

**POLICE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Henry Braun, Chair

Mike Welte\*

Chris Dominato\*

Mandy Padda\*

Paula Olmstead\*

Colette Squires\*

**Regrets:**

Mark Warkentin

**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\*

Cst. Paul Walker – Public Media Officer\*

Insp. Doug Moore – Criminal Intelligence Branch\*

Insp. Dan Culbertson – Strategic Services Branch\*

Director Elaine Klassen – Support Services Branch\*

Insp. Tom Chesley – Investigative Support Branch\*

Insp. Jason Burrows – Operations Support Branch\*

Sgt. Mike Hanninen – Intelligence Unit\*

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

**1. Adoption Of Agenda**

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

**2. Introduction of new Police Board member – Colette Squires**

Mayor Braun introduced Colette Squires as the new police board member appointed December 24, 2021, with Ms. Squires provided her background.

*At 12:04pm, Ms. Olmstead joined the meeting.*

**3. Consent Agenda**

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

- a. Minutes of previous meeting - October 27, 2021
- b. Financial Statements - November 2021
- c. Crime Overview - to October 31 2021
- d. Media Report
- e. BCAPB Annual Membership Fee
- f. Correspondence:
  - i. Oct 26 2021 Letter from Director of Police Services re Ref 622304 Watson Advisors and police board training program
  - ii. Dec 2 2021 Letter from Director of Police Services re Ref 625232 Revocation of BCPPS Suspension
- g. Policies
  - i. I.C.025 McNeil Disclosure - AMENDED
  - ii. I.D.050 Procurement - AMENDED
  - iii. I.D.060 Emergency Acquisition of Goods & Services - REPEALED
  - iv. II.M.070 Public Notification - AMENDED
  - v. II.N.020 Liquor - Special Events Permits - REVISED
- h. 2021 Recruiting Summary

#### 4. Business Arising Out of Previous Minutes

Chief Serr clarified that the bursary awards are open to students graduating from public secondary schools in the Abbotsford School District, including MEI. Abbotsford Community Service confirmed that the awards are not open to certain schools due to the threshold of the number of graduates which does not make it financially viable and that some schools are unable to share their internal scholarships with the rest of the pool creating an unfair advantage to other students.

#### 5. Presentation – 2021 Year End Review

Chief Serr reviewed the year end presentation, which highlighted the following:

- **Calls for Service** – 2021 there was a significant increase from previous year combined with a successful increase in online reporting. The use of online reporting for non-emergency incidents diverts calls away emergency 911. In 2022, the department will look to further increase online reporting through public education.
- **Street Checks** – the new mandates from the provincial government on how street checks can be conducted has correlates to the significant decrease of 88% from prior year.
- **Homicides** – there were four (4) homicides, an increase of two from the previous year however, none were attributed to the lower mainland gang conflict (LMGC), largely due to proactive efforts to disrupt gang violence directly connected to LMGC.
- **Violent Crime Rate** – decrease seven percent (7%) from previous year and is the lowest rate in comparison to neighbouring jurisdictions.
- **Assault PO** - in 2021 there were 29 incidents where officers were assaulted. It was noted that over the past three years there has been upward trend in assault of police officers.
- **Robberies** – increase of 22% from the previous year, noting that 27% were related to shoplifting and 38% related to street/associate of which many are related to marginalized community. SORT is working to mitigate, reaching out and connecting to the individuals.
- **Sexual Assaults** – Up nine percent (9%) from previous year. The upward trend indicates that people who are the victim of such an assault are reporting which is positive, enabling police intervention and ability to direct victims to resources for help. Barriers to reporting are something the department continues to monitor with a view to improving so that victims feel safe in getting the help they need.
- **Assault Level 2/3** – increased three percent (3%) from previous year.
- **Property Crime Rate** – remained flat from previous year, lowest in comparison with neighbouring communities however, many of the other communities experienced a decrease except for one.
- **Break and Enter** – decrease of ten percent (10%) from last year.
- **Theft from auto** – decreased two percent (2%) from 452 in 2020 to 445 in 2021. It is high in comparison to jurisdiction to the west, which can be attributed to the fact that Abbotsford does not have the same level of transit service, such as sky train.

