



## LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

### OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 29, 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

Shilpa Stocker

D. Jean Valgardson

Marion Wiebe

Carmen Hellowell (Recording Secretary)

Acting Chief Jason Dobirstein

Inspector Bill Anderson

Acting Inspector Jeff Mantyak

Acting Inspector Dwayne Smith

Kristen Harding

Brenda Kenward

#### Regrets

Chief Robert Davis

Inspector Tom Ascroft

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
  - The meeting was called to order by Chair Cutforth at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Agenda
  - Addition: New Business - to be discussed before the existing New Business Item - Law Enforcement Review Board Annual Report
  - **Motion by Victoria Chester, Seconded by Peter Deys that the agenda be approved as amended....Carried**
- 3) Approval of Minutes of May 25, 2016 Open Meeting
  - Councillor Mearns asked for clarification regarding the motion made last meeting involving discussion of the potential legalization of marihuana at an upcoming Community Issues Committee Meeting. Her understanding was the request to attend the meeting was to be brought forward by the Commission. Chair Cutforth suggested under item 5b. that Councillor Mearns request clarification for the record.
  - **Motion by Peter Deys, Seconded by Jean Valgardson that the minutes be approved as circulated....Carried**

- 4) Community Futures Treaty Seven – Lethbridge Police Service
  - Introduction of Students
    - Acting Chief Dobirstein introduced Shay-Lynn Strikes with a Gun and Rochelle Shouting, current summer students at LPS. Community Futures Treaty Seven Summer Student Program assists First Nations Treaty Status students in preparing for their entry into the labour market and provides employers with assistance in offsetting wage costs. This provides the opportunity to explore a career in law enforcement through observation and participation with police officers.
    - Chair Cutforth, on behalf of Commission, welcomed both summer students.
  
- 5) Business Arising
  - a) Follow Up to Public Enquires – Acting Inspector Smith
    - Acting Inspector Smith has met with Darlene Aucoin regarding concerns she brought forward a few months ago. Since then, they have met, reviewed data and discussed various matters and he believes they have reached a resolution. Information involving their discussions was provided to Commission.
  
  - b) Action Item:
    - 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.
      - Carmen Hellowell provided an overview from the meeting recording of the last Commission Meeting pertaining to this item.
      - Councillor Mearns advised for this item to be placed on a CIC Meeting agenda, there would need to be a formal request made.
      - **ACTION: Chair Cutforth to discuss with Chief Davis how to proceed with the formal request to have the potential legalization of marihuana discussion form part of a future Community Issues Committee (CIC) Meeting.**
      - Councillor Mauro asked for clarification about his suggestion at the last meeting for an informal meeting of the Lethbridge Police Commission, Lethbridge Police Service Executive and City Council as these meetings occurred when he was past on Commission. Chair Cutforth suggested in keeping with policy and procedures that a request should come from City Council to the Commission, who would then notify LPS Executive.
  
- 6) Standing Items
  - a) ALERT Update – Inspector Bill Anderson
    - Presented June monthly report for Lethbridge Region ALERT.
    - CFSEU assisted the RCMP and Edmonton Police Service with outlaw motorcycle gang runs throughout the province; continued to operate in downtown core in support of curbing criminal activity; conducted a search warrant on a residence in Fort MacLeod leading to the arrest of a long time illicit drug trafficker; and entered into investigations where stolen firearms and illicit drugs were recovered.

- Operation Ice Storm 3 concluded in late June with the arrest of 10 child sexual exploitation suspects with arrests in Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Calgary.
- Councillor Mauro suggested all standing item information be included in the agenda package to allow Commission to review before meeting. Discussion ensued about how information may not be up to date but updates could be provided at the meeting. Monthly compliments would be excluded due to confidentiality.
- **Motion by Councillor Mauro, Seconded by Councillor Mearns that commencing the next Lethbridge Police Commission Meeting that all Standing Items have a written report included in the agenda package, excluding monthly compliments....Carried**

**(Opposed: Marion Wiebe)**

- b) Building Expansion Update – Acting Chief Dobirstein
  - Staff parking lot being paved and should be completed this week which will reduce the congestion on the entire site and improve visitor parking.
  - Demolition of basement underway.
  - Cells are nearing completion, hope for use by end of July.
  - Doors installed in new sally port essentially completing that area.
  - Some discussions to relocate some of our Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU) personnel back into the building.
  
