

Police Services Board for the Town of Tecumseh

Minutes

Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020
Time: 4:30 pm
Location: Electronic meeting live streamed at:
<https://video.isilive.ca/tecumseh/live.html>.

Present:

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

Also Present:

OPP Inspector, Glenn Miller
OPP Staff Sergeant, Jamie Smith
OPP Sergeant Byron Hornick
Secretary, Margaret Misek-Evans, CAO
Recording Secretary, Ellen Preuschat

Others:

Director Planning and Building Services, Brian Hillman

A. Call to Order

Chair Christopher Hales called the meeting to order at 4:31 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 - 42/20

Moved by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Joe Bachetti

That the Agenda for the Police Services Board Meeting, dated Thursday, December 10, 2020, as duplicated and delivered to the members thereof, **be accepted.**

Carried

E. Approval of the Previous Minutes

- 1. Police Services Board Regular Meeting - October 15, 2020**
- 2. Police Services Board Special Meeting - November 12, 2020**

Motion: PSB - 43/20

Moved by Deputy Mayor Joe Bachetti

Seconded by Member Marc Gomes

That the Regular Minutes of the October 15, 2020 Police Services Board Meeting and the Special Minutes of the November 12, 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

Staff Sgt. Jamie Smith provided a summary of the OPP Report for the month of October 2020.

In response to an inquiry, Staff Sgt. Smith explained that 'wellness checks' are carried out by police for a variety of reasons, including mental health, checking on an elderly neighbour or relative, and so on.

Mayor McNamara expressed concern about a potential increase in theft by 'porch pirates' as a result of the large increase in holiday deliveries by mail or courier due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He recommended that a public service notice be released by the OPP to remind residents to be vigilant.

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

Motion: PSB - 44/20

Moved by Member Marc Gomes

Seconded by Mayor Gary McNamara

That the OPP Report for the month of October 2020, **be received**.

Carried

H. Reports

- 1. OAPSB Zone 6 Meeting - November 25, 2020**

Re: Chair's Report

Motion: PSB - 45/20

Moved by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet

Seconded by Member Marc Gomes

That the Chair's Report on the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards Zone 6 Meeting held in virtual format on November 25, 2020, **be received.**

Carried

I. Communications - Action Required

1. Ontario Association of Police Services Boards dated November 25, 2020

Re: Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Transfer Payment Program Review - Communications to Ontario Police Services Boards

Inspector Miller explained that the OPP Municipal Policing Bureau has reached out to the Ministry of the Solicitor General to obtain clarification on what qualifies as court security during the COVID-19 pandemic, as procedures have been altered. He also confirmed that court security is not part of Tecumseh's contract, only prisoner transportation. Mayor McNamara added that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) will be advocating for these expenses not to be downloaded from the province to the municipal level.

J. Communications - For Information Purposes

1. Halton Police Services Board dated October 30, 2020

Re: International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Definition of Antisemitism

Motion: PSB - 46/20

Moved by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Joe Bachetti

That correspondence detailed as Item I-1, Communications - Action Required, and Item J-1, Communications - For Information Purposes, **be received.**

Carried

K. Old Business

1. OPP Contract Renewal

Re: CAO Update

CAO Margaret Misk-Evans noted that, because the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* is not yet in force, a contract is still required under the *Police Services Act, 1990*. The current contract expires on December 31, 2020 and a draft agreement has been received from the Municipal Policing Bureau. It is largely the same agreement, but does include a new clause requiring one-year notice for the cancellation of any enhancements. The proposed contract will be presented to Council for consideration early in 2021. Chair Hales noted that it does not include any enhancements.

L. New Business

1. Cannabis Act and Illicit Cannabis Operations

Re: Communications referred by Tecumseh Town Council on November 24, 2020

a. Town of Fort Erie dated November 17, 2020

Re: Township of Asphodel-Norwood, Bill, C-45, *Cannabis Act*

b. Town of Lincoln dated November 16, 2020

Re: Resolution re Norfolk County Illicit Cannabis Operations

The Town's Director of Planning and Building Services, Brian Hillman, joined the meeting at this point (5:03 pm). He explained that the correspondence was referred to the board by Council at its November 24, 2020 meeting in order to obtain some insight from the OPP on their activities related to illicit cannabis operations. He noted that Council regularly receives resolutions from other communities in the province frustrated with the regulatory environment.

Inspector Glenn Miller noted the following:

- The OPP receives regular notification, typically on a weekly basis, from individuals and entities wishing to obtain a license from Health Canada to grow/produce cannabis. All requests are tracked by the OPP.
- Intelligence led policing is employed to ensure the individuals and entities involved comply with all laws. The Essex County OPP has a strong network of partners that assist in this tracking and observation.
- Investigations of suspected illicit operations can be long and complicated. While the public may have the perception of 'inaction', in fact the OPP is very engaged. A significant amount of illicit marijuana has been seized in this area.
- The criminal elements are growing in sophistication and often have multiple operations underway in different locations.

CAO Marg Misek-Evans inquired if there are steps the Town could take in its land use planning to forestall illicit operations. Inspector Miller responded that the Town's current legal framework is a good one, but the OPP will advance any observations and suggestions as they arise. The OPP and Town staff will continue this dialogue moving forward.

