

Police Services Board for the Town of Tecumseh

Minutes

Date: Monday, January 16, 2023
Time: 4:30 pm
Location: Tecumseh Town Hall - Council Chambers
917 Lesperance Road
Tecumseh, Ontario N8N 1W9

Present:

Mayor, Gary McNamara
Councillor, Rick Tonial
Member, Marc Gomes
Member, Christopher Hales
Member, Paul Sweet

Also Present:

OPP Inspector Angela Ferguson
OPP Staff Sergeant, Jamie Smith
Secretary, Margaret Misek-Evans, CAO
Recording Secretary, Ellen Preuschat

Others:

Sgt. Mike Whitelaw, Essex County OPP

A. Call to Order

CAO Margaret Misek-Evans called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

B. Roll Call

C. Oath of Office

CAO Margaret Misek-Evans welcomed new member Councillor Rick Tonial to the board. The Oath of Office for the Police Services Board of the Town of Tecumseh was sworn and signed by Councillor Tonial.

D. Service Recognition

1. Deputy Mayor Joe Bachetti

CAO Margaret Misek-Evans thanked Deputy Mayor Joe Bachetti for his service to the board during the past two terms of Council, from 2015 to 2022. (He had previously served from 2009 to 2010 as well.) She provided Deputy Mayor Bachetti with a certificate of appreciation and gift from the board. Deputy Mayor Bachetti wished the board well and thanked the members and OPP for their service to the community.

E. Election/Appointment of Officers

1. Appointment of Secretary and Recording Secretary

Motion: PSB - 01/23

Moved by Mayor Gary McNamara
Seconded by Member Paul Sweet

That the appointment of Margaret Misk-Evans as Secretary and Ellen Preuschat as Recording Secretary for the Tecumseh Police Services Board **be reconfirmed** for the period of January 16, 2023 to the date of the first meeting of the board in 2024.

Carried

2. Election of Chair

Secretary Margaret Misk-Evans called for nominations for Chair of the Tecumseh Police Services Board for the year 2023 and up to the first meeting of the board in 2024. Mayor Gary McNamara nominated Christopher Hales, seconded by Paul Sweet. Following second and third calls for nominations, no further nominations were received. The Secretary asked Mr. Hales if he wishes to stand and he accepted.

Motion: PSB - 02/23

Moved by Mayor Gary McNamara
Seconded by Member Paul Sweet

That Christopher Hales **be appointed** as Chair of the Police Services Board for the period of January 16, 2023 to the date of the first meeting of the board in 2024.

Carried

3. Election of Vice Chair

Chair Christopher Hales called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Tecumseh Police Services Board for the year 2023 and up to the first meeting of the board in 2024. Member Marc Gomes nominated Paul Sweet, seconded by Mayor McNamara. Following second and third calls for nominations, no further nominations were received. The Chair asked Mr. Sweet if he wishes to stand and he accepted.

Chair Hales referred to the recent tragic death of Constable Greg Pierszchala and confirmed both the board's awareness of how dangerous police work can be and its support for the OPP frontline officers.

Chair Hales also noted that the recent vision statement received from the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) is a good reminder that the primary function of this board is to provide police oversight.

Motion: PSB - 03/23

Moved by Member Marc Gomes

Seconded by Mayor Gary McNamara

That Paul Sweet **be appointed** as Vice Chair of the Police Services Board for the Town of Tecumseh for the period of January 16, 2023 to the date of the first meeting of the board in 2024.

Carried

F. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

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

G. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: PSB - 04/23

Moved by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet

Seconded by Councillor Rick Tonial

That the Agenda for the Police Services Board Meeting, dated Monday, January 16, 2023, as duplicated and delivered to the members thereof, **be accepted**.

Carried

H. Approval of the Previous Minutes

1. Police Services Board Regular Meeting - October 17, 2022

Motion: PSB - 05/23

Moved by Mayor Gary McNamara

Seconded by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet

That the Regular Minutes of the October 17, 2022 Police Services Board Meeting, as duplicated and delivered to the members thereof, **be adopted**.

Carried

I. Delegations

There were no delegations presented to the board.

J. OPP Monthly Report

1. OPP Police Services Board Monthly Overview - September - November 2022

2. OPP Report to Tecumseh PSB - September - November 2022

Inspector Ferguson provided an overview of the OPP monthly reports for September to November 2022. She noted the OPP is working on setting up a bicycle course for the spring to reactivate the bike patrol and also that new auxiliary members have been hired.

Vice Chair Paul Sweet inquired if the Mental Health Response Unit calls can be broken into categories for new, repeat and resolved calls. Inspector Ferguson stated that such a breakdown is not included in the monthly report and more analysis would be needed. She noted that the teams are carrying out significant proactive work to try to prevent calls from ending up at the hospital emergency room. Vice Chair Sweet indicated that an annual report out would fulfill this request for information.

Councillor Tonial stated that many resident concerns are traffic related and inquired on the best way for residents to contact the OPP in relation to traffic issues. Staff Sgt. Smith responded that residents are advised to call the dispatch number (888-310-1122) because these calls are documented and tracked. Messages from Council or Town Administration are also helpful, as the police work closely with the Town in monitoring critical areas and employing speed monitors where they are most needed.

