

**Police Services Board for the Town of Tecumseh
Minutes**

Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020
Time: 4:30 pm
Location: This meeting is being conducted electronically

Present:
Mayor, Gary McNamara
Deputy Mayor, Joe Bachetti
Member, Marc Gomes
Chair, Christopher Hales
Vice-Chair, Paul Sweet

Also Present:
OPP Sergeant Byron Hornick
OPP Inspector, Glenn Miller
OPP Staff Sergeant, Jamie Smith
Secretary, Margaret Misesk-Evans, CAO
Recording Secretary, Ellen Preuschat

A. Call to Order

Chair Christopher Hales called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

B. Roll Call

C. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There was no pecuniary interest declared by a member of the Board.

D. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: PSB - 14/20

Moved by Member Marc Gomes

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Joe Bachetti

That the Supplementary Agenda for the Police Services Board Meeting, dated Thursday, May 14, 2020, as duplicated and delivered to the members thereof, **be accepted.**

Carried

E. Approval of the Previous Minutes

1. Police Services Board Regular Meeting - March 4, 2020

Motion: PSB - 15/20

Moved by Mayor Gary McNamara

Seconded by Member Marc Gomes

That the Regular Minutes of the March 4, 2020 Police Services Board Meeting, as duplicated and delivered to the members thereof, **be adopted.**

Carried

F. Delegations

There were no delegations presented to the Board.

G. OPP Monthly Report

Inspector Glenn Miller provided an overview of Essex County OPP policing during the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted the following:

- Steps were taken to limit potential exposure, including routing all calls through the communications centre.
- All annual and discretionary leave was initially cancelled, but is now again available to officers.
- Police responded to a high level of directives from the Province, in cooperation with municipal bylaw enforcement officials.
- Some of the public assumed the OPP would not stop vehicles but this was not the case. Normal traffic enforcement activities have continued.
- Calls for service dropped significantly, including a 30% drop in April compared to the previous year.
- The detachment handled 570 COVID-19 related calls, and charges were laid in some cases.

Sgt. Jamie Smith provided an overview of the OPP reports, focusing on April 2020. He noted that the auxiliary officer program and RIDE checks are suspended as a result of COVID-19. The members expressed some concern over the continuing high number of alarm related calls in Tecumseh. Sgt. Smith noted that many of these appear to be commercial (rather than residential) originating in the south end of the Town.

1. **OPP Police Services Board Monthly Overview - February to April 2020**
2. **OPP Report to Tecumseh PSB - February to April 2020**

Motion: PSB - 16/20

Moved by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet

Seconded by Mayor Gary McNamara

That the OPP Report for the months of February to April 2020 be received.

Carried

H. Reports

There were no reports presented to the board.

I. Communications - Action Required

There were no Communications Items - Action Required presented to the board.

J. Communications - For Information Purposes

1. Township of Pelee dated February 28, 2020

Re: 911 Misdials

2. Municipality of Mattice Val-Cote dated March 2, 2020

Re: 911 Misdials

3. OAPSB dated March 23, 2020

Re: Cancellation of 2020 Spring Conference

4. Town of Tecumseh dated March 31, 2020

Re: Letter to Town of Lakeshore re OPP Detachment Boards

5. OAPSB dated April 16, 2020

Re: Notice of the 2020 OAPSB Annual General Meeting

6. OAPSB Zone 6 Meeting - April 22, 2020

Re: Agenda and Minutes

7. Solicitor General dated April 24, 2020

Re: Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Deadline Extension due to COVID-19 Pandemic

8. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) dated May 1, 2020

Re: Discussion Paper - New Ontario Provincial Police Detachment Boards

Motion: PSB - 17/20

Moved by Member Marc Gomes

Seconded by Mayor Gary McNamara

That correspondence detailed as Items 1-8, Communications for Information, **be received.**

Carried

K. Old Business

1. Town of Tecumseh 2019 Citizen Satisfaction Survey

a. Essex County OPP - Tecumseh Detachment dated May 8, 2020

Re: Tecumseh 2019 Citizen Satisfaction Survey

Inspector Miller noted that the OPP analyst performed an in-depth review of call data over the past five years, and looked closely at Ward 2 which had the lowest satisfaction scores in the Town's survey. What stood out is that traffic complaints and collisions were the highest in the area, which could be a driver in the lower scores. He raised the question of what traffic calming measures have been put in place by the Town, and what may have changed with the roads? He also noted that, during the survey period, there was an overall 280% increase in shoplifting offences as well as some significant calls for service with a large police presence that may have influenced residents' perceptions of policing and community safety. Other factors he noted that may have contributed to the decrease in satisfaction:

- Many bylaw offences relate to parking infractions, often repeated. The police do not have the ability to seize vehicles.
- During investigations the OPP focus on victims. Calls with low degrees of threat may not receive a personal response, and are often anonymous in nature.
- During this period, criminals committing property crimes were often rearrested, as the courts will not permit detention.

Chair Hales thanked the Inspector for the information and suggested that a presentation to Council would be beneficial. The Inspector noted that it would be helpful to receive Council's questions in advance in order to be able to address them effectively.

Motion: PSB - 18/20

Moved by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet

Seconded by Member Marc Gomes

That the Essex County OPP **report** to Council on the results of the Town of Tecumseh 2019 Citizen Satisfaction Survey, as they relate to policing, and that the Detachment Commander or his delegate appear before Council as a delegation to **present** the report.

Carried

L. New Business**1. COVID-19 Pandemic**

Re: CAO Update

CAO Margaret Misek-Evans provided a summary of the actions the Town has taken since the declaration of emergency related to both the COVID-19 pandemic and threat of inland lake flooding by Mayor McNamara on March 22, 2020. These have included closures of facilities and changes in service delivery and work arrangements. By-law enforcement staff have been working together with police on the enforcement of orders under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*; she noted that an educational approach has worked to achieve compliance in most cases. The provincial government has announced an extension to the original deadline of January 1, 2021 to complete the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, although the new date has not yet been announced. She also reported on the detailed planning underway by the Town and external agencies to prepare for flooding this year.

2. OAPSB Section 10 Election

Chair Hales reported that Jim Maudsley of Thames Centre was elected as the Section 10 OPP Contract South West representative to the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) at the Section 10 elections held earlier today by virtual platform.

3. Excessive Noise - Vehicular Exhaust Systems

At the May 12, 2020 Regular Council meeting, concern was raised by a member of Council regarding excessive noise generated by vehicular exhaust systems (either as a result of speed or loud muffler systems, or both). At the meeting, Administration was directed to investigate and raise this matter with the board and the OPP regarding enforceability. The members concurred that this problem appears to be escalating in neighborhoods, as more residents are altering their vehicles. The CAO advised that she will follow up with the OPP to recommend a way forward on this matter. In addition, the Mayor requested more traffic enforcement along CR 22. Sgt. Smith advised that there are safety concerns with enforcement on CR 22 but they will request the traffic management unit to

enhance efforts. In response to a member inquiry, he also confirmed that the portable safety lanes provided through the Ministry of Transportation are still available for use.

M. Next Meeting

Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

N. Adjournment

Motion: PSB - 19/20

Moved by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Joe Bachetti

That there being no further business to discuss, the Thursday, May 14, 2020 meeting of the Tecumseh Police Services Board **adjourn** at 6:10 pm.

Carried

Christopher Hales, Chair

Margaret Misek-Evans, Secretary