

March 30, 2022

City Hall, Room 530 Boardroom 32315 South Fraser Way

POLICE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Warkentin, Acting Chair
Mike Welte
Chris Dominato
Mandy Padda
Paula Olmstead
Colette Squires

REGRETS:

Mayor Henry Braun

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Donna Macey

MANAGEMENT PRESENT:

Chief Constable Mike Serr
Deputy Chief Constable Brett Crosby-Jones – Operations
Deputy Chief Constable Paulette Freill – Administration
Director Randy Millard – Finance*
Insp. Tom Chesley – Investigative Support Section
Sgt. Chris Brown-John – Investigative Support Branch
Director Patricia La Framboise-Lo – Human Resources*
Inspector Jason Burrows – Operations Support Branch*
Director Elaine Klassen – Support Services Branch*
Inspector Dan Culbertson – Strategic Services Branch*

The meeting was called to order at 12:03pm.

Chief Serr reported on the promotion of Inspector Jason Burrows effective May 1, 2022.

1. Adoption Of Agenda

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

2. Consent Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the consent agenda be **approved**, with the removal of e. Watson Governance Survey result and next steps. The motion was **adopted**.

- a. Minutes of previous meeting - February 23, 2022
- b. Financial Statements - February 2022
- c. Crime Overview - to February 28 2022
- d. Media Report
- e. Watson Governance Survey results and next steps – *removed for discussion*

e. Watson Governance Survey – Colette Squires asked two questions regarding the survey. Q#1 Did the Abbotsford Police Board participated in the survey? It was confirmed that the board did respond to the survey as noted in the survey results that every board contributed. Q#2. With some boards having a vice chair designated, how does AbbyPB handle situations where an alternate Chair is required for a meeting? It was confirmed that when there is a need for an alternate meeting Chair, arrangements are made in advance to have the Council appointed member chair the meeting, if available, and if unavailable the next member based on seniority. Q#3. As a board, has an evaluation been performed of individual board member experiences? It was confirmed that individual evaluation was also conducted when previous board evaluations were conducted.

3. Business Arising Out of Previous Minutes

None.

4. Presentation – Missing Persons Coordinator / Investigators (MPC/MPI)

Sgt. Brown-John presented an overview on MPC/MPI. This position stems from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry and is mandated by the BC Provincial Policing Standards (BCPPS). The MPC provides oversight based on policy to missing person files, using risk analysis for each case. The MPI uses a vast array of investigative tools to locate missing persons. Sgt. Brown-John reviewed how missing persons investigations are managed from the time of reporting. Each MP investigation goes through a mandatory risk assessment to determine if the file is high-risk, and each is reviewed by the MPC to determine if additional resources are required. If there is anything suspicious about the file, investigation is assumed by the Major Crime Unit.

The reporting responsibilities changed because of the Missing Women Inquiry by eliminating the previous 24-hour requirement before a person could be reported missing. A missing person can now be reported immediately and can be reported out of jurisdiction with the agency transferring it to the proper police department. Mark Warkentin asked a question about potential risk to a missing person file when it is transferred to another agency. Sgt. Brown-John confirmed that there is a process in place to have the receiving department confirm that their agency has taken over the file. Sgt. Brown-John reviewed the importance of the MPI noting that missing person are common occurrence with many files that are chronic. Being able to filter high-risk files quickly is essential to being able to mobilize and successfully locate the person safely.

Sgt. Brown-John reviewed the other types of files that the general investigative section addresses such as, sex assaults, arsons, robberies, fraud, files that do not meet the threshold to go to major crime,

5. Chief's Report

Chief Serr reported on the following matters:

- Provincial change with respect to vehicle insurance with the elimination of the expiration decal – the change saves the province a significant amount of money. The province will provide police agencies with automatic license plate readers which will assist with identify uninsured vehicles.
- Director La Framboise-Lo provided an update on a Resiliency research study with police officers that AbbyPD participated in since this past Fall. The researchers are in the process of preparing to roll out resiliency training to participating organization this Spring. An internal working group has been established to review the work of the researchers and the CSA standard on psychological safety in the workplace. There will be three training session deliverables from the

researchers: one on resiliency geared toward members, one on resiliency geared toward members and their families, and one focused on organizational resilience. Colette Squires asked a question about the areas of focus in assessing resiliency. It was noted that part of the work is to better understand the psychology for recruiting more resilient candidates for a policing career and then to engage with members look after themselves in various ways such as promoting physical activity, counselling, education on heart health and healthy eating, sleeping, CISM and Peer Support Team, etc.

- UBC Heart Health – done extensive work with first responders with a screening program to prevent sudden cardiac deaths and help members become more aware of heart health matters. In January a team of seven from UBC were onsite to conduct screening to 80 AbbyPD members. Each appointment was 90 minutes and consisted of a ECG, stress test on a bicycle, blood testing, and a private consultation with a cardiologist. Another 80 members to go through the screening in September.
- Charge approval numbers – Chief Serr reported that the issue is not so much that Crown is not approving the files but that the files are not ending with a satisfactory conviction. In 2019 there were 2,035 court folders (a folder could contain multiple charges) vs 1,751 in 2021. For the 2021 year, there were 247 (14%) files where there was no charge by Crown, 67 (3%) files where there was no charge through police discretion, 1,405 (81%) where approved or concluded in court, and 32 (2%) recommended pending. For Total Charges submitted, in 2019 there were 4,524 vs 3,932 in 2020. Of those charges in 2020 8% were abated, absolute discharge, acquitted, etc., 18% were convicted, 29% were no charge, 13% pending, and 32% were a Stay of Proceedings (SOP). Often the reason for a SOP is that it is no longer in the public interest. There was a suggestion to consider having ‘charge approvals’ as a KPI, however, it was noted that this is not something that police can control and therefore would not be an appropriate measurement, but it can be a reporting item from time-to-time to keep the board informed.

6. ARJAA Update

It was confirmed that Mandy Padda is the replacement Abbotsford Police Board representative to the ARJAA Board.

Insp. Burrows reported that interviews for an Executive Director are currently taking place with a decision to be announced within the next week. It was also reported that the AbbyPD policy with respect to referrals to ARJAA is nearing completion to be forward to the Board for review and approval. Last year AbbyPD referred 50 files and YTD 2022 is trending upward.

7. BCAPB

Mark Warkentin reported on the following:

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- a. **Annual Conference & AGM** will take place in Surrey through a co-sponsorship between Surrey and Nelson. Resolutions put forward by police boards are considered at the AGM. AbbyPB has no resolutions currently.
- b. **Appointment of Executive Board** – to be discussed by Chris, Mandy, and Colette and report back to the Recording Secretary with a decision to be recorded at the April 27, 2022 Board meeting.

8. E-Comm Update

E-Comm Board of Directors Designate for the 2022-2023 Term will be on the Agenda for the April 27, 2022 Board meeting.

9. Standing Board Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee – no update for this meeting.
- b. Governance & Policy Committee – no update for this meeting.
- c. Human Resources Committee – no update for this meeting.

It was moved and seconded that the appointment of Colette Squires to the HR Committee be **approved**. The motion was **adopted**.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

None raised.

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

None raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm.

"Original signed"

Acting Chair – Mark Warkentin

"Original signed"

Recording Secretary – Donna Macey