- **Theft from auto** – decreased two percent (2%) from 1,480 in 2020 to 1,457 in 2021. It is believed that the decrease over the past few years is attributed to a person's inability to make a police report due to 911 challenges.
- **Fail to Stop** – continues to be a challenge; increase of 15% in 2021 from previous year; bound by provincial legislation to not engage in pursuits as it poses significant risk to public and police. There are other tools that can be used such as deployment of spike belts, air services, or covert policing. Working with provincial government through BCACP Traffic Committee for more effective tools and penalties for those who fail to stop for police such as increase fines and longer impoundment for vehicles.
- **Traffic Enforcement** – violation tickets were down to 5,560 in 2021 from 6,561 in 2020, representing a 15% decrease. Many other priorities in 2021 impacted the decrease but focus was on the areas that have biggest impact to public safety. Last year there were 10 people who died because of a motor vehicle incident, up from three the previous year. There will be increased focus in the areas that pose the most risk for traffic incidents, as well as impaired driving. In 2020, there were 558 offences put forward for impaired driving and in 2021 there were 770, representing a 38% increase. In 2022, there will be media campaigns and intensive efforts to make a positive impact on impaired driving.

Colette Squires asked a question about correlation to homicides in 2017 and 2018 and the increase in street checks in 2018. Chief Serr commented that, to a degree, there would be some correlation noting that 10 of the homicides in the two years were gang related. He noted that street checks are a valuable tool when applied appropriately, and provide policing with important intelligence, especially in gang conflicts.

## 6. Chief's Report

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

- **Flood** – Chief Serr commented on the response to the flooding in Abbotsford in November. He commented on how proud he was of the employees of the police department, noting that everyone went above and beyond to assist and make a difference. Chief Serr expressed his gratitude to the police departments and agencies, and the community, who stepped up in different ways to help Abbotsford. He thanked Cst. Walker for his professionalism and hard work preparing him for media. He noted that it is through the most difficult and challenging times that true character and leadership become evident. Chief Serr commended Mayor Braun for his leadership through the flooding. Mayor Braun echoed the Chief's comments about the staff of the police department.
- **Retirement** – Chief Serr reported that Deputy Freill announced her intention to retire at the end of April.
- **Recruiting** – Chief Serr reported that in 2021, recruiting hired 24 members, 14 exempt and 10 new recruits, of which 22% represent the diverse community and 25% female. Deputy Freill referred the board to the full recruiting report in the consent agenda.
- **ALPR** – automatic license plate reader; Deputy Crosby-Jones reported that there are three (3) police vehicles that have ALPRs to check license plates. In 2021, 264,000

vehicle checks resulted in arrests of 22 prohibited drivers, 21 driving suspensions served, and arrest of seven (7) prohibited drivers. The record retention was reviewed, noting that the files are purged at the end of the day, except for when there is a successful hit that is actioned, and that data is sent to E Division. The data is controlled by the RCMP.

**7. ARJAA**

No update for this meeting.

**8. BCAPB Update**

No update for this meeting.

**9. E-Comm Update**

Mike Welte discussed the coverage in the media about BCEHS and the 911 call answering delays, and related staffing issues regarding dispatching ambulances/paramedics. Mr. Welte described the 911 process that was further exacerbating the call delay challenges. As a result, a new process has been implemented that allows for 911 calls that are straightforward to be cold transferred directly to EHS without the 911 dispatcher having to remain on the line, allowing lines to be opened for 911.

**10. Standing Committees**

- a. Finance – nothing to report for this meeting.
- b. Governance & Policy – nothing to report for this meeting.
- c. Human Resources – nothing to report for this meeting.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

None raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58pm.

“Original signed”

Chair – Henry Braun

“Original signed”

Recording Secretary – Donna Macey