



LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017
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

Robert Van Spronsen

D. Jean Valgardson

Marion Wiebe

Carmen Hellowell (Recording Secretary)

Chief Robert Davis

Deputy Chief Scott Woods

Inspector Bill Anderson

Inspector Tom Ascroft

Acting Inspector Dwayne Smith

Kristen Harding

Kamran Ali

Regrets

Inspector Jason Dobirstein

- 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 Marion Wiebe, Seconded by Victoria Chester that the agenda be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 3) Approval of Minutes of September 27, 2017 Open Meeting
 - Amendment made to draft minutes
 - **Motion by Robert Van Spronsen, Seconded Peter Deys that the minutes be approved as amended....Carried**
- 4) Business Arising
 - a) Staffing Requirements/Budget re: supervised consumption site – Inspector Ascroft
 - In response to an inquiry last meeting, the opening of the safe consumption site (SCS) should not create a lot of additional work for LPS staff
 - Research indicates that the SCS tends to reduce criminal activity in the immediate vicinity and the SCS will have their own security on site

- Downtown Policing Unit will spend part of their day interacting at the SCS but the site should move the intended population to a more central location to manage more effectively
- b) Ordnance Inquiry – Chief Davis
- In response to an inquiry last meeting regarding whether the ordnance found was live, in consultation with the LPS Explosives Unit we will never 100% know
 - Ordnance was believed to have been WWII era but the detonator had been tampered with so it wouldn't activate
 - LPS called the Department of National Defense to assist - CFB Suffield took the ordnance to their facility and exploded it
 - If ordnance was live there should have been two explosions but there was only one so it was their belief it was not a live ordnance
- 5) Standing Items
- a) ALERT Update – Inspector Ascroft
- October 2017 update of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU) and Internet Child Exploitation Unit (ICE) distributed in agenda package
- b) Calls for Service – A/Inspector Smith
- 3040 calls for service, consistent over the last few months
 - Theft is high – vehicles, gas, liquor - would be attributed to the drug crisis
 - Collisions are lower due to the Collision Reporting Centre updating the CROMS software which had some problems. Next month there could be a spike in numbers due to the software running properly
 - Step Initiative - Traffic Safety for back to school – School Resource Officers and Traffic Unit spent a lot of time within school zones. Individuals who oversee the school buses keep in touch regarding any problems
 - Questions from Commission:
 - Re: theft, any evidence that organized crime is behind it? A lot of activity relates to drug dealers or addicts
 - Selected crimes 370 but Top 5 Calls for Service 342, what is the difference? Likely that one is from CAD and the other RMS, document is intended to be a snapshot and not entirely accurate
 - Sexual assaults for September seem high? Some assaults from the summer were reported to school counsellors but could not advise of all reasons
- c) Financial Report – Kamran Ali
- Reporting period January 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017 reflects an overall surplus of \$174,132 with Revenue accounts generating a surplus of \$104,498, Wage accounts a surplus of \$52,927, Other Operating Expenses a deficit of \$76,337, and Interdepartmental a surplus of \$86,386. Overall the Service is in a surplus of \$14,511 per month (Q1 - \$51,030, Q2 - \$41,003) compared to budget through the first nine (9) months

- Increase in computer services due to software purchase projection for backup
 - Commission member asked that next year a Forecast from Q2 to year-end and Q3 to year-end for 2017 be provided, was confirmed
- d) Monthly Compliments – Chief Davis
- September Compliments: 3 Citizen/External, 2 Community Partners
 - Some highlights:
 - Constable Mike Fielding received a compliment from home owners who were very appreciative of his assistance following their house break in and vehicle being stolen
 - Constable Teran Smith received a compliment from a senior citizen who was appreciative of his professionalism when receiving a speeding ticket
 - Constable Mat Rilkoff received a compliment from the DOT Team who recognized his professionalism while assisting with several incidents
 - Simon Griffiths on behalf of the Lethbridge College thanked LPS members, especially Staff Sergeant George Carscadden, Acting Sergeant Bryan Whelpley and Sergeant Wes Olsen for their assistance involving a Snap Chat incident. Lethbridge College was comforted knowing these officers were working on their behalf, asked that thanks be passed on
- e) Community Issues – A/Inspector Smith
- Monthly update provided in the agenda package and reviewed
 - Sergeant Klassen has been in contact with various entities to assist individuals in receiving the best assistance required
 - Questions from Commission:
 - Wondered about the security in Galt Gardens ending after the summer months? LPS officers still attend the park but the security contracted through the City of Lethbridge has come to a close for the season
 - Wondered if the landlord in Galt Manor has been cooperating with the issues there and if there could be more screening of applicants? LPS has had discussions with the landlord regarding security and other options, appears to be a social problem as well
 - Could LPS attach a dollar figure to what is being done in the downtown, are there extra costs to what is normally provided equally to the community? Chief will address during New Business
- 6) New Business
- a) LPS Culture, Strategy & Operations – Chief Davis
- A road map of where we are going as a police service
 - Peter Bellmio was contracted for evidence based staffing analysis, data driven
 - Peter Bellmio is a criminal justice management consultant with over 20 years' experience, served over 80 police agencies with assistance in building community based crime control strategies, conducting police staffing analysis, improving patrol deployment and dealing with juvenile problems. Clients

include agencies in both the United States and Canada. Former crime analyst, police planner and director of public safety and has worked in the law enforcement field since 1975

