

January 27, 2021

Video Conference* and City Hall, Room 530, 32315 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford, BC

POLICE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Henry Braun, Chair
Yvon Dandurand*
Mike Welte*
Mark Warkentin*
Amanda MacPherson*

MANAGEMENT PRESENT:

Chief Constable Mike Serr
Deputy Chief Constable Brett Crosby-Jones – Operations
Deputy Chief Constable Paulette Freill – Administration
Randy Millard – Director of Finance*
Insp. Tom Chesley, Investigative Support Branch (#4)*
Sgt. Chris Nightingale (#4)*
Insp. Jason Burrows – Operations Control Branch*

REGRETS:

None

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Donna Macey

GUESTS

Chris Dominato*

Aird Flavelle*

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

1. Adoption Of Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be **approved**, with the addition of Police Board Governance under agenda item 3 Business arising out of previous meeting. The motion was **adopted**.

2. Consent Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the consent agenda be **approved**. The motion was **adopted**.

- a. Minutes of previous meeting - November 24, 2020
- b. Financial Statements - November 2020
- c. Operational Crime Overview - to Dec 31, 2020
- d. Update on Correspondence 578820: Letter from ADM Butterworth-Carr - re 2021 Meeting to discuss matters of significance relating to policing, governance, and oversight
- e. 2021 Strategic Plan
- f. 2021 BCAPB Membership Renewal

3. Business Arising Out of Previous Minutes

Police Board Governance – Deputy Freill reported that policies are now being added to the AbbyPD website. Policies first are vetted by FOI first and then approved for posting. To date, policies that have been posted are Street Checks, Conduct (Conflict of Interest), and Donations, Sponsorship, and Fundraising with more to be added each month as they are vetted by FOI and SMEs and approved for posting.

There was a discussion regarding timeframe to publish the policies and it was noted it would take at least two years to work through everything as FOI and SMEs need proper time to be able to review. It was also noted that some of the

policies are dated and need to be updated and or repealed. It was agreed that an annual update would be provided on the progress made until the majority of policies are online.

4. Presentation – 2020 Year End Review

Sgt. Nightingale presented on the results of the 2020 year end, noting the following highlights of the year:

- Files generated – down 8% from previous year; likely attributed to COVID with the closure of front counter for 2 months (March and April)
- Street checks – 82 conducted in 2020, significantly lower than previous years; due to changes in policy; consistent theme across all departments; good news is members are following new policy; however, less intelligence being generated
- Homicides – 2 in 2020; associated to gang conflict; taking proactive initiatives from violence occurring in Abbotsford
- Violent Crime Rate – compared on a per capita basis against surrounding jurisdictions; Abbotsford is lowest against surrounding jurisdictions but it is up 8% from previous year. Violent crime includes all offences against persons - robberies, assaults, sexual assaults, harassment, child abuse, domestic violence
- Assaults against police officers – YTD 17% increase since 2019
 - Of the 30 assaults in 2020, 30% had a mental health component and 10% involved a weapon
- Robberies down 1% in 2020; Street/associate robberies were highest at 35% - typically suspect knows victim (associated to one another, not strangers)
- Sexual assaults- up 4% in 2020; in most cases victim knows the suspect with a domestic component
- Assault level 2/3 – assault with a weapon or aggravated assault causing significant injury – up 20% in 2020; 1/3 attributed to domestic assault
- Property Crime – down 23% in 2020 and lowest rate compared to neighbouring jurisdictions;
 - Break and Enter – overall down 38%; less residential BNEs which could be attributed to more people working from home due to COVID; less commercial BNEs with more camera and security monitoring in place
 - Theft of Auto – down 22% in 2020
 - Theft from Auto – down 41% in 2020; proactive target prolific offenders through trackers and bait cars
- Fail to stop, which is when a vehicle flees from police – up 39% in 2020; seeing an increase in every jurisdiction; an initiative is being pushed through the BC Chiefs to deter this type of activity
- Traffic enforcement
 - 6500 tickets issued; Fall of 2019 e-ticketing commenced which provided a printed paper ticket and is all electronic. In 2020, 1/3 of tickets issues were e-tickets as not all police vehicles are outfitted with the e-ticketing systems.
 - Counterattack \$40K in funding from the province; 10 night shifts to conduct road side checks where 20 impaired drivers were removed from the road.