- c) Calls for Service – Acting Inspector Smith
  - Calls for Service for May distributed in agenda package and Acting Inspector Smith provided highlights from the report.
    - Collisions are down in May over the past few years.
    - STEP initiative-Distracted Driving, 114 violation tickets, mostly cellphone use
    - Top 5 Calls for Service are consistent each month
  - Simon Griffiths noticed personnel per shift ranges from month to month and wondered if this is something Commission should be monitoring and if this number makes a difference to the Service? Acting Chief Dobirstein appreciates Commission being aware of this situation and advised after this meeting a discussion will take place regarding the data reported for Commission. LPS is in the process of recruiting and hoping for a recruit class in February and an experienced officer class this September.
  - Councillor Mauro asked why photo radar tickets have increased year to date 2015-2016. Acting Inspector Smith advised that issues with the operators and faulty equipment have been resolved and LPS no longer provides enforcement in Coaldale, providing more for Lethbridge. A combination of many factors.
  - Clarification that photo radar operates seven days a week with different shifts, enforcing speeding. The Intersection Safety Devices enforce both speeding and red light infractions. Distracted driving violations include three demerit points.

- d) Monthly Compliments – Acting Chief Dobirstein
  - o May Compliments: 6 Citizen/External, 2 Community Partners
  
- 7) New Business
  - a) Law Enforcement Review Board – Peter Deys
    - o Peter Deys, Public Complaints Director, received the Law Enforcement Review Board (LERB) 2015 Annual Report and provided an explanation of the LERB.
    - o In 2015, nine appeals were filed in Calgary, 49 in Edmonton, two in Lethbridge (down from three last year), 0 in Medicine Hat and Camrose and four from other jurisdictions for a total of 64.
    - o LERB Target of 80% to render a decision within 60 days after the date of the hearing ended up achieving 31% in 2015. Recognition made that they need to provide their decisions quicker.
    - o Any member wishing to review the report, please contact Peter Deys.
  
  - b) Automated Property Reporting for Pawn Brokers and Second Hand Dealers – Staff Sergeant Woods and Sergeant Smallbones
    - o Presentation provided regarding proposed changes to Bylaw 5658. With an increase in property offences, a better system has been identified to track transactions with pawn brokers and second hand stores, going from a paper to electronic system. Bylaw last revised November 28, 2011.
    - o Electronic software program is connected to Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) which cross references serial numbers each time items are entered in program. Businesses only enter information and do not have access to query. Data can be obtained and monitored by police within 24 hrs with easy search capabilities. Items and people can also be flagged in system.
    - o Cost of program is charged to business who then charges the price back to individual converting property to cash.
    - o The two businesses that currently report transactions to police support the change to electronic monitoring.
    - o City of Lethbridge Senior Bylaw Officer has been consulted.
    - o LPS is asking that Commission support the request to amend the City of Lethbridge Business License Bylaw 5658 to allow for the electronic collection of data as it pertains to merchandise pawned or purchased and further that the endorsement be forwarded to City administration for review and drafting of bylaw for approval by Council.
    - o Questions by Commission:
      - Peter Deys wondered how many businesses are pawn shops or second hand stores. Sergeant Smallbones advised there is one pawn shop and several second hand dealerships.
      - Councillor Mearns agreed it makes sense to go electronic, wondered about a time limit involved. Sergeant Smallbones advised it would be up to City Council when the bylaw amendment is discussed.

- Confirmation provided this is a national data base and the companies legally have to enter the serial numbers. Cost would be 30 - 70 cents per transaction.
- **Motion by Jean Valgardson, Seconded by Marion Wiebe that the Lethbridge Police Commission write a letter of support for the amendment of the City of Lethbridge Bylaw 5658 as presented....Carried**

8) Enquiries by the Police Commission

- Peter Deys noticed two Commissionaires at the front counter when last at the Lethbridge Police Service and wondered if there has been a change in process. Acting Inspector Smith advised there is training of new Commissionaire staff for holiday relief, etc.
- Councillor Mauro received an email from a citizen who wondered if they had to attend a Commission Meeting to ask a question. Councillor Mauro advised questions could be forwarded to the Chief or Commission Chair and the citizen forwarded the question to Councillor Mauro - would LPS consider hiring Community Peace Officers (CPO) Level 1 to direct traffic and perform photo radar as it may be more of a cost advantage to assist enforcement. Acting Chief Dobirstein advised some municipalities have CPOs that perform traffic enforcement such as Medicine Hat. LPS has had discussions about this scenario and he will respond to the citizen. Acting Inspector Smith advised LPS photo radar is operated by CPOs and run by the Commissionaires as the CPO designation is required to perform traffic enforcement.

9) Enquiries by the Public

- Darlene Aucoin met with Acting Inspector Smith and now has a better understanding of LPS procedures and believes Acting Inspector Smith has also gained a better understanding of citizen concerns. Ms. Aucoin thanked him for his time and consideration and to the Commission for the time to speak as a concerned citizen.

10) Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.