Mayor McNamara added that refinement in the federal legislation is needed. Even when municipalities strengthen their bylaws, producers take advantage of 'grey areas' in federal laws.

Motion: PSB - 47/20

Moved by Mayor Gary McNamara

Seconded by Member Marc Gomes

That correspondence from the Town of Fort Erie dated November 17, 2020 regarding the Township of Asphodel-Norwood, Bill C-45, *Cannabis Act*, and the Town of Lincoln dated November 16, 2020 regarding Resolution re Norfolk County Illicit Cannabis Operations, **be received**.

Carried

2. COVID-19 Pandemic - Enforcement Activity

Re: OPP Report Out on Enforcement of Provincial Legislation, Regulations and Orders related to COVID-19

- a. Ministry of the Solicitor General All-Chiefs Memo 20-0162 dated November 15, 2020

Re: Further Changes under the *Reopening Ontario Act, 2020*

- b. Ministry of the Solicitor General All-Chiefs Memo 20-0163 dated November 24, 2020

Re: Amendments to COVID-19 Orders under the *Reopening Ontario Act, 2020* and Regulations under the *Provincial Offences Act* to Support Enforcement of Medical Officer of Health Orders

Inspector Miller explained that, throughout the various stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the OPP has been engaged in enforcement activity as directed by the provincial government, without any additional resources. He stated that the OPP has a good partnership with the bylaw officers in the various municipalities and will not hesitate to lay charges where it is appropriate. They are also tasked with doing follow ups on quarantine. He noted that both the OPP and Town bylaw staff now participate in the Town's Partial Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) meetings for enhanced communication and cooperation.

Brian Hillman, Director of Planning and Building Services, reported that Council passed a bylaw to empower three additional staff to issue tickets for bylaw infractions. A schedule of proactive enforcement has been

implemented, including after-hours work. They are also coordinating with the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) for more proactive enforcement and participate in regular regional meetings with WECHU staff. He appreciates the support and coordination with the OPP to support Town staff in this role.

Mayor McNamara added that the WECHU has limited staff, who have been greatly taxed throughout the pandemic, and it is a significant support to them when such partnerships can move enforcement efforts ahead.

Motion: PSB - 48/20

Moved by Mayor Gary McNamara

Seconded by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet

That the Ministry of the Solicitor General's All-Chiefs Memo 20-162 dated November 15, 2020 re Further Changes under the *Reopening Ontario Act, 2020*, and All-Chiefs Memo 20-163 dated November 24, 2020, regarding Amendments to COVID-19 Orders under the *Reopening Ontario Act, 2020* and Regulations under the *Provincial Offences Act* to Support Enforcement of Medical Officer of Health Orders, **be received**.

Carried

3. 2021 Rural Ontario Municipalities of Ontario (ROMA) Virtual Conference - January 25-26, 2021

Re: Panel Discussion on 'Governing New OPP Detachment Boards'

Mayor McNamara reported that he will take part in a panel discussion at the 2021 Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) Conference on January 26, 2021. The theme will be "Governing New OPP Detachments Boards" and will include an OPP Inspector from Oxford County and representative from the Ministry of the Solicitor General. He invited input from the OPP and board for the presentation.

Motion: PSB - 49/20

Moved by Deputy Mayor Joe Bachetti

Seconded by Member Marc Gomes

That the verbal report by Mayor Gary McNamara on the 2021 ROMA Conference panel on OPP Detachment Boards, **be received**.

Carried

4. Communication to OAPSB

Re: Format of 2021 OAPSB Spring Conference and AGM

Motion: PSB - 50/20

Moved by Mayor Gary McNamara
Seconded by Member Marc Gomes

Whereas, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and related public health guidelines and restrictions, it is unknown whether conferences, annual general meetings, and other educational events will be permitted to take place in person in 2021; and

Whereas the Tecumseh Police Services Board has recommended a one-time reduction in its 2021 Professional Development budget to a level that would support participation in virtual events only;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board Chair write a letter to the President of the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) encouraging the OAPSB to offer upcoming educational events, in particular the 2021 OAPSB Annual Spring Conference and AGM, in virtual format parallel to any in-person format, should the OAPSB decide to hold in-person events in 2021.

Carried

5. 2021 Meeting Schedule

Motion: PSB - 51/20

Moved by Deputy Mayor Joe Bachetti
Seconded by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet

That the Police Services Board **approve** the following meeting dates in 2021: February 11, April 8, June 10, September 9, October 14, and December 9.

Carried

6. COVID-19 Vaccines

Inspector Miller reported that the OPP will be responsible for protecting the COVID-19 vaccine supply chain in Ontario, and that arrival of the vaccine is imminent. This protection also extends to the cyber domain in relation to the supply chain.

M. Next Meeting

February 11, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

N. Adjournment

Motion: PSB - 52/20

Moved by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet

Seconded by Member Marc Gomes

That there being no further business to discuss, the Thursday, December 10, 2020 meeting of the Tecumseh Police Services Board **adjourn** at 5:54 pm.

Carried

Christopher Hales, Chair

Margaret Misek-Evans, Secretary