



## LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

### OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016  
City of Lethbridge Council Chambers  
4:00 p.m.

#### In Attendance

Lee Cutforth, Chair

Peter Deys, Vice-Chair

Councillor Joe Mauro

Councillor Bridget Mearns

Victoria Chester

Simon Griffiths

D. Jean Valgardson

Carmen Hellawell (Recording Secretary)

Chief Robert Davis

Inspector Bill Anderson

Inspector Tom Ascroft

Inspector Jason Dobirstein

Kristen Harding

Brenda Kenward

#### Regrets

Shilpa Stocker

Marion Wiebe

Deputy Chief Colin Catonio

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
  - The meeting was called to order by Chair Cutforth at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Agenda
  - **Motion by Jean Valgardson, Seconded by Peter Deys that the agenda be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 3) Approval of Minutes of April 27, 2016 Open Meeting
  - **Motion by Victoria Chester, Seconded by Simon Griffiths that the minutes be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 4) Business Arising
  - a) Follow Up to Public Enquires – Inspector Ascroft
    - Staff Sergeant Smith spoke with Ms. Aucoin before the start of the meeting and will continue to work with her regarding her concerns.
- 5) Standing Items
  - a) ALERT Update – Inspector Bill Anderson
    - Presented May monthly report for Lethbridge Region ALERT.

- CFSEU assisted Downtown Policing Unit on a short term project focused on the dealing of illicit drugs at street level resulting in the arrest of a prolific offender; purchased small quantity of illicit drugs in downtown core; and a search warrant resulted in the seizure of prescription pills and stolen clothing.
  - Search warrant on north-side residence located illicit drugs, proceeds of crime, shot gun and shells. Lethbridge resident facing numerous criminal charges.
  - Search warrant on west-side residence by ICE Unit. Evidence collected to support charges of making, accessing, possessing and distributing child pornography. Investigation initiated by LPS School Resource Officers.
  - Questions from Commission:
    - Clarification of Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit provided.
    - Councillor Mauro asked why Commission receives this monthly report. Chief Davis advised that Jean Valgardson is a member of the ALERT Board (civilian oversight) which is funded through provincial dollars so ALERT reports are provided in public. Inspector Anderson added this standing item was initiated by past Commission/ALERT Board Member Councillor Iwaskiw who asked for this overview to share what ALERT contributes to the city and is for Commission information only.
- b) Building Expansion Update – Inspector Ascroft
- Moved into new executive and forensics area (exception of lab itself), basement locker rooms and gym. Demolition of old locker rooms and gym underway.
  - Victim Service Unit has moved into a temporary space to allow for demolition of the central part of main floor.
  - Drywalling underway in new CID area, work continues on the new cell area and exterior siding is essentially complete on addition.
- c) Calls for Service – Inspector Ascroft
- Calls for Service for April distributed in agenda package and Inspector Ascroft provided highlights from the report.
    - Overall calls for service are 286 lower than last year at this point in time. Annually 682 calls for service lower than 2015.
    - Collisions are down significantly from 266 to 208.
    - STEP initiative – speed – 265 violation tickets issued.
    - Councillor Mauro asked about the level of enforcement of seat belts and cell phones as he was recently stopped for cell phone use and did not receive a ticket. Inspector Ascroft advised ticketing is by officer discretion but the more serious the offence, the less discretion allowed.
    - Victoria Chester asked why the increase in violation tickets this year. Inspector Ascroft explained photo enforcement is now back to where it was a few years ago as faulty equipment was replaced and staffing issues in photo enforcement are corrected. Distracted driving ticket numbers are not provided monthly to Commission but shown as a STEP initiative when allocated by provincial enforcement.



changed to reflect the role of civilian oversight and the separation of that from the body of Council and agreed it should be a formal request of Council to Commission. Councillor Mearns suggested a City Council Community Issues Committee Meeting and bring it forward as a community issue.

- **ACTION: Councillor Mauro and Councillor Mearns to discuss with the City Council agenda committee when the legalization of marihuana discussion can be placed on an upcoming Community Issues Committee (CIC) Meeting.**
  - Victoria Chester asked about testing equipment. Chief Davis advised AACP passed a resolution, now going to CACP, and is a conduit for discussion with the Minister of Public Safety at the federal level. Equipment was identified for road side testing but the challenge will be the combination of marihuana and alcohol and how to test for a blend of substances.
  - Councillor Mauro asked about involvement of the Solicitor General's office. Inspector Dobirstein advised they are part of the working group.
- b) Resolution at AACP regarding PowerCase and Advancement to CACP – Chief Davis
- For information purposes, Chief Davis took the lead on an AACP resolution for the adoption of an interprovincial major case management system.
  - An investigative system (set of rules) for police investigation of major cases to ensure they are done thoroughly and to find those responsible for crimes.
  - Breakdown in Canada due to lack of interlinking with police agencies which came to light in the wake of the Ontario Paul Bernardo murders. Inquiry was held and Judge Campbell's 1996 report stated all police services need to use software to communicate during serious investigations. Mandate then created for all Ontario police services to use a provincially driven interoperable software for information sharing. Effective due to being provincially driven, has been in place in Ontario for over a decade and it works. Stemming from the Pickton murders came the Oupal inquiry where it was suggested that a national level of linkages is required. Many transient workers come to Alberta, a highway links the country and Alberta is not using interoperable software. Now added focus of the Provincial and Federal Government for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Inquiry (MMIW).
  - API3 project by Alberta Government in mid 2000s (experimental data base) to share information turned into a multi-million dollar endeavor which was not completed. This on the other hand is an interoperable software working successfully in Ontario and the Vancouver Police now implemented.
  - Chief Davis put resolution forward at the AACP AGM which was voted upon and passed and Chief is proud LPS has taken the lead on this initiative. An affordable software system and if all Alberta police services joined there would be bulk discounts. Would be beneficial to have it mandated as it was in Ontario and Chief will be attending CACP to bring this forward federally.
  - Councillor Mearns agreed this is important and thanked the Chief for the information. Clarification was received this would be a Canada wide link if implemented in Alberta. Councillor Mearns wondered why there has been past hesitation and Chief thought it could be fear of the unknown.

