

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

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

POLICE BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Mayor Ross Siemens, Chair
Chris Dominato
Mandy Padda
Paula Olmstead
Amrik Narang
Gordon Holloway

REGRETS:

Michelle Sagert

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Donna Macey

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM & STAFF PRESENT:

Chief Constable Mike Serr
Deputy Chief Constable Jason Burrows – Administration
Deputy Chief Constable Dan Culbertson – Operations
Director Bea Nicolato – Finance & Budget Branch
Director Elaine Klassen – Support Services Branch
Leeanne Pengelly – Executive Assistant

GUEST(S):

Colin Watson
Aird Flavelle
Tim Barrett

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

Mayor Ross Siemens introduced Chief-Designate Colin Watson who joined the meeting via video conference.

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**. The motion was **adopted**.

- a. Minutes of previous meeting - June 28, 2023
- b. Financial Statements - August 2023
- c. Crime Overview - August 2023
- d. Media Reports - June 20 to September 23, 2023
- e. POLICIES
 - i. II.C.080 Personal Appearance & Grooming - Revised
 - ii. I.A.XXX Immediate Rapid Deployment - NEW
II.K.071 Rapid Deployment to Active Shooter - REPEAL
 - iii. II.B.XXX Vulnerable Communities - NEW
 - iv. II.M040 Victim Services - Revised
 - v. I.B.080 Off-Duty Education - Revised
 - vi. II.D.230 Third Party Reporting - Sexual Assault - REPEAL

The reason for including the media report was raised, and it was explained that the material is for information purposes only and can be used for board members or public

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who wish to review AbbyPD media matters that have occurred since the last meeting and to review social media trends and statistics.

3. Business Arising Out of Previous Minutes – None

4. Board Correspondence: Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General's Policing and Law Enforcement Priorities, Goals, and Objectives (Ref 653258)

Chief Serr reported on the June 29, 2023 letter that was sent to the Chairs of Municipal Police Boards about the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General's policing and law enforcement priorities, goals, and objective and the related deliverables by police agencies. Chief Serr reviewed the work that is underway for the 2024 operational strategic plan, which includes further engagement with indigenous communities and organizations, support of the Safer Communities Action Plan through collaboration with community partners, focused efforts to address organized and major crime in light of the recent move to decriminalization, combating gangs and criminal organization, and the cooperative efforts to help address repeat violent offenders through ReVOII (Repeal Violent Offending Intervention Initiative) with efforts to increase participation in Restorative Justice.

5. Board Correspondence: New BC Provincial Standards on Responses to Sexual Assaults (ref 655008)

Chief Serr reported on the new BC Provincial Standards on Responses to Sexual Assaults that comes into effect July 5 2023. All members have or are taking trauma informed training to comply with the new standards. All policies are also being reviewed to ensure compliance, where required.

Action: Update to be provided at the March 2024 meeting on the status of compliance with the new standards.

6. HR Report – Vacancy Rates

Deputy Burrows noted that this is the first report to the Board following the request from the HR Committee. The reporting will be quarterly and in future will include a briefing note with written commentary, including reviewing the changes from previous reporting against the to-date status, and what is expected in future.

7. Chief's Report

Chief Serr, Deputy Burrows, and Deputy Culbertson reviewed the following:

- **Line of Duty Death of Cst. O'Brien** – Regimental funeral October 4th.

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- **BC Law Enforcement Memorial** (Sept 24, 2023) – Chief Serr reported on the Run and Ride to Remember leading up to the memorial event, noting both pre-events had several members from the department participate. For the Ride to Remember, a three-day ride, there were over 30 riders with a significant portion of riders from the AbbyPD who organized the ride, and for the Run to Remember, a three-day run of 180 kms, there were 41 runners with eight from the AbbyPD, and the Memorial on Sunday had a significant number of attendees from the department. These events are in honour of first responders who have lost in the line of duty and to show family and friends they will not be forgotten.
- **Public Safety Notification made 29-Sept-2023 regarding a high-risk sex-offender, Hugh Alexander McCurry** – Chief Serr reported on the notification regarding McCurry, who was released from Powell River and will be residing in the Abbotsford area. Past convictions include sexual offences against children.
- **Overtime Cost increase** – Chief Serr noted the increase in costs is the result of recent protests that were not anticipated. Large anti-Sogi demonstration on 26-Sept-2003 @ Jubilee Park which continued with a significant number of protesters to the school district on 27-Sept-2023 during a School District Board meeting, which required police escort out of the building for board members. The costs are being assessed and an *update will be provided at the next meeting.*
- **Movie Night in the Park in (03-Sept-23)** – Chief Serr reported on the 2nd annual event, sponsored by the Abbotsford Police Foundation which was a tremendous success. Hundreds of community members of all ages came out with family and friends to enjoy the movie and interact with police and community partners.
- **Violent and Property Crime** – Deputy Culbertson reported that both are on an increase. There has been a 21% increase in violent offences, some of the specific drivers are related to unhoused assaulting one another. There has been a 13% increase in intimate partner violence, and that increase while a negative is also considered a positive because it indicates that victims are reporting which enables the police to assist victims. There has been a 24% increase YTD in sexual offences, and although seen as a challenge that reporting means that the police are able to investigate these crimes.

