/where photo radar will be set up. Inspector Ascroft explained that the provincial government has guidelines and LPS is required to submit reports to the government. There is daily operation of photo radar and ISD cameras.
 - Councillor Mauro asked about the operation of the Intersection Safety Devices (ISD). Inspector Ascroft advised there are two cameras which rotate to the six ISD locations, creates a deterrent for drivers.
- d) Financial Report – Mrs. Kenward
- Brenda Kenward explained that year closes on March 9, 2016, and LPS will be in a surplus position. A draft financial report will be provided in February.
 - Councillor Mauro asked if at year end the Commission is in a surplus position, what would happen to that money. Mrs. Kenward explained LPS works on the four year budget cycle and any business unit with a surplus or deficit will have it rolled over to the next year and then balance over the four years.

12) New Business

a) 2015 Overview – Chief Davis

- Chief Davis provided highlights of the Lethbridge Regional Police Service 2015 Overview which was provided in the agenda package:
 - Selection of New Chief.
 - Dissolution of the Regional Policing Agreement with Coaldale, worked closely with RCMP for a smooth transition.
 - Police Service Building Construction.
 - Employee Wellness Program - Inspector Dobirstein was the driving force with this initiative. Program proved valuable in officer involved shooting.
 - Re-purpose of Shotguns - less-lethal option using soc rounds for use as an option between Taser and pistol. Chief Davis shared his pride in how LPS members deal with individuals with mental health issues. Members understand that time can be an ally and that less than lethal options may

be an option. Kudos to Staff Sergeant Fisher and his patrol team who have used this less-lethal option and proven its effectiveness. LPS was featured in Blue Line Magazine this past November regarding this initiative.

- Crime and Disorder – Inspector Anderson shared that 2015 was a busy year due to six homicides, including a triple homicide. Members met the challenges associated and charges have been laid. High rate of property crime is on the rise in most municipalities solely due to the drug trade. Fentanyl addictions, increase in the use of weapons and domestic violence continues to have a significant impact. An increase of economic and white collar crimes, cyber-crimes and caseload in the Integrated Child Exploitation Unit. Members have worked extremely hard in difficult circumstances and the awareness for officer personal care is apparent.
- Mr. Deys expressed appreciation regarding the work listed in the report. Wellness program was a priority of Commission members and he passed on his thanks for that effort. Clarification was provided regarding the explanation “the Service is not expending resources on matters that are within the purview of another body” which are initiatives such as Council’s funding of the DOT Team.
- Mrs. Valgardson asked about the next phase of the Road to Mental Readiness. Deputy Chief Catonio explained LPS will train 8 - 12 individuals (Train the Trainer) who will then train remaining members in the spring.

b) Lethbridge Police Commission Bylaw & Policy Manual Amendments – Chair Cutforth

- Chair Cutforth explained the new Bylaw removes Coaldale and comprises the Lethbridge Police Service. Mrs. Wiebe reviewed the policy manual and provided clerical amendments to the Commission for review and approval.
- Mr. Deys asked about 4.d. “absenteeism from Commission Meetings without authorization” and wondered if it should be “without notice”. Mrs. Wiebe advised the authorization wording keeps it the same as the bylaw wording.
- **Motion by Mrs. Wiebe, Seconded by Mrs. Valgardson that the Lethbridge Police Commission accept the amendments to the Lethbridge Police Commission Policy Manual that were circulated at the meeting.....Carried**

c) Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG) – Chair Cutforth

- i. Annual General Meeting
 - AAPG Annual General Meeting will be held April 22 & 23 in Taber
 - Mrs. Wiebe provided AAPG background - training related to serving on a Commission, includes round table discussions and guest speakers.
- ii. Call for Resolutions
 - Any resolutions please discuss with Mrs. Wiebe.
- iii. Call for Nominations
 - Mrs. Wiebe is the current member on AAPG who can hold the position for one more year.

- **Motion by Chair Cutforth, Seconded by Mrs. Valgardson that Mrs. Wiebe be reappointed to the AAPG Board for 2016...Carried**
- Chair Cutforth advised if another member is interested in the position in 2017 to please contact Mrs. Wiebe for a possible shadowing.
- iv. Membership Fee
 - AAPG 2016 Membership for Lethbridge Police Commission is \$500.
 - **Motion by Chair Cutforth, Seconded by Mrs. Wiebe that the Lethbridge Police Commission pay the 2016 AAPG Membership Fee.....Carried**
- d) CAPG Membership Fee – Chair Cutforth
 - CAPG membership renewal recently received.
 - Similar information resource as AAPG but Canada-wide.
 - Annual fee \$1045, but if paid by March 1, 2016, can have 2015 rate of \$1020
 - **Motion by Mr. Deys, Seconded by Chair Cutforth that Lethbridge Police Commission pay the 2016 CAPG Membership Fee.....Carried**
- 13) Enquiries by the Police Commission
 - Mrs. Chester asked about the CAPG price schedule and Chair Cutforth confirmed the cost is reflective of the size of the Lethbridge Police Service.
 - Mrs. Wiebe shared details of the AAPG conference agenda.
 - Councillor Mauro had received calls in the fall regarding incidents in the downtown which then flowed into the London Road Area. Calls have decreased and wondered if something has changed from the Chief's opinion? Chief advised that weather can be a key factor and Inspector Ascroft explained about efforts of the Downtown Policing Unit and the DOT Team.
 - Councillor Mauro noticed expanding roles of the Chamber of Commerce in serving the community and wondered about any connection between LPS and the Chamber. Chief not aware of any formal connection but involvement through the Downtown Issues Committee and The Heart of Our City Committee. Discussion about the many informal relationships within the city, one example being the Retail Cop Program.
- 14) Enquiries by the Public
 - Mr. Merv Hudemka
 - Wondered if the service level will change in Lethbridge now that Lethbridge is no longer policing Coaldale. Inspector Ascroft explained the Service operated a few members short last year in anticipation so it is now a break even.
 - Asked who is responsible for setting up the electronic speed indicators in the city. Inspector Ascroft advised the City of Lethbridge Transportation Dept.
 - Encouraged the speed in residential areas to be reduced to 30 kms. Inspector Ascroft advised the residential speed limit is 50 kms in Alberta in urban areas.
- 15) Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.