

Pembroke Police Services Board Meeting

City Hall, Council Chambers
Pembroke, Ontario
July 27, 2023
4:00 p.m.

Present:

Ron Gervais, Mayor
Patricia Lafreniere, Councillor
Malcolm Montgomery
Christine Reavie
Michael St Jean

Also Present:

Inspector Stephan Neufeld, OPP
Heidi Martin, Recording Secretary

1. Land Acknowledgment

2. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. Approval of Agenda

The Chair asked that the agenda be amended to include an email received regarding Community Safety Plan as an additional item under Correspondence as Agenda 9 d.

Motion:

Moved by Michael St. Jean

Seconded by Christine Reavie

That the agenda of the Pembroke Police Services Board meeting of July 27, 2023, be approved as amended.

Carried

5. Minutes

- Receive minutes of April 27, 2023

Motion:

Moved by Pat Lafreniere

Seconded by Christine Reavie

That the minutes of the Pembroke Police Services Board meeting of April 27, 2023, be received as circulated.

Carried

Mr. Montgomery joined the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

6. OPP Report

a. OPP Detachment Commander's Update

- Quarterly Report (April – June 2023)

Inspector Neufeld provided an update from the second quarter of 2023.

- Project Life Saver, a program used to locate individuals who may have wandered, is up and running. This program was made available through a Grant obtained by the Board.
- The tragic event, which occurred in May with a double homicide, continues as an ongoing active criminal investigation.
- The Community Street Crime Unit had a successful search warrant which resulted in the seizure of substantial cash, drugs, and weapons. The Unit remains very active in drug enforcement.
- The OPP were heavily involved in the recent helicopter crash in Petawawa which involved some resources from the Pembroke Detachment
- Fraud charges were laid after a lengthy investigation on an individual for fraud and possession of objects obtained by fraud.
- This quarterly report has consistent numbers year to date compared to 2022.
- Mental health calls for service continue to be an issue in the area and the need for youth mental health has been identified.
- Mental Health, homelessness, and drugs are an issue across the province, not just in our area.
- Neighbour disputes continue to be high.
- Nine complaints were filed during this quarter however 8 were screened out or once reviewed, were deemed frivolous. One complaint regarding neglect and proper investigation was resolved.
- One secondary employment request was received and approved.
- The marine and traffic units were out during the Canada Day weekend. Unfortunately, the Upper Ottawa Valley area had the most impaired driving charges laid for Eastern Ontario.
- During a one-day blitz in June within the City, 27 tickets were laid.
- The bicycle patrols will be returning to the City this year.
- The creation of a Victim Specialist, which will focus and support victims, is still moving forward but no announcements have been made to date.
- Following the report, a question was asked if the rumour that the methadone clinics north of Pembroke have closed which may be the reason for the increase in homelessness and individuals in the City. The Inspector replied that he wasn't aware of this but would look into it.

7. Old Business

a. Parking on Isabella Street

The Chair indicated that the missing parking signs have been installed.

b. Public Education Events – Bike Rodeo at Pembroke Expo Update

The Chair requested Councillor Lafreniere provide an update on the Bicycle Rodeo that was held on Saturday May 13th at the Pembroke Expo. Councillor Lafreniere indicated that the event was not a huge success however, a lot of information was distributed and if a similar event is held

again, it is recommended that it be a stand-alone event. It was also suggested that a partnership be made with the Boys and Girls Club for a future event. Councillor Lafreniere agreed to work on an event for next year.

c. Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan Update

The Chair stated that the Consultant provided a brief presentation to Council on June 20 and indicated that the plan will be presented to Council at the September 5th meeting to review and adopt.

d. School Calls for Service

The Chair reviewed the report, provided a brief overview of the discussions held to date, and expressed interest to continue working with this group of interested individuals. It was noted that the school protocols have very dated and have not been shared with the OPP. This working group could be used as an opportunity to update the protocols and ensure police participation.

9. New Business

a. Pembroke Community Watch

The Chair reviewed the information report and noted that the Downtown area is very unique with a mix of residential and commercial businesses.

Motion:

Moved by Christine Reavie

Seconded by Michael St. Jean

That the Pembroke Police Services Board approve the following new Community Watch zones:

- From International Drive to Johnson Crescent and Boundary Road (south side only) to Sheppard Avenue; and
- Downtown PBI A area.