- 30 and 30 project joint effort between Traffic and Patrol – 30 school zones at 30 schools with 30 hours of enforcement time allocation – 84 speeding tickets with many other traffic violations
- Commercial Vehicle enforcement – partnered with CVSE and did checks that resulting in 50% failure rate and removal from the road for significant mechanical defect

Yvon Dandurand asked a question about whether there is data to support the claim that there has been a loss of intelligence with the changes made to street checks. Deputy Crosby-Jones commented that the claim is partly supported by the PRIME files that are created linking subjects who are located together. Although hard to quantify through a number, many investigations have been successful because of checking someone who is associated to someone. The amount of intelligence added to the PRIME database is less because those checks are not being done and that data cannot be mined because it is not there. Entities added on to PRIME vs previous years could be analyzed to show the loss in intel.

Yvon Dandurand noted that the data and/or experience will show over time whether the policy change seriously impedes the ability of policing in the collection of the intelligence that it needs and suggested that this is something the Board should be informed about in due course. Chief Serr noted that this will be discussed with the investigative sections going forward.

5. Chief's Report

Chief Serr, Deputies Crosby-Jones, and Freill reported on the following:

- Swearing in officers over last few months
 - Anticipate hiring many more exempts and increasing diversity
- Gang AbbyPD Gold Vehicle (BMW from Civil Forfeiture) – won national award for best dressed vehicle
- Gang Interventions - Pathways Program
 - working hard on proactive initiatives
 - gang prevention coordinator is in place
 - 2 of 4 gang intervention officers are in place; hoping to have other 2 in place by end of year
 - Gang intervention officer identifies youth who are vulnerable to entering gangs or just at the onset; we work with them to make a difference with them and their families
 - Currently have 7 active youth in the program
 - 18 on the waitlist
 - 12 inactive – do not qualify of other options available to them
 - This program does not cost the Abbotsford taxpayer
 - Gang Prevention Coordinator - \$142,000 annual grant fund
 - 4 Gang Intervention Officers - \$540,000 grant funding

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- Street Outreach Response Team (SORT) – Sgt. Murray working hard on this program and now working to develop a Car 87 format - similar to VPD and Surrey – to assist with the mental health calls.
- Intimate Partner Violence – one of our 2021 strategic goals
 - Valentine’s Day Cards – messaging that raise awareness about intimate partner violence
- Online reporting and Police Information Checks (PICs) – 771 complaints through new tool and 30% of PICs being done online

6. ARJAA Update

Yvon Dandurand reported on the last meeting, noting a new hiring policy that includes promotion process is in place. Received a report on Restorative Action which is a new project supported by the City focusing on the Gladys corridor and is part of solution to the issue of homelessness and relationships of the homeless in the community. Mr. Dandurand noted that he has adopted a goal to assist in developing better training for their volunteers which is an issue because they change frequently.

Chief Serr noted that he has arranged to have the Executive Director provide the next presentation to the Board at the February meeting.

It was moved and seconded that receiving the reports from Agenda Items 4, 5, and 6 be **approved**. The motion was **adopted**.

7. BCAPB Update

- a. Verbal update – Mike Welte noted that the annual conference and AGM will be a two-day virtual event and it is complimentary.
- b. 2021 AGM and Call for Resolutions – there were no topics suggested for the resolution process. It was agreed that feedback would be provided in the *Police Act* review process through BCAPB and other avenues.
- c. Appointment of Executive – Mike Welte noted that he needed to step back as authorized representative due to his other commitments. Mark Warkentin volunteered to take this position of authorized representative.

It was moved and seconded that the Mark Warkentin as the authorized representative to the BCAPB be **approved**. The motion was **adopted**.

8. E-Comm Update

Mike Welte reported on the hiring of Stephen Thatcher, who comes from the RCMP, as VP Operations. Mr. Welte noted that the board and police leadership should expect the results of the police dispatch operations review soon.

9. Other Business

None

10. Questions from the public relating to today's Agenda

None raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

"Original signed"

Chair – Henry Braun

"Original signed"

Recording Secretary – Donna Macey