

PUBLIC MINUTES

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, March 19, 2015, 12 noon
Committee Room A, City Hall

PRESENT

Mayor D. Atchison, Chair
Commissioner D. Brander
Commissioner C. Clark
Commissioner C. Inglis-McQuay

ABSENT

Commissioner D. Hill

ALSO PRESENT

Chief C. Weighill
Deputy Chief M. Chatterbok
Deputy Chief B. Pannell
Finance Director D. Bodnar
Solicitor G. Bains
Solicitor R. Gibbings, Q.C.
A/Secretary S. Bryant

1. Minutes

Moved By: Commissioner Inglis-McQuay

That the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 25, 2015, be approved.

CARRIED

2. Chair's Report

The Chair indicated that the Summit on the Economics of Policing and Community Safety in Ottawa was positive.

Moved By: Commissioner Inglis-McQuay

That the information be received.

CARRIED

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3. Chief's Report

Chief Weighill verbally addressed the following matters:

- The Exemplary Service Awards are to be held on April 9, 2015 and the Chief requested a representative from the Board of Police Commissioners to provide greetings. Commissioners Inglis-McQuay and Brander confirmed they are attending the event and one of them will provide greetings.
- Crime in the city has increased in the last couple of years due to growth. The Chief indicated the acts of violence are not random and usually drug and/or gang related.
- With spring arriving, complaints received from downtown are increasing (i.e. regarding panhandling and activities on 20th and 22nd Streets). When possible, officers are being redeployed to the downtown area.

Moved By: Commissioner Brander

That the information be received.

CARRIED

4. Appreciation to the Saskatoon Police Service

The A/Secretary submitted a report of the Chief of Police dated March 6, 2015 forwarding acknowledgements of appreciation/recognition to the Saskatoon Police Service.

Moved By: Commissioner Brander

That the information be received.

CARRIED

5. Air Support Unit – 2014 Annual Report

The A/Secretary submitted a report of the Chief of Police dated March 10, 2015, providing the above-noted annual report.

Chief Weighill introduced Sergeant Wade Bourassa, Air Support Unit.

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Sergeant Bourassa presented the 2014 Air Support Unit Annual Report with a PowerPoint.

Questions from the Board were put forward and the following further information was obtained:

- Reason for increase in flights in 2014 was due to variables in 2014, such as the weather was better than in other years and the air craft had no down-time due to maintenance.
- The sound decibel reading in 2014 was measured in summer months, therefore a new reading will occur in the summer months of 2015 in order to have similar conditions to better compare readings.
- There are other planes that fly in the evenings, such as flying school students training for night flights.

Chief Weighill expressed appreciation to the Board for its support of the air support unit.

Moved By: Commissioner Brander

That the information be received.

CARRIED

6. 2014 Annual Report of the Crime Free Multi-Housing Advisory Committee

The A/Secretary submitted a report of the Chief of Police dated March 9, 2015 submitting the annual report of the Advisory Committee of the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program.

Chief Weighill introduced Ms. Donna Thiessen, Coordinator of the Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program.

Ms. Thiessen reviewed the report with the Board and responded to questions.

Discussion followed regarding the high percentage of rental units in the Pleasant Hill neighbourhood and clarification was received that the focus is on apartment buildings and that the program is voluntary. The Board expressed interest in seeing best practices in other cities regarding what is in place for 'nuisance property' bylaws.

Ms. Thiessen outlined the steps taken when a property is brought into the program and the certification process.

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Moved By: Commissioner Clark

That the Saskatoon Police Service report no later than June 2015 on what other communities are doing with crime-free multi-housing, including information on any 'nuisance property' bylaws.

CARRIED

7. Final Review – 2014 Police Pursuits

The A/Secretary submitted a report of the Chief of Police dated March 6, 2015, regarding the above.

Deputy Chief Chatterbok reviewed the 2014 Police Pursuits report with the Board.

There is a concern with the increased number of pursuits, and as a result the pursuit policy will be reviewed to determine if any changes are required. One area of concern is the number of vehicles stolen that had the keys or key fobs left in them. A report is expected back to the Board in the fall of 2015.

Moved By: Commissioner Inglis-McQuay

That the information be received.

CARRIED

8. Saskatoon Police Service Detention

That A/Secretary reported that at the meeting held on February 25, 2015, the Board requested further information with respect to procedures over weekends and statistics regarding detainees.

The A/Secretary submitted a report of the Chief of Police dated March 6, 2015.

Chief Weighill reviewed the submitted report with the Board and responded to questions.

Discussion followed regarding public safety downtown. Chief Weighill reiterated that more police officers are required downtown.

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Moved By: Commissioner Brander

That the information be received.

CARRIED

9. Proposed Community Engagement – State of Policing in Saskatoon Today

The A/Secretary reported that the matter of establishing a subcommittee to work with the Chief of Police during 2015 on its framework for efficiency and effectiveness initiative was discussed at the February 25, 2015 meeting, and the Board resolved that the matter be considered further at this meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the Board's role in communicating with citizens to get their understanding of the value of the Police Service.

Further discussion was had regarding establishment of a subcommittee and all Board members in attendance indicated their interest in sitting on the subcommittee. It was noted that a previous motion of the Board to pursue creation of a subcommittee to work with the Chief of Police during 2015 on its framework for efficiency and effectiveness initiative for the 2016 budget, should be included with this matter. The Secretary undertook to poll members regarding availability and advertising of any meetings of the subcommittee.

Moved By: Commissioner Clark

That a subcommittee consisting of all members of the Board of Police Commissioners be struck to establish a process for community engagement and to consider the Police Service's framework for efficiency and effectiveness initiative.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Mayor D. Atchison, Chair