Carried

b. Temporary STOP Condition

The Chair reviewed the report as provided by the Director of Operations. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- This is a very difficult intersection which will require much public communication
- This intersection may pose some challenges once the school year begins again

Direction:

The Chair to communicate the Boards concerns to the Operations Department.

c. All-Way Stop Request – Maple at Dickson

The Chair referred to the report provided by the Director of Operations. A discussion was held, with the following points were raised:

- Very little activity in this area (OPP)
- Radar device can be used once the road has been paved
- It was noted that in the Ontario Traffic Manual, Book 5 Regulatory Signs very clearly indicates the proper uses of a Stop sign.

Direction:

The Chair will communicate with the Operations Department that the Board does not support this request as the statistics do not support the need and to request the use of the radar device in this area once the road has been paved.

d. Traffic Management/School Zone – l'Équinoxe School

The Chair referred to the report provided by the Director of Operations. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- This is another strange intersection – Murray/Isabella/Hincks
- Cueing zone for buses on Murray Street could cause issues with fumes and noise from idling buses
- Murray Street is very narrow especially in the winter months with snow banks
- The residents on Murray Street may be upset that buses are cueing on their street in front of their homes
- Traffic is slow on Isabella
- This School Board has had other opportunities to purchase additional lands to assist with parking and perhaps could look at their current renovation plans to incorporate additional bus cueing areas.
- The parking lot on Pembroke Street West has pedestrian signals

Direction:

The Chair is to follow up with the Operations Department that the Board does not support this request. Murray street is a narrow street especially with snowbanks in winter months and it would become extremely narrow with buses idling and parked next to residential homes. Alternative parking and measures should be sought.

e. Annual Kids, Cops, and Canadian Tire Fishing Derby Donation Request

The Chair reviewed the report.

Motion:

Moved by Pat Lafreniere

Seconded by Michael St. Jean

That the Police Services Board approve a donation of \$250.00 from its Public Relations Account to the Annual Kids, Cops, and Canadian Tire Fishing Derby.

Carried

10. Correspondence

a. OAPSB Zone 2 Meeting Update

The Chair referred members to the information provided in their agenda packages. This information was discussed at the recent conference. Many changes ahead regarding board composition and education. There was not indication on who will pay for the training.

b. Ministry of the Solicitor General July 19, 2023

The Chair referred members to the correspondence as was provided in their agenda package confirming that the Upper Ottawa Valley OPP detachment board proposal was approved by the Solicitor General to the next step in finalizing the board compositions, which is posting the composition on the Ontario Regulatory Registry (ORR).

c. Email re. 332 Alfred Street

The Chair referred members to the email correspondence provided in the agenda package. Inspector Neufeld indicated that there have been 47 calls for service and the OPP is well aware of the activity that is happening at this address. He further stated that on June 16th a drug warrant was received, charges were laid however shortly thereafter, the complaints began again. He explained that there are many steps involved to obtain a search warrant which takes time and

evidence. This address is being used to rent out rooms and the garage to numerous individuals. He suggested that individuals who see activity in the area to identify the times during the day and contact the OPP and/or Crime stoppers. Individuals can also assist themselves with programs such as Community Watch, CAMSafe, Property Identifications, etc. A question was asked about the involvement of City services such as By-law Enforcement and the Fire Department. Other services which could assist include Public Health and Children's Services if children are involved.

d. Email re. Community Safety Plan

The Chair indicated that an email was received from a city resident regarding the Community Safety Plan and the individual's concerns about the drug activity occurring in the downtown area. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- This is not just a policing matter, it's a community concern to address these issues.
- Community Safety and Well-Being Plan will be released in September.
- Landlord is to provide security; this is not a city responsibility.
- Building across the street has been an on-going issue for many years.
- Perhaps crime prevention by design could be used in the areas noted.
- Are Naloxone kits available at the various outdoor staff work areas?

Direction:

The Chair will respond to this individual regarding her concerns and will follow up with the CAO regarding the supply of Naloxone kits to staff.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2023, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

12. Motion to Adjourn

Motion:

Moved by Christine Reavie

Seconded by Malcolm Montgomery

That the July 27, 2023, Pembroke Police Services Board meeting adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

Carried

Chair

Recording Secretary