- Victoria Chester asked about cost of implementation and cost of purchasing solely vs. group discount. Chief Davis advised the software is very affordable with bigger savings if more police services take part. Chief is also confident LPS Niche records management system would augment this system.
- Peter Deys asked why LPS does not implement now. Chief Davis advised due to potential bulk discount and greater linkages to run north/south/within province.
- Councillor Mauro asked how situations are currently handled in the country. Chief advised through the national DNA/Fingerprint data base but investigative pieces are missing. Councillor Mauro wondered why the province doesn't move forward and LPS find budget money to start now. Chief Davis explained a committee for major case management software has been created and the Chief will take this to the national level. Specific timeframe not available as other agencies are involved but hope is for a provincially mandated standard. Discussion whether a letter of support by Councils would be helpful.
- **ACTION: Chief Davis to discuss with the AACP president whether collecting letters of support from Alberta City Councils for PowerCase is requested.**
- Jean Valgardson asked if ALERT framework would open some connectedness for support and Chief Davis thought if it becomes a provincial policing standard for major cases it could benefit the Integrated Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit.

#### 7) Enquiries by the Police Commission

- Peter Deys referred to a news article last week about RCMP in BC using camera scopes to catch distracted drivers in 1.2 km range. Wondered if LPS would have interest in this. Inspector Ascroft's thoughts were what LPS does now is quite effective and does not know how it would be accepted by the public.
- Councillor Mauro wondered how public is informed of Commission Meetings. Chief Davis explained they are advertised in City Hall and on the City of Lethbridge Website.
- Councillor Mauro wondered if public could receive copies of the financial statements discussed at meetings. Chair Cutforth explained public can ask for information through the Lethbridge Police Commission recording secretary but it would be by the direction of the Commission what is provided. Carmen Hellawell advised in the past an agenda package was provided to media with a specification not to publicize until the completion of the meeting. The agenda and approved meeting minutes are posted on the City of Lethbridge Website by the City Clerk's Office. Commission has an email address of [lpc@lethbridgepolice.ca](mailto:lpc@lethbridgepolice.ca) which is monitored by the recording secretary.
- Councillor Mauro received a concern regarding overgrown bushes near the Stafford Drive overpass over Crowsnest Trail. City Manager had the Parks Department trim the bushes but it still leaves the concern that people hide in the bushes. Chief Davis said he walks by that area daily and has not witnessed any problems with people in the bushes. LPS Traffic Unit has recently verified there are no issues with sight lines. Transients do go under the train track bridge but a CP Rail police officer now assigned is aware of this.

## 8) Enquiries by the Public

Ms. Darlene Aucoin

- Reviewed the LPS 2014 Annual Report and number of service calls. As a property manager has dealings with both nuisance, disturbance and keep the piece and has noticed a disturbing trend. Shared her concerns with policies, procedures, underreporting and data base utilization. Listed seven items at previous meeting she wished to work with the Police and Commission.
- Following April Commission meeting has met with Staff Sergeant Smith to review complaints and further investigate situation. Both agreed this is a work in progress and discussed the no nuisance action plan, no nuisance bylaw, landlord/tenant issues, LPS website, Facebook and community expectations. Agreed to work together on a common goal. Website improvements provided.
- Received clarification from Chair Cutforth that he did not heard back from Regulatory Services regarding Ms. Aucoin's email.
- Under Provincial Tobacco Act private residents are exempt so 35% of Canadians who live in multi-family dwellings have to put up with smoking. Ms. Aucoin asked if there could be consideration of multi-family dwellings when bringing suggestions to the Federal Government regarding marihuana.

Mike Vercillo

- Asked whether members of the audience could be provided back up documents. Chair Cutforth advised Commission will have discussions about this.
- Continues to have people using building entrance as a washroom and wondered about plans for bathrooms in the downtown area. Inspector Ascroft confirmed one will be installed this summer (corner of 4 Ave/7 St.) and plans for more.
- Received clarification regarding prostitution legislation due to the possible occurrence at his building. Inspector Ascroft explained police respond to complaints and use proactive measures.

Shari Mead

- Wondered if Chief Davis has considered purchasing the PowerCase equipment with a possibility of receiving a kickback when other services sign on. Chief explained this is relatively fresh but there is traction and momentum from bigger partners in the province and a reasonable timeline.

Merv Hudemka

- Discussion about enforcement of expired license plates and the websites available to remind public of the upcoming expiry, such as AMA.
- Asked if LPS sent officers to Fort McMurray during the fires. Inspector Ascroft advised LPS inquired but additional police were not required.

## 9) Meeting Adjournment

Chair Cutforth advised after 36 years of loyal and dedicated service Deputy Chief Catonio will be retiring this month and thanked him for his solid, calm leadership and shared that his wisdom and strength of character is highly valued and will be dearly missed. He provided thanks from a grateful Commission and city.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.