



## LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

**OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES  
Wednesday, February 24, 2016  
City of Lethbridge Council Chambers  
4:00 p.m.**

### In Attendance

Lee Cutforth, Chair

Peter Deys, 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

Inspector Jason Dobirstein

Kristen Harding

Brenda Kenward

### Regrets

Councillor Bridget Mearns

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
  - The meeting was called to order by Chair Cutforth at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Agenda
  - Removal of Item – 7.c. 2016 Strategic Goals – will be discussed at a future meeting
  - **Motion by Marion Wiebe, Seconded by Jean Valgardson that the agenda be approved as amended....Carried**
- 3) Enquiries by the Public
  - Merv Hudemka wondered if police are monitoring pedestrian crosswalks. Inspector Ascroft was not aware of any formal projects currently but special projects have occurred in the past that incorporate sidewalk safety.
- 4) Approval of Minutes of January 27, 2016 Open Meeting
  - **Motion by Peter Deys, Seconded by Victoria Chester that the minutes be approved as circulated....Carried**

- 5) Business Arising
  - a) Letter from MLA – equitable police funding – Chair Cutforth
    - Letter of reply from MLA Phillips provided in agenda package for information.
  
- 6) Standing Items
  - a) ALERT Update – Inspector Anderson
    - Presented February monthly report for Lethbridge Region ALERT.
    - CFSEU assisted LPS by augmenting investigative capacity regarding two recent homicides.
    - Search warrant performed relating to one of Lethbridge’s most prolific illicit drug and property crime offenders, investigation remains ongoing.
    - CFSEU assisted ongoing investigation with RCMP involving carjackings at knifepoint in Calgary and High River by surveilling subject in Lethbridge and surrounding region. Suspect later identified and charged.
    - Focus on the trafficking of illicit drugs at the street level in Lethbridge.
    - CFSEU members arrested three individuals relating to a dial-a-dope operation.
    - Internet Child Exploitation Unit executed a search warrant and a Lethbridge resident faces numerous charges for accessing, possessing and distributing child pornography.
    - Chair Cutforth thanked Inspector Anderson for his presentation.
  
  - b) Building Expansion Update – Inspector Ascroft
    - Construction of sally port for new detention area underway and moving along.
    - Second floor administration area complete, furniture being installed.
    - New locker rooms essentially complete, lockers have been shipped and installation will take two to three weeks.
    - Plumbing, drywall and floor coating underway in detention area, cells almost complete.
    - Question raised from Commission about who is responsible for the police expansion. Inspector Ascroft advised LPS is part of the planning process but the City of Lethbridge owns the building and they manage the budget.
    - Chair Cutforth thanked Inspector Ascroft for his presentation.
  
  - c) Calls for Service – Inspector Ascroft
    - Calls for Service for January distributed in agenda package and Inspector Ascroft provided highlights from the report.
    - Overall calls for service are down 233 over the same period January 2015, in particular break and enters.
    - Step Initiative - Intersection Safety, 171 tickets
    - Questions from Commission:
      - Why is personnel per shift 22.7, while last year 25 and year before 26. Inspector Ascroft advised was due to the loss of Coaldale and six members either approaching or on maternity leave.
      - Was ticket increase in January due to weather? Inspector Ascroft advised traffic violations are up and collisions are down mostly due to weather.