- Proactive ReSolutions provided cultural review
- Chief's recommendations/observations - how to best utilize what we have
- New Deputy Chief now in place
- During the February 2017 budget presentation to Council, Mayor Spearman asked LPS to continue to look into ways to be more efficient, at that time the Chief referred to a consultant working with LPS to assess our data, how we can better deploy and be more efficient - this presentation is an example of what came out of that
- What is key for LPS is to remember - selflessness and public service – which is in alignment with the Corporation
- LPS Mission, Vision and Values were outdated and have now been renewed with a working group consisting of a cross section of LPS staff (civilian and sworn) and Chair Cutforth of the Commission. Chief acknowledged Nicole Mitton, Jason Elliott and Rose Hughes from the Corporation for their assistance
- Mission: Courage. Safety. Service.
- Vision: Selflessly providing safety and service through excellence in community involvement, strong partnerships and continuous innovation
- Values: Accountability, Competence, Respect, Integrity, Professionalism, Reliability
- Reviewed the Culture, Strategy & Operations Map
 - Highlight of LPS Mission, Vision and Values
 - Culture which ProActive ReSolutions addressed – selflessness, public service, ownership, accountability, innovation & efficiency
 - Strategy & Operations which the Bellmio assessment addressed:
 - Going to “Own your Zone” from six zones to four zones
 - A goal to try and provide the appropriate number of officers to deal with situations as they arise, based on data from the Bellmio analysis
 - Thus serving the public in a front line capacity (implemented this month)
 - Cooperation not Competition
 - Community Engagement
 - Retain Female Employees – work started with Chief McKenzie and LPS is keeping the momentum going. TAC has the first female officer (Cst. Amanda Balaz) and LPS incorporated the reduced work week for officers returning from parental leave, as examples
 - Diversity Reflective of the City – Round Street Report was updated a few years ago and that will be our gauge
 - Focus Areas – People, Processes, Technology, Crime, Community
- Four zones have now been implemented. Bellmio suggested the ideal number of officers per team being 21 but that was based on six months of data. Collapsing the support shift currently provides 18 officers. Officers will remain in the patrol zone for at least two years, measure of success will be taking calls in assigned zone, getting to know the neighbourhood/zone citizens, stores, alleyways, schools, taking pride in it

- Previous question asked for a dollar figure associated to issues in downtown, instead of dollar values LPS/Bellmio analysis looked at hours
- New zones are re-designed with an expanded downtown and the distribution should be more evenly spread
- Police can tend to not like change, this will be a work in progress and a positive way to set the stage for additional growth in the city
- Teams will go to 18 per team in January, 15 per team presently
- Data will be re-assessed in the future to see if the number remains at 21
- May have the officers we need if we can negotiate staggered start times with the Lethbridge Police Association
- Own your Zone will allow us to better work with neighbourhood associations
- Neighbourhoods can know who their police are
- Questions/comments by Commission:
 - Commission appreciated Chief Davis' enthusiasm regarding this initiative and wondered about getting this information out to the community. Chief advised Step 1 was bringing this to Commission, Step 2 is identifying the officers in each zone and Step 3 to start a publicity campaign
 - Explanation of the 18 officers per team – up to 18 officers per shift with four different patrol teams. A staggered start time could assist with more officers on shift during peak times but this has to be negotiated with the LPA
 - How would LPS determine which officers will be on each beat? Inspector Dobirstein has been tasked and will work with Staff Sergeants and Sergeants, having senior constables distributed first
 - Who makes the call if someone has to move out of the beat? At this time, the Duty Staff Sergeant (DSS) and Sergeants will approve if required. In the past that was left to PSCC for the most part. Now the DSS or Sergeant needs to be engaged
 - Heard of a potential west side satellite office being implemented in the future as a joint office with both Fire and Police. Would not implementing be a money or staffing issue? Chief thought to suggest a satellite office in an economic downturn would not be advantageous and he is grateful for what LPS has. It will make sense one day to have but not at this time since we are still finishing a major expansion
 - If Diversity Reflective of the City is about the people, would this include how we police different cultures? Ongoing with LPS Executive and stakeholders involved such as the Peace Making Program as a holistic approach vs incarceration
 - Will LPS Strategic Plan and Goals include this new initiative? Yes, work has already started and policy updates begun
 - What is the Round Street Report? Community Development dealing with issues in the downtown. Chief will provide copies to Commission
 - Question whether the Chief would present this to Council? Chair Cutforth suggested the Commission Council rep provide this information to Council

- 7) Inquiries by the Police Commission
 - Comment that Arches is indeed providing interim steps until the safe consumption site is up and running, stemming from a personal experience shared

- 8) Inquiries by the Public
 - Merv Hudemka
 - Thanked Chief Davis for the information about the ordnance
 - Wondered the cause of the coulee fire? Chief Davis was advised they were unable to determine an exact cause
 - Wondered about windows that were broken at Lethbridge Centre
 - Wondered how long bikes were held at LPS before they go to auction and suggested that bikes be donated to those in need instead of officers paying out of pocket to assist in certain situations. Process through the Municipal Government Act
 - Who would assist Coaldale if a SWAT team was required? RCMP have jurisdiction

- 9) Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.