



## LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

### OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 25, 2017  
City of Lethbridge Council Chambers  
4:00 p.m.

#### In Attendance

Lee Cutforth, Chair

Peter Deys, Vice-Chair

Councillor Liz Iwaskiw

Councillor Joe Mauro

Victoria Chester

Simon Griffiths

D. Jean Valgardson

Marion Wiebe

Carmen Hellawell (Recording Secretary)

Chief Robert Davis

Inspector Bill Anderson

Inspector Tom Ascroft

Inspector Jason Dobirstein

Kristen Harding

Brenda Kenward

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
  - The meeting was called to order by Chair Cutforth at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Agenda
  - Addition: 9.h. CAPG Membership – Chair Cutforth
  - Postponed to Next Meeting: 9.e. First Nations Policing Policy Renewal – Chief Davis
  - **Motion by Councillor Iwaskiw, Seconded by Marion Wiebe that the agenda be approved as amended....Carried**
- 3) Officer Appreciation by Johnston Family
  - Appreciation was provided by the Johnston family to the Lethbridge Police Service and Victim/Witness Service Unit for their assistance involving the accident of Mr. Johnston
  - Chair Cutforth thanked the Johnston family for their presentation
- 4) Presentation – Chief's Certificate of Commendation
  - Chief Davis presented Constable Leanne Christos and Constable David Warner with a Chief's Certificate of Commendation for performing CPR which saved a man's life
- 5) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
  - **Nomination by Peter Deys and Seconded by Councillor Iwaskiw that Lee Cutforth remain Chair of the Lethbridge Police Commission.** As there were no other nominations, Lee Cutforth accepted and was acclaimed Chair

- **Nomination by Jean Valgardson, Seconded by Councillor Iwaskiw that Peter Deys remain Vice-Chair of the Lethbridge Police Commission.** As there were no other nominations, Peter Deys accepted and was acclaimed Vice-Chair
- 6) Approval of Minutes of November 30, 2016 Open Meeting
- **Motion by Marion Wiebe, Seconded by Jean Valgardson that the minutes be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 7) Business Arising
- There was no business arising
- 8) Standing Items
- a) ALERT Update – Inspector Anderson
- December 2016 and January 2017 report for Lethbridge Region ALERT was circulated previously to members, the following was added since distribution:
    - Lethbridge ICE assisted RCMP with a reported sexual assault and numerous criminal charges have been laid against a 33 year old male. Investigation also identified three young females who were the target of luring for a sexual purpose by the male, investigations ongoing
  - Commission asked whether LPS members have the Fentanyl antidote Naloxone. Inspector Ascroft advised LPS is working with suppliers, having discussions with the union and should roll out soon
- b) Building Expansion Update – Inspector Ascroft
- On track for substantive completion in March with a few weather dependent items remaining
  - Scare over the January 13/14 weekend due to a carbon monoxide escape into the building resulted in a short evacuation. Does not appear to be any lasting health effects on staff and volunteers
  - Questions from Commission:
    - Clarification that project is on budget and that Dawson Wallace will complete deficiencies
    - Carbon monoxide issue occurred due to weather conditions and venting, equipment will be installed to ensure this does not happen again
- c) Calls for Service – Inspector Ascroft
- Calls for Service for November and December distributed in agenda package and Inspector Ascroft provided highlights from the report:
    - November - calls for service up 153, year to date down 2200 over last year
    - Increase in calls mostly due to thefts from vehicles
    - STEP Initiative - Pedestrian Safety – 5 violation tickets
    - December - calls for service down 215, year to date down 2400 over last year
    - Thefts were down, likely due to weather
    - STEP Initiative - Holiday Check Stop – 12 impaired driving violations, one refusal
    - Provided overview of the Calls for Service Summary Statistics for 2016

- Questions/comments from Commission:
  - Wondered if crime has been displaced to the west side since it has decreased downtown. Inspector Ascroft agreed displacement has occurred and officers will be placed where they are needed
  - Conventional tickets being lower would attribute to LPS having an average decrease of two officers per shift
  - Discussion about the budget allotted for tickets with the understanding that revenue goes to the municipality not the police service
  - Council members have received suggestions for a consistent speed on Whoop Up Drive through the season but it was confirmed speed is decided through city legislation through civil engineers and police enforce the law
  - Clarification that the 12 impaired charges were over .08
  