- d) Financial Report – Brenda Kenward
  - Draft Financial Report distributed in agenda package, as year-end closes March 9, 2016.
  - Overall surplus of \$253,429 with Revenue accounts generating a surplus of \$200,964, Wage accounts a surplus of \$445,503, Other Operating Expenses a deficit of \$359,213, Interdepartmentals a deficit of \$40,030.
  - Surplus from 2015 will be rolled over to cover the 2016 budget deficit.
  - Chief Davis waiting for written confirmation that LPS grant will not be lost since Coaldale's departure.
  - Brenda Kenward answered the following questions from Commission:
    - Increase of veterinary bills due to a canine needing replacing.
    - Fleet vehicle cost issue that Commission addressed a year ago is being resolved. Going forward the numbers should be more in line with budget.
    - High dollar amount in Operating Expenses and Supplies is to carry over funds for life cycle spending.
    - Extra overtime mainly due to the homicide investigations but some money will be offset in the revenue account when ALERT is billed.
    - Explained some vacancies remain unfilled as they are temporary (e.g. maternity or WCB).
    - Question about who is responsible for budget - Commission, City or Police Service? Chair Cutforth explained under the Police Act, the Commission is responsible for the budget although it is created in consultation with the Chief and Administration. Budget is presented to City Council and the Commission allocates the funds accordingly.
- e) Monthly Compliments – Chief Davis
  - New addition to Open agenda stemming from action item in January Closed Meeting. Due to privacy implications, monthly compliments are discussed in the Closed Meeting but Commission would like a general overview provided in the Open Meetings going forward.
  - January Compliments: 3 Citizen/External, 4 Community Partners, 1 Internal

## 7) New Business

- a) 2015 Subject Behaviour Officer Response Annual Report – Sergeant Olsen
  - Chief Davis shared his pride in how LPS deals with use of force as it is a different culture coming from Ontario. It is apparent when you see how LPS officers interact with the public and witness the de-escalation of situations. It is important to recognize the work that the officers do to make sure we live that standard as a police service.
  - Sergeant Jim Olsen presented the 2015 Subject Behaviour Officer Response Annual Report to Commission. Highlights of the presentation:
    - Explanation of when a Use of Force Report is completed, its purpose in evaluating the effectiveness of training and whether there needs to be a change in delivery and/or frequency. Collection of data for statistical purposes and to identify any trends, safety concerns.

- Over 99% of calls for service where officers interacted with the public, members did not have to use any use of force, which is very positive.
- Members follow de-escalation procedures. Reasonable officer response is a framework for the officers to make decisions. Explanation of techniques.
- Statistical information is gathered and a report provided to the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police (AACP). Over the last few years there have been new ways to capture statistical data.
- Increase of reports in 2015 due to expanded reporting requirements, additional tools (soc round) additional accountability (Canine and Tactical Units reporting), increase in calls for service, increase in volume of weapons and amount of crime on the street.
- Meet training standards with the province, CALEA standards and LPS policy.
- Focus on active shooter/scenario based training. Incorporating the Fire Department with training (medical intervention).
- Questions from the Commission:
  - Wondered how 99.62% compares to other communities. Sergeant Olsen shared in comparing similar population sizes (e.g. Brantford and Winnipeg) the percentages are very similar. Could have something to do with training across Canada and the sharing of information.
  - What would the different requirements be from the Solicitor General in CEW reporting? Sergeant Olsen explained AACP sets standards, changes can be made to the standards or through recommendations.
  - Peter Deys encouraged new Commission members to participate in simulator training. Shared appreciation regarding involving training with Fire Department, wondered who determines when they would be called to assist? Sergeant Olsen explained additional meetings will take place to discuss rolling out initiative.
  - Why is soc gun not used by Tac Team? Sergeant Olsen explained the patrol teams have access to less than lethal options and Tac Team to more lethal options, providing two highly trained units working together.
  - Cause for 2% increase in downtown? Sergeant Olsen thought this could be due to officers being in the downtown a lot and it has been a busy year.
- Chair Cutforth thanked Sergeant Olsen for his presentation.
- b) 2015 Professional Standards Annual Report – Deputy Chief Catonio
  - Deputy Chief Catonio presented the 2015 Professional Standards Annual Report to Commission. Highlights of the presentation:
    - Discipline process governed by the Police Act and Police Service Regulations. Legislation allows for investigations into complaints made by members of the public against the policies or services of the Police Service, or an internal complaint of officer conduct.
    - Explained the compliant and appeal process and the complaints received.
  - Peter Deys, Public Complaint Director for the Commission, echoed the good work of the Professional Standards Unit. Discussion that it would be beneficial to include the role of the Public Complaint Director in future reporting.