Member Marc Gomes complimented the OPP on the high number of patrol hours as indicated in the monthly reports.

Mayor McNamara asked if the higher youth crime data for north shore communities was related to vandalism in parks. Staff Sgt. Smith responded that most of the youth charges were in fact related to shoplifting.

Chair Hales inquired if bike patrol training be opened to auxiliaries, leading to higher rates of park patrol. Inspector Ferguson noted that auxiliary staff are certainly invited to participate in the training. However, unlike in municipal police forces, OPP auxiliary cannot patrol without an officer present.

Motion: PSB - 06/23

Moved by Mayor Gary McNamara
Seconded by Member Marc Gomes

That the OPP Report for the months of September to November 2022 **be received.**

Carried

K. Reports

There were no reports presented to the board.

L. Communications - Action Required

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

M. Communications - For Information Purposes

1. Ministry of the Solicitor General dated October 20, 2022

Re: Update on Essex County Detachment Board Proposal

CAO Marg Misk-Evans reported that, in relation to this correspondence, Administration has just received an email from the Ministry confirming the Essex County detachment board proposal has been submitted to the Solicitor General for approval. Chair Hales inquired if any of the local boards received communications from Caldwell First Nation. The CAO responded that she was not aware of any but assumes from this email that the Ministry was successful in connecting with them in order to move the proposal forward.

2. Mayor Gary McNamara dated January 4, 2023

Re: Letter of Condolence to Essex County OPP

Motion: PSB - 07/23

Moved by Member Marc Gomes

Seconded by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet

That correspondence detailed as Items 1-2, Communications for Information, **be received.**

Carried

N. Old Business

There was no old business presented to the board.

O. New Business

1. 2023 Schedule of Meetings

Motion: PSB - 08/23

Moved by Councillor Rick Tonial

Seconded by Member Marc Gomes

That the Police Services Board **approve** the following meeting dates in 2023: January 16, April 3, June 26, October 2, November 6 and December 4.

Carried

2. Homelessness in Tecumseh

Re: Update by Staff Sgt. Jamie Smith

Staff Sgt. Smith has had discussions with the St. Vincent de Paul Society regarding reports of homeless persons in the Town. The Society has provided kits containing food, drinks and sleeping bags to provide to any homeless person encountered by the police who does not wish to move to a local shelter. This support helps build trust towards more assistance in the future. Staff Sgt. Smith intends to maintain regular communications with the Society going forward.

Chair Hales indicated there are also other organizations assisting the homeless and vulnerable in our community. He will provide contact information on these additional groups to Staff Sgt. Smith. Mayor McNamara will also provide information on Second Chance Ministry.

3. 2023 OAPSB Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting, May 30 - June 1, 2023, Niagara Falls, ON

Re: Board and Staff Attendance

CAO Margaret Misek-Evans canvassed the board regarding interest in attending this year's OAPSB Spring Conference and AGM. Four members and one staff person plan to attend, which can be accommodated within the 2023 budget allocation.

Motion: PSB - 09/23

Moved by Councillor Rick Tonial

Seconded by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet

That attendance by board members and administrative staff at the 2023 Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting to be held May 30 - June 1, 2023 in Niagara Falls, ON **be approved**, in accordance with the Town of Tecumseh Travel Policy, Professional Development Policy and 2023 budget.

Carried

4. Review of Regulations under Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019

Re: CAO Update

CAO Margaret Misek-Evans summarized the latest tranche of regulations under the *Community Safety and Policing Act* released for review by the Ministry of the Solicitor General, noting that they are operational in nature and did not warrant bringing a report forward to the board.

5. Correspondence to Attorney General of Canada

Mayor McNamara reported that five police officers were killed in Ontario in 2022 carrying out their duties - most recently Const. Grzegorz Pierzchala, by a violent repeat offender out of custody on bail. He proposed that the board send a letter to the Attorney General of Canada in support of stiffer penalties for violent crimes and not releasing violent offenders on bail while they await trial. The letter should be copied to the Prime Minister, OAPSB and Town Council. The Chair suggested it could also be sent to the OPP Commissioner, although the Mayor emphasized that change needs to be driven by communities, not the police.

Motion: PSB - 10/23

Moved by Mayor Gary McNamara
Seconded by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet

That, in response to the recent disturbing trend in the loss of police officers due to violence perpetrated by violent repeat offenders, a letter **be sent** to the Attorney General of Canada advocating for changes to federal legislation relating to stiffer penalties and bail reform for those committing violent gun crimes, as requested by the Toronto Police Services Boards and supported by the Ontario Association of Police Services Board (OAPSB);

And that a copy of the correspondence **be sent** to the Prime Minister of Canada, OAPSB and Tecumseh Town Council.

Carried

P. Next Meeting

Monday, April 3, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Q. Adjournment

Motion: PSB - 11/23

Moved by Vice-Chair Paul Sweet
Seconded by Councillor Rick Tonial

That there being no further business to discuss, the Monday, January 16, 2023 meeting of the Tecumseh Police Services Board **adjourn** at 5:27 pm.

Carried

Christopher Hales, Chair

Margaret Misek-Evans, Secretary