- d) Financial Report – Brenda Kenward
  - Year-end closes March 3, draft report will be provided at the next meeting
  
- e) Monthly Compliments – Chief Davis
  - Going forward, it was decided to highlight some of the compliments received, omitting personal details
  - November Compliments: 2 Citizen/External, 2 Community Partners, 1 Internal
    - Compliment from Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) for the assistance LPS provided in shuttering a problem residence
    - Constable on shift saved a man's life
  - December Compliments: 5 Citizen/External, 3 Community Partners, 1 Internal
    - Victim/Witness Service member turned in a wallet with over \$1000 cash
    - Citizen thanked constable for assisting his son while stopped on Whoop Up Drive in his vehicle, staying to ensure his safety
  
- 9) New Business
  - a) VoIP Phones and 911 – Chris Kearns, PSCC Manager
    - Open invitation for Commission to tour Public Safety Communications Centre
    - Explained background of PSCC and their function
    - Regulation of telephone service regarding 911 calls and revenue received
    - Local residents using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone services may have 911 calls routed to other parts of the country through contracted dispatch call centres, causing possible delays in 911 service delivery
    - Inquiry last year stemming from emergency call with delay in police arrival was due to VoIP system needing to route call to PSCC
    - Canadian Radio Television Commission (CRTC) continues to make regulations
    - Questions from Commission:
      - Clarification about the Ridge Regional Public Safety Services location
      - Land line revenue is decreasing but province has started collecting wireless revenue which is offsetting that loss

- Does the 911 revenue cover the cost of PSCC operations? Expenses are covered through a variety of ways - AHS for EMS dispatch, revenue from other areas and LPS indirectly has budget lines, tax based transfer of funds
    - Reason for bringing to Commission is to help educate the public
    - VoIP providers are not common business names such as TELUS or Shaw
    - VoIP used to alleviate cost of telephone service
    - People may be often unaware they are using a VoIP phone
    - Clarification that delays in service delivery may not be all due to VoIP but for this situation public education is key regarding 911 service
  - Chief Davis advised that Bary Beck had requested this information be presented for public awareness and Chief Davis suggested for further education have public service announcements through City Corporate Communications
  - Councillor Iwaskiw invited Chris Kearns to make this presentation to City Council
- b) River House Stats – Inspector Ascroft
  - Removed names to protect those involved, stats show how hard to serve individuals from the community were provided housing and data shows how all but one individual had a large reduction in the amount of police calls since
  - One example of how LPS has reduced the amount of calls for service
  - Not scientific but gives an idea on the return on investment of this initiative
- c) 2016 Year in Review – Chief Davis
  - Highlights of the report:
    - Road to Mental Readiness Program (R2MR) – for positive mental health
    - Consultant Peter Bellmio hired to undertake a comprehensive analysis of LPS operations to ensure the most efficient and effective deployment of resources based on data – work is ongoing and will continue in 2017
    - Hired three experienced officers
    - Our first “Part-Time” Constable. It is really a reduced FTE working 30 hours a week on average. Was a strategy negotiated with CPA/LPS to help retain officers after Parental Leave.
    - Diversion Outreach Team (DOT) assisted with public order calls to free up officer time
    - Forensic Computer Tech has seen a 38% increase in workload since 2014
    - LPS firearms instructors created a carbine training program and provided training to members of the Blood Tribe Police Service
    - Two new UAV operators were trained
  - Questions/comments from Commission:
    - Regarding the increase in domestic violence incidents, wondered if there is any multi-disciplinary involvement for this issue? Inspector Anderson advised there is a pro-active approach with a biweekly meeting with Probation, the Crown, Family and Social Services, etc.
    - Blue Line Magazine article related to carbines and wondered if LPS officers will carry these on beat? Chief Davis advised they are only deployed for specific incidents. In line with Mayerthorpe and McNeil inquiries.

