

June 27, 2017

City Hall, Room 530 Boardroom 32315 South Fraser Way

POLICE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Henry Braun, Chair
Aman Gill
Sukh Sidhu
Yvon Dandurand
Barb Schimnowsky
Mark Warkentin
Mike Welte

MANAGEMENT PRESENT:

Chief Constable Bob Rich
Deputy Chief Constable Dave Schmirler – Operations
Deputy Chief Constable Mike Serr – Administration
Cst. Ian MacDonald - Public Media Officer
Randy Millard - Director Finance

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Tracy Mueller

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 PM.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: *That the Agenda for the Open Meeting of the Abbotsford Police Board be approved.*

Moved: S. Sidhu | **Seconded:** A. Gill | **CARRIED**

2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Chair Braun, Chief Rich and members of the Board acknowledged Mr. Sukh Sidhu for his many contributions to the Board over his tenure. Sukh was commended for providing an interface between the APD and at risk families within the Abbotsford South Asian Community.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: *That the Consent Agenda approved; as amended, to discuss Item 3.C. Operational Crime Overview - Period 6 as the first order of business.*

Moved: A. Gill | **Seconded:** B. Schimnowsky | **CARRIED**

C. OPERATIONAL CRIME OVERVIEW - PERIOD 6

The crime analyst will review to determine the outlier. DCC Schmirler noted that there was an increase in the number of sex assaults in 2017. However, there is not an increase in the number of stranger sexual assaults and analysis of these investigations does not show we have an ongoing series or troubling trend. He advised that they will continue to monitor this crime type.

Theft of auto is down 25% which is a significant improvement this year.

The Chair requested clarification regarding the Crime Rate. DCC Schmirler noted that the total crime rate is not captured; however -4% is accurate according to the last published report.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

5. PRESENTATION - UPDATE ON OPIOID CRISIS

DCC Serr noted that the number of overdose deaths continues to be up in Abbotsford and throughout BC this year.

Until the end of April there were 488 OD deaths. For BC's stats on OD deaths to go up to 1400 is devastating. There is a Provincial Task Force that is responding to the crisis, however, a lot of their time and resources are going to harm reduction initiatives. It is submitted that not enough is going towards prevention and treatment. On average for 122 OD deaths per month.

The City of Abbotsford is 5th in terms of ODs in BC. (YTD 65 ODs)

When estimating how many ODs are being caused by fentanyl or its analogs, the numbers are likely underrepresented as there are so many variations, not all are being detected.

The Chief's paper titled *The Opioid Crisis: The Case for Prevention* was discussed noting that its' purpose is to advocate doing more than just addressing the acute crisis.

Other comments and initiatives regarding the opioid crisis:

- VPD has written a paper advocating for treatment on demand
- Curriculum should be in place for grades 4 – 12
- Follow-up protocol needs to be in place for people who survive an overdose
- Prevention is a long term strategy that takes more work, with programming involving education and media expertise, all of which will cost money
- EHS is overtaxed and it is affecting their ability to respond to other calls for services
- An APD Video is being produced
- The Chief is meeting with Karen Matty and Dr. Victoria Lee the Fraser Health Senior Leadership team to discuss prevention
- The Chair offered his assistance in furthering this initiative. DCC Serr commented that, provincially, there needs to be more focus on this matter with an operating budget in place to make progress

The Board asked a question about what can be done in terms of prescription drug management and how doctors are prescribing. The unintended consequence around becoming more restrictive in prescribing opioids is that individuals who have been using prescribed opioids for pain are no longer being prescribed these medications and they, in some cases, are going to the street because they have become dependent.

Naloxone reverses the process of the opioid. The Province has now paid for 170 kits for the APD. APD only goes to overdose calls if there are issues to safety; otherwise they are handled by EHS and AFRS.

The Department recently purchased an ION Scanner with funding from the Province (40K). When members attend scenes where there are powdered substances present, those substances can be swabbed in order to determine what the product is. This allows officers to test if they have been exposed and ensure they are safe.

The Abbotsford Working Group on the opioid crisis was formed by DCC Serr. Came together as an opportunity to share information, engage and come out with actionable items. Will report back (meet bi-monthly), group is Abbotsford Centric.

The Youth Squad has gone to speak to schools and students. APD received \$5,000 grant to try some more community minded initiatives and create dialogue, and are pursuing other innovative initiatives.

Project Angel – This was started in Gloucester, MA and has had some real. 129 Departments across US have taken this on. The idea is to allow police to take someone who wants help by the hand and get them the treatment they need. Makes people comfortable asking for help. The APD has asked for help from Fraser Health and support of 5 beds as a pilot project. Hoping Fraser Health will be ready to try this project in October.

APD members are handing out support services cards. It is Abbotsford Centric and will be provided to Fire and EHS to guide them to programs that are available.

The Chief noted that all things can be done locally; however prevention needs to be a concerted provincial effort.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

Member Wellness

- Talked previously about member wellness. Went to BC Chief's and made a presentation, have buy-in to take the next steps and now working to develop a 2-day training program for senior police leaders on trauma informed leadership.
- Training should include physical, mental and emotional wellness.
- People need to go through their careers in a way that does not cost them their health.
- One of the programs APD will do next year will be a fitness challenge.
- It is also important, operationally, that staff are emotionally healthy. Fielding police officers who are not doing well is a significant a risk management issue.
- Some initiatives will be to survey staff to create a baseline.
- We will be moving towards mandatory psychological "check-ups."
- The Board noted that there are watches available (from a company in Vancouver) that manages health tracking.

7. BCAPB AGM - UPDATE

- Board Member Aman Gill noted that the IIO and 19 issues of concern were discussed.
- External priorities include legislation of marijuana and the fentanyl crisis.
- The BCAPB has invited the IIO to the next advisory group in September, with the intent of fostering open communication.
- The Board discussed the merit of having the IIO come to an Abbotsford Police Board Meeting.
- Jessica Hodge from Police Services talked about initiating a pilot to train Police Board members, it is planned to be a 5-day program across 2 modules, in late fall or January 2018.
- Looking into Board Members talking to ministers and having standalone discussions with respective ministries, i.e., mental health, opioid, and fentanyl crisis.
- BCAPB talked about hosting the 2019 AGM meeting in Abbotsford/Port Moody
- The next Executive meeting is in September.
- The Board requested that the orientation program be shortened to 1.5 / 2 days for new members, or, if 5 days is needed that it could be split over a period of time so it is manageable.

8. CAPG AGM - ATTENDANCE

It was discussed that Board Members Welte and Gill are attending on behalf of the Board and will report back for the next meeting in September.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

None

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC RELATING TO TODAY'S AGENDA

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That the Open meeting of the Abbotsford Police Board be adjourned.*

Moved: M. Welte | **Seconded:** A. Gill | **CARRIED**

Meeting Adjourned: 12:43 PM

"Original signed"

Chair – Henry Braun

Certified Correct:

"Original signed"

Recording Secretary – Tracy Mueller