



## LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

### OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 29, 2017  
City of Lethbridge Council Chambers  
4:00 p.m.

#### In Attendance

Peter Deys, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Liz Iwaskiw  
Councillor Joe Mauro  
Victoria Chester  
Simon Griffiths  
D. Jean Valgardson  
Robert Van Spronsen  
Marion Wiebe  
Carmen Hellawell (Recording Secretary)

Chief Robert Davis  
Inspector Bill Anderson  
Inspector Tom Ascroft  
Acting Inspector Jeff Mantyak  
Kristen Harding  
Brenda Kenward

#### Regrets

Lee Cutforth, Chair

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
  - The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Deys, who chaired the meeting in the absence of Chair Cutforth
- 2) Approval of Agenda
  - **Motion by Councillor Iwaskiw, Seconded by Marion Wiebe that the agenda be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 3) Presentation of Chief's Certificate of Commendation – Chief Davis
  - Presented to Constable Daryl Pike for his actions in quickly locating a lost child in extreme weather conditions, preventing a potential tragedy
  - Presented to Constable Saska Vanhala for his outstanding contribution in solving a historic missing persons case
  - Vice-Chair Deys on behalf of Commission expressed appreciation to both officers
- 4) Presentation of Membership in Cpl. Cumming's Watch
  - MJ Appleby on behalf of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and survivor of a collision involving an impaired driver shared her experience and personally thanked the officers for their efforts in curbing impaired driving

- Chief Davis explained Cpl. Cumming's Watch is in memory of Cpl. Graeme Cumming who was killed by an impaired driver while responding to a traffic accident
  - Initiative through the RCMP, MADD and Alberta Government
  - For officers who have shown dedication to road safety by demonstrating superior skill in detecting and apprehending impaired drivers
  - Constable Yoan Bernatchez (65 impaired drivers charged – highest in province), Constable Marco Pagliericci (18 impaired drivers charged) and Constable Dillon Rochon (51 impaired drivers charged – third highest in province) received their membership in Cpl. Cummings Watch
- 5) Presentation of Service Medals – Chief Davis
- Officers absent from the Lethbridge Police Service annual Medal Presentation held in December were presented their medals
  - Staff Sergeant Leon Borbandy was presented the Alberta Law Enforcement Long Service Medal and Police Exemplary Service Medal
  - Constable Marco Pagliericci was presented the Lethbridge Police Service 15 Year Medal

*(Robert Van Spronsen arrived at the meeting)*

- 6) Approval of Minutes of February 22, 2017 Open Meeting
- **Motion by Marion Wiebe, Seconded by Simon Griffiths that the minutes be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 7) Business Arising
- There was no business arising
- 8) Standing Items
- a) ALERT Update – Inspector Anderson
- March 2017 report for Lethbridge Region ALERT was circulated previously to members, the following was added since distribution:
    - On March 17 Lethbridge ALERT and members of the Fort McLeod and Coaldale RCMP detachments conducted an investigation into trafficking of illicit drugs in Fort McLeod. Search warrant of residence - cocaine, methamphetamine, small amounts of illicit drugs, handgun and six rifles were seized. Two Fort McLeod residents charged
    - ICE remains very busy, one male arrested for uploading an image of child pornography onto Skype. Another male caught accessing the internet after being released from custody with conditions not to access the internet as a direct result of a previous child pornography charge. Both males stand charged with numerous criminal offences
- b) Building Expansion Update – Inspector Ascroft
- All staff are now relocated back into the main police station
  - Work on the parking ramp, tow truck pull-out on 1 Avenue, parkade door and landscaping to occur during warmer weather

- Historical photographs have been added to the lobby/atrium glass wall
  - Work on minor deficiencies continues, construction workforce on site is small
  - Planning for opening celebration underway
  - Commission asked about the identity of the officers in the historical photos in the lobby. Kristen Harding is arranging for the names to be displayed beside the photos
- c) Calls for Service – Inspector Ascroft
- Calls for Service for February distributed in agenda package and Inspector Ascroft provided highlights from the report:
    - Calls for service are down 224 over same period last year, down 267 calls year to date
    - STEP Initiative – Distracted Driving with 147 tickets issued
- d) Financial Report – Brenda Kenward
- Last meeting Commission was provided a draft year end statement, numbers haven't changed but for the record the final numbers as of December 31, 2016: overall surplus of \$8,739, revenue accounts generated a surplus of \$48,631 with wage accounts a deficit of \$122,420, other operating expenses a surplus of \$16,907 and interdepartmentals a surplus of \$71,844
- e) Monthly Compliments – Chief Davis
- February Compliments: 4 Citizen/External, 1 Community Partners, 2 Internal
  - Some highlights:
    - On January 10 a vehicle was stolen behind a local business, within 10 minutes of contacting the police Constable Richard Borthwick attended to take a statement and Constables Mike Godberson, Paul Davis and Don Realini located and arrested two males for the theft
    - Individual attended the LPS front counter to thank the officer who arrested her several years ago under the mental health act, enabling her to get the help required to positively change her life
- f) Community Issues – Inspector Ascroft
- Monthly updated was provided in the agenda package
  - Areas of focus are the Public Library, Lethbridge Centre Mall, Park Place Mall and Centre Village Mall, all receiving a lot of attention from the Downtown Policing Unit
  - Nicer weather will bring more people into the parks and issues in the malls will likely be reduced
  - While patrolling downtown alleys a suspicious vehicle was located behind the King of Trade, discovered to be stolen and the driver and passenger who were in possession of meth and morphine were arrested and charged
  - Drug trafficker was arrested in front of Studio 54
  - Vice-Chair Deys advised Inspector Ascroft that Commission appreciates being notified of these specific incidents

9) New Business

a) Fail to Stop Annual Report (2016) – Inspector Ascroft

- Past reporting was several pages long and included many police pursuits, happy to report there were only four pursuits but 43 fail to stop incidents
- When LPS policy was changed to move away from pursuits, stats were then kept on how many times vehicles did not pull over when prompted to. Those numbers are going up with 39 last year, total of 43 includes the four pursuits
- Three of the pursuits were associated to criminal code violations falling within policy and the other involved a member in pursuit due to a suspicious vehicle with no criminal offence identified, which became a training opportunity
- No collisions, injuries or fatalities as a result
- Culture has shifted over the years with pursuing only in the most serious of circumstances
- Questions from Commission:
  - Do the 39 fail to stop incidents mean an officer wanted to talk someone who have got away? Do they get the license plate? Inspector Ascroft advised in some cases they do but the definition will require that the driver be aware of the attempt of the police to stop them and they are ignoring that attempt at which point our members terminate the pursuit if it doesn't meet the guidelines
  - Why would you want to stop someone? Inspector Ascroft explained it could be a traffic violation, suspicious vehicle or vehicle in an alley, seatbelt infraction or a stolen vehicle. Balance has now shifted more towards public safety rather than pursuing
  - As per report, what are the options that could be explored if there is an increase? Inspector Ascroft explained there is technology now used in some BC police services with a GPS enabled dart that can be discharged from a police vehicle, bigger cities use helicopters, as the problem persists technology will likely catch up. Chief Davis advised that a representative from the Insurance Bureau of Canada was recently in Lethbridge who mentioned the use of a Grappler, a mesh type of net that wraps around the vehicle in question to stop it

10) Enquiries by the Police Commission

- There were no enquiries

11) Enquiries by the Public

- There were no enquiries

12) Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.