

Police Services Board for the Town of Tecumseh

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021
Time: 1:00 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
Secretary, Margaret Misek-Evans, CAO
Recording Secretary, Ellen Preuschat

Others:

OPP Constable, Blake Cohoe

A. Call to Order

Chair Christopher Hales called the meeting to order at 1:05 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 - 46/21

Moved by Member Marc Gomes
Seconded by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet

That the Agenda for the Special Police Services Board Meeting, dated Tuesday, November 30, 2021, as duplicated and delivered to the members thereof, **be accepted.**

Carried

E. Communications - Action Required**1. Ministry of the Solicitor General dated November 10, 2021**

Re: Call for Applications: 2022-23 - 2024-25 Community Safety and Policing Grant (Local and Provincial Priorities Funding Streams)

OPP Constable Blake Cohoe noted that Tecumseh's allocation for the 2022-23 – 2024-25 Community Safety and Policing Grant, Local Funding Stream, is \$117,102 per fiscal year. The Essex County OPP is proposing to submit an application to the Ministry of the Solicitor General that pools the allocations from the four Essex County municipalities, to be applied to costs associated with the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT) and Youth Crisis Response Team (YCRT) established in 2019.

Costs covered would include vehicles, equipment, training, and social services workers (partial wages). Additionally unlike the 2019-20 – 2021-22 grant cycle, officers' wages can be claimed as an expense, so that a portion of the grant funding would be allocated as revenue to the participating municipalities. It is up to each municipality to decide how they would like to use these returned funds. Constable Cohoe also noted that, as certain items are 'capped' - for example 30% of the grant can be used for equipment - pooling the funds regionally would provide more flexibility and overall impact.

Inspector Miller stated that an investment in the MCRRT and YCRT teams represents a significant investment in the community and these mental health programs are vitally needed. The reimbursement of the officers' wages is an added benefit; however, it is the decision of each area board on how to proceed.

CAO Margaret Misk Evans inquired on the performance and uptake of the MCRRT and YCRT programs over the past two years. Constable Cohoe responded that, while the COVID-19 pandemic posed significant challenges, the following was accomplished:

- Rapid Access to Service program developed with physicians;
- office renovations;
- purchase of vehicles;
- Breaking Free Online program
- We Help First app created for first responders and their families;
- multilingual brochures on access to crisis services;
- assistance at the Windsor-Essex Child/Youth Advocacy Centre; and
- extensive training on crisis intervention.

PC Cohoe noted that \$180,000 of funding from the first grant cycle was returned to the Solicitor General due to uncompleted tasks, largely attributed to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CAO Misek-Evans inquired how many calls per municipality the teams handled. PC Cohoe responded that, in total, there were 351 diversions from hospital emergency rooms over two years. A breakdown by municipality is not available.

CAO Misek-Evans asked if, going forward, Leamington would continue to be serviced by the program, noting that Leamington no longer has a police services board and would therefore not qualify for funding under this grant program.

PC Cohoe responded that, under the *Mental Health Act*, the OPP is obligated to respond to crisis calls from all the municipalities it services. Leamington would not, however, receive any of the funding from returned officers' wages.

CAO Misek-Evans advised the board that the Town qualifies to submit up to two applications and Administration has looked into the possibility of using a portion of the grant funding for a traffic related program, as constant complaints about traffic related issues are received by Council, board and staff. She noted that a detachment in eastern Ontario successfully implemented such a program, and Ministry staff indicated it has merit. It could include technology for automated speed enforcement (potentially through Local Authority Services), a dedicated webpage to share traffic monitoring data, targeted enforcement, development of an app to prevent cell phone use while driving, and participation in national and provincial traffic safety programs for public education. The challenge, she noted, would be to develop a data driven application that meets all grant requirements within the short deadline period (now extended to Friday, January 14, 2022). The alternative, she explained, would be to use some of the revenue from the officers' wages that would be returned to the Town under the MCRRT and YCRT grant model to develop a traffic program, with additional time to develop and implement. Staff Sgt. Jamie Smith added that the program in eastern Ontario was largely led by public health, and having more time for program development could allow for additional public health and community partnerships.

Chair Hales asked for members' input, and all members voiced their support for the alternative approach as outlined by the CAO, noting the high number of traffic complaints received by Council and the board.

Vice Chair Sweet stated that some larger police services are calling on the Province to change the definition of apprehension in the *Mental Health Act* (MHA) in order to lessen police involvement. He suggested that the board may wish to support this initiative, as it may also lower the resources required by the OPP to respond to MHA calls. Chair Hales proposed that Vice Chair Sweet bring forward a report on this matter at the next regular board meeting.

It was decided to reschedule the next regular board meeting from December 9 to December 17 to provide additional time for writing of the

grant application. PC Cohoe confirmed that, to date Kingsville and Lakeshore have supported the pooled application, and the Essex PSB is meeting later this week. (Their allocations are \$89K, \$89K and \$112K respectively.)

Motion: PSB - 47/21

Moved by Member Marc Gomes

Seconded by Mayor Gary McNamara

That the Police Services Board for the Town of Tecumseh provide direction to the Essex County OPP Detachment **to prepare** an application to the Ministry of the Solicitor General for the Local Priorities Stream of the Community Safety and Policing Grant for 2022-23 - 2024-25 for the continuation of the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team and Youth Crisis Response Team programs;

And that the application **be provided** to the board for consideration of approval at the next regular meeting.

Carried

F. Next Meeting

Friday, December 17, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

G. Adjournment

Motion: PSB - 48/21

Moved by Deputy Mayor Joe Bachetti

Seconded by Mayor Gary McNamara

That there being no further business to discuss, the Tuesday, November 30, 2021 special meeting of the Tecumseh Police Services Board **adjourn** at 1:57 pm.

Carried

Christopher Hales, Chair

Margaret Misek-Evans, Secretary