- Compliment regarding the DOT program, employees are staffed through a contract with Canadian Mental Health who work very closely with police
- Compliment from Councillor Mauro to Chief Davis regarding his work with LPS stemming from feedback from the community. Chief directed these compliments toward the work of front line officers and staff
- Are domestic violence calls increasing due to immigrant population and what type of training have the officers received? Inspector Anderson said specific training is being looked into, currently there is a two day Family Violence Training. There is also training for new immigrants through Lethbridge Family Services Immigrant Services

d) Truth & Reconciliation Commission – Chief Davis

- Chief Davis shared information regarding aboriginal engagement on Commission for information and action as Commission sees fit
- Recommendation from the Opal inquiry in 2012 included police boards being truly representative of the communities they serve and to take steps to ensure representation of vulnerable and marginalized members and Aboriginal Peoples
- Recent update of the Round Street Report identifies just under 16% of the City of Lethbridge is Aboriginal (16,000)
- Aboriginal Council of Lethbridge (ACL) has ceased to exist due to stoppage of Federal funding
- Work is occurring by individuals and the Corporation but a gap still exists
- External funding to an external agency is always determined by external forces, pressures and politics
- Believes this voice should be on Commission with sincere engagement, truth and trust, be organic, be built on dialogue and two way communication
- Explained five options that the Lethbridge Police Commission could take:
  - Establish additional seats on the Lethbridge Police Commission
  - Encourage City Council to establish a Standing Committee of Council
  - City Council establish additional seats on Council for the Aboriginal Community
  - Special Advisor of Aboriginal Affairs to the Lethbridge Police Commission
  - Ad-Hoc Committee of the Police Commission
- Struggle has been to keep people engaged for the long haul
- Chief shared these ideas so they can be discussed going forward
- Questions/Comments by Commission:
  - Lethbridge Police Commission has tried engaging aboriginal members in the past with limited success
  - Councillor Iwaskiw provided a correction to the third option being any additional seats would have to be on the Police Commission, not Council, due to legislation
  - Does Chief want this discussion with Council also? Chief thought it would be best to focus on Commission at this point
  - Commission will continue this discussion at the next meeting

- e) First Nations Policing Policy Renewal – Chief Davis
  - i. Chiefs of Similar Services
  - ii. CACP
  - iii. Consultations in October
    - o All items postponed to the next meeting
  
- f) PowerCase Update – Chief Davis
  - i. Alberta
    - In spring of 2016, Chief presented this information to Commission relating to the lack of sharing of major case files within Alberta and Canada
    - Chief Davis put forward a resolution at the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police Conference that all agencies begin to move to a proven data base for communication in major case files
    - Work occurring in Edmonton Police Service so there is momentum occurring
  - ii. CACP
    - Chief Davis made a presentation in August of 2016 to the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Conference, not much reception received
    - Optimistic with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Inquiry that there will be some momentum going forward
    - Provided these updates to Commission as there was interest when it was first brought to their attention and it is moving in the right direction
  
- g) AAPG – Chair Cutforth
  - i. 2017 Membership Fee
    - Alberta Association of Police Governance 2017 Membership fee of \$500 was received for the Lethbridge Police Commission
    - Agreement to renew this annual membership
    - **Motion by Peter Deys, Seconded by Victoria Chester that the Lethbridge Police Commission pay the 2017 AAPG Membership Fee....Carried**
  - ii. Annual General Meeting – May 13, 2017
    - Members asked to review the Annual General Meeting and Conference information for possible attendance
    - Councillor Mauro indicated his interest but thought it was more important that the volunteers being appointed for up to six years attend
    - Call for Nominations – interested LPC members are encouraged to contact Marion who will be stepping down in this capacity at the end of 2017
    - Marion encouraged participation from LPC, advised she became a board member within two months of serving on Commission
    - Call for Resolutions – for information
  - iii. Request for Proposal for 2018 Conference
    - After discussion agreement that LPC would not submit a proposal for 2018

- h) CAPG Membership – Chair Cutforth
  - o Canadian Association of Police Governance 2017 membership fee of \$1070 was received for the Lethbridge Police Commission
  - o Agreement to renew this annual membership
  - o **Motion by Jean Valgardson, Seconded by Victoria Chester that the Lethbridge Police Commission pay the 2017 CAPG Membership Fee....Carried**
  
- 10) Enquiries by the Police Commission
  - Chair Cutforth asked for well wishes to be passed on to the officer assaulted and asked how she is doing. Inspector Ascroft advised she received a concussion but may be well enough to return to her next scheduled shift
  
- 11) Enquiries by the Public
  - There were no enquiries by the public
  
- 12) Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.