Deputy Culbertson reported that there is a robust process in place to address violent offences. AbbyPD has received grant money from the provincial government in the amount of \$161K, plus another \$25K for cameras which will supplement surveillance in hotspot areas. The funding requires the department to create in-roads with the business community to work collaborative to combat the violent crime. AbbyPD is leading an initiative titled *Project Spotlight*. To-date, 19 offenders have been arrested. The initiative has increased the presence of police officers in these high-crime locations where there is a trend of repeat violent offences occurring. There are upcoming initiatives where the department is partnering with other agencies such as CP Rail for offences occurring around the railway and one that will work to combat violent shoplifting.

Deputy Culbertson reported that property crime is up 10% with one of the main drivers residential BnEs. There are media campaigns where we the department is encouraging increased reporting for suspicious activity. Intelligence led property crime initiatives using online crime mapping to identify hotspots.

- **Mental Health Car** – Chief Serr reported that the Mobile Integrated Crisis Response Team (MICRT) is now in place. It will have two psychiatric health nurses working seven-days a week, from 10:00am to 10:00pm. Funding through province for the nurses. A police officer will be assigned to them during their time. The nurse will be able to provide emotional and mental health assessments, crisis intervention, referrals, and connection to appropriate services. The initiative is scheduled to start in mid-October. The jurisdictions who received funding are: Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Burnaby, Coquitlam, and Port Coquitlam. A question was asked about the liability associated with the work being done and it was noted that through a robust MOU between the legal counsel for the agency and Fraser Health that liability is covered. Police are responsible for their liability and Fraser Health is responsible for their liability. It was noted that nurses are being provided with ballistic vests.

An update will be provided at the *February 2024 board meeting* to report on the mandate and measurables for the program.

- **Shelley Mickens** – Chief Serr reported on the sentencing of the former finance director who stole \$312K from department. Mickens was found guilty and sentenced to two years less a day, time served in the community with conditions, and ordered to pay back the full amount stolen. It was noted that she has repaid a portion of that amount and the City will continue to collect the stolen funds.

8. BCAPB Executive Update

Mandy Padda reported that there was a meeting on September 30, 2023. The letter to E-Comm, which AbbyPB did not sign, received a response from E-Comm which is the similar messaging the Board has received in its updates from E-Comm.

9. CAPG Conference in St. Johns Newfoundland

Gord Holloway sent an email regarding the conference. Mandy Padda reported on the conference, noting that it was well attended by a variety of police leaders, politicians, board members, law enforcement experts and speakers. The next conference is in Halifax in August 2024.

10. Standing Board Committee Reports

- a. **Finance Committee** – The Chair of the Committee, Gord Holloway, noted there was no report for this part of the meeting with the 2024 Budget covered at agenda item four (4).
- b. **Governance & Policy Committee** – The Chair of the Committee, Amrik Narang reported on the board evaluation document which would be conducted soon.

The Committee structures were reviewed, and it was noted that the membership for the new police board member should be considered at the next meeting.

Gord Holloway was nominated to be the police board representative for the bargaining with the Abbotsford Police Union (APU).

It was moved and seconded that nomination of Gord Holloway as the police board representative for the APU bargaining be **approved**. The motion was **adopted**.

- c. **Human Resources Committee** – The Chair of the Committee, Chris Dominato, extended thanks to staff for the new HR Reporting.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

None raised.

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

Mr. Barrett reported on his experience from the last few months where he reached out to Bylaws and AbbyPD in June regarding an individual living in Ravine Park behind Nature's Gate condominium complex. The individual would scream throughout the day from four to eight hours, causing significant disturbance the residents. Although it was a long process, working together the matter was recently resolved and the residents have had their first week of peace in over three months. Mr. Barrett expressed his thanks to all involved to resolve the matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16pm.

"Original signed"

Chair – Ross Siemens

"Original signed"

Recording Secretary – Donna Macey