- Deputy Chief Catonio confirmed that in a citizen contact scenario, contact information of the Public Complaint Director is provided.
  - Commission to receive copies of PowerPoint presentations in future.
  - Question if it is typical that out of 23 allegations, five were sustained. Deputy Chief advised he cannot define typical, rather the role of the Chief of Police is to decide whether or not there is sufficient evidence that the matter go to a hearing to prove misconduct. If not, there would be no hearing/discipline.
  - Chair Cutforth thanked Deputy Chief Catonio for his presentation.
- c) Lethbridge Police Commission Policy Manual Amendment/FOIP Fee – Marion Wiebe
- Currently Appendix 4, FOIP Fee schedule, outlines various fees relating to FOIP but this is out of date. Lethbridge Police Commission FOIP Coordinator David Sarsfield suggested removing the fee listing and replacing with a clause to refer to the FOIP Act and Regulations. This will ensure consistency.
  - Discussion ensued. Mr. Sarsfield explained the FOIP process to Commission and his role as FOIP Coordinator for the Lethbridge Police Commission, along with the City of Lethbridge. There is potential for conflict if the LPS FOIP Coordinator is used for Commission business (e.g. Police Association matters). Mr. Sarsfield advised he has yet to receive a FOIP request relating to Commission.
  - **Motion by Marion Wiebe, Seconded by Jean Valgardson that the Lethbridge Police Commission amend Lethbridge Police Commission Policy and Procedure Manual, Appendix 4, by removing the fee listing and replacing it with a reference to the FOIP Act for the fee structure.....Carried**
- 8) Enquiries by the Police Commission
- Peter Deys wondered if the government announcement of providing 6-8 detox beds for Lethbridge could impact the plans for a safe sobering site. Chief Davis advised it is ideal to have both detox and intox beds, and detox is a good start. Inspector Ascroft will attend a meeting on Monday for more information. Explanation provided of the difference between intox (sobering site) and detox (preparation to get into a treatment program) beds.
  - Councillor Mauro has received calls about bright head lights/fog lights and wondered if police ticket this? Inspector Ascroft will look into and report back.
  - Councillor Mauro asked if police play a role in setting speeds on certain streets or the length/time of turning lane lights. Has received concerns about length of turning lane lights. Chief Davis explained it is the responsibility of the City Traffic Department to determine and the police to enforce. Professional Engineers have standards but do consult with police on an ad-hoc basis.
  - Jean Valgardson wondered if the large cement meridian (Stafford and 6 Ave) is intended to make up for safety challenges? Inspector Ascroft thought it a traffic calming device but will report back.
  - Victoria Chester asked if there will be any impact with the civilian volunteer force being asked to cease work with police or RCMP? Chief Davis advised LPS does not currently have any auxiliary program but it will be one of the 2016

strategic priorities to implement. Medicine Hat has an auxiliary program and has no intent to disband it, same goes with discussions with colleagues in Ontario. How the RCMP utilizes their auxiliaries is different so currently there is no impact and will not deter the plan to implement in Lethbridge.

9) Enquiries by the Public

- Merv Hudemka
  - No longer receives information from Neighbourhood Watch so asked about an altercation the evening of Feb 3 at the 1200 block of 7 Ave S. Inspector Ascroft will look into this incident.
  - Deer injured on Mayor Magrath near Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden on Jan 27. Wondered if it was a hit and run or if the stopped vehicles were involved. Asked if there is protocol as the animal was struggling for quite a while and he thought it took longer than it should have for the police officer to bring the animal down. Inspector Ascroft will look into this.
  - Councillor Mauro asked whether Commission gets notified whether citizen enquiries have been dealt with. Chair Cutforth not aware of a formal process to report back to Commission. Regarding the public enquiry last month, Chair Cutforth looked into matter and a letter was sent outlining the outcome but historically the information has not been reported back to Commission. Explained that if matters will be looked into, it will get done.
  - Victoria Chester wondered if the Crime Mapping software could provide Mr. Hudemka some information. Kristen Harding, Executive Officer, explained the information is not in detail due to privacy issues. A news release would be distributed if there was a public safety situation.

10) Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.