



POLICE SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023

1:00 p.m.

**Tay Valley Municipal Office – 217 Harper Road, Perth, Ontario
Council Chambers**

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Chair, Neil Fennell, Municipal Appointee
Rob Rainer, Reeve, Council Appointee

Staff Present: Amanda Mabo, CAO/Clerk/Secretary

Others Present: None

Members & Staff Absent: Vacant, Provincial Appointee

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.
A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None at this time.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

i) Minutes (Closed Session) – February 28th, 2023.

The minutes of the Police Services Board Meeting (Closed Session) held on February 28th, 2023 were approved as circulated.

ii) **Minutes – March 23rd, 2023.**

The minutes of the Police Services Board Meeting held on March 23rd, 2023 were approved as circulated.

iii) **Minutes (Closed Session) – March 23rd, 2023.**

The minutes of the Police Services Board Meeting (Closed Session) held on March 23rd, 2023 were approved as circulated.

5. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

7. BUSINESS

i) **Reporting of Major Incidents Protocol.**

RESOLUTION #PSB-2023-06

MOVED BY: Rob Rainer

“THAT, the Police Services Board move “in camera” at 1:03 p.m. to address a matter pertaining to intimate financial or personal matters or other matters;

AND THAT, the Board Secretary remain in the room.”

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION #PSB-2023-07

MOVED BY: Rob Rainer

“THAT, the Board move out of camera at 1:44 p.m.”

ADOPTED

The Chair rose and reported that the Board discussed a recent incident that required use of the Reporting of Major Incidents Protocol.

The Board recessed at 1:47 p.m.

The Board returned to session at 1:59 p.m.

The Chair informed the Board that the Detachment Commander has asked for a discussion on the notification process for major incidents.

The Board would like to hear from the Detachment Commander on the concerns in relation to the existing notification protocol as written. What is it that concerns him?

The Detachment Commander indicated that the notification protocol seems to be pretty standard, the protocol as written seems to be satisfactory.

The Chair indicated that in this regard, the Board is seeking some input from the Detachment Commander in particular the recent incident in regard to the missing person in the Township. The Board feels that the information sharing between the OPP and the Board, and the Municipality was lacking in this case and would have wished to have seen additional information provided at the time of this incident, of the opinion that the Board and the Municipality should have been informed of some of the circumstances surrounding this incident. The Municipality did receive some enquiries from the public and they were informed to call the OPP. Notification was provided at the onset and then at the conclusion. At the end of that investigation the CAO reached out to the Detachment Commander and then the Chair reached out for some additional information with regards to the result of the investigation and as to whether a press release was produced. The response from the Detachment Commander suggests to the Board that the Board was overextending its reach into operations. The Board does understand those boundaries and would have liked to have some other information in addition to what was received and the public interest was not served by limiting the amount of information shared as it led to inquiries that the Municipality and Board could not answer.

The Reeve learned himself the nature of the incident by just doing a Google search, Inside Ottawa Valley had the information before the CAO got that information and even after the CAO did not get as much information as the media had. The Board is looking to get information more proactively. For example, more precision on the area being searched. Just do not want to be left with wondering what is going on. Just lacking information that may have been helpful. The Municipality gets direct calls.

The Google search came up with a media release and a photo of the individual. That kind of information should come proactively to the Municipality.

The Detachment Commander indicated that the protocol was in place and was adhered to. Media releases are not done for these types of incidents at the local detachment, OPP Orillia did a Tweet and Facebook post, which are not sent to the local detachments. In this case limited information was given out to the CAO, the information was kept fairly close as the person was found deceased. If the Board wants more information, then that should go into the Protocol.

The Board agreed that the policy should be updated so that more information is provided depending on the nature of the incident instead of just notification at the beginning of the incident and then again at the end.

As a next step the Board will review the Protocol and draft changes for the Detachment Commanders review.

ii) **Policing Contract.**
Detachment Commander.

a) Lanark County OPP – 1st Quarter Report.

The Board reviewed the report and had a question regarding Patrol, it is down significantly in the first quarter of 2023 in Tay Valley and in Lanark County.

Previously, officers would drive around randomly for patrol. Now targeting specific areas using data analysis. The goal is to reduce patrol hours overall to be more effective and efficient in reducing crime.

Overtime, cruiser patrol will also be reduced but other types of patrol will be increased such as foot and bicycle patrol.

There is one Community Services Officer for Lanark County, based out of the Carleton Place detachment.

iii) **Detachment Commander Update.**

The Board would like to get to know the Detachment Commander better by getting updates of other things the Detachment Commander is doing. For instance, who in the community has he met with from an organizational point of view? Is the Detachment Commander undertaking more activities in not only Tay Valley but also across the County that would be of interest to the Board?

The Detachment Commander indicated that he would be happy to provide an overview from the Detachment perspective, along with what he and others are doing. A lot is already captured in the annual progress report. Would be happy to answer additional questions from issued media releases about OPP activities.

The Chair asked if the OPP had any discussions with any specific organizations in the Township.

The Detachment Commander had indicated that they had not.

The Chair indicated that the Board is focusing on this because the Board feels it is important that the citizens know what the Detachments and the Detachment Commanders priorities and involvement in the community are. Therefore, the Board is urging the Detachment Commander to communicate this to the public, and to Tay Valley's citizens.

The Reeve asked the Detachment Commander as to what the major challenges are the Detachment Commander and the OPP are facing? For instance, are there challenges with regards to recruitment? The Township does a “Did You Know?” series, maybe the Detachment Commander could do something similar.

The Detachment Commander indicated that recruitment is an issue as officers are retiring faster than they can be recruited, Province wide. Domestic violence and mental health have also spiked and there does not seem to be any slowing down with these types of calls. As a result, burnout, and the demands placed on officers has changed, need to take care of them as well.

iv) **2023-2025 – Lanark County OPP Action Plan with Board Input.**

The Chair overviewed an email that was sent May 11th to the Detachment Commander.

Inspector, the Tay Valley Police Service Board having held discussions around our contribution to the Lanark County Action Plan 2023-25 wish to offer up the following recommendations. What the Board is about to suggest is based on our unanimous belief that the citizens of Tay Valley are well served by our Police Service and the range of services undertaken by the OPP is clearly set out in the Action Plan document. In addition to traffic and criminal deterrence strategies described in the Plan it speaks at length to community partnerships which go to identifying and servicing our most vulnerable population. The Community safety and Well Being Plan, The Situation Table and other initiatives, the common theme remains collaborative engagement. Our Board does not presume to speak for other Boards across Lanark County but we believe we share a common goal, encouraging effective Police communication with stakeholders and the public at large. It is with this goal in mind the Board will set some strategies to achieve that end

1. Reinstate the weekly or by-weekly press release that up until late 2022 offered up a summary of Police activity in a designated period. Total calls for service and highlights of traffic/criminal incidents. These releases made their way to local newspapers and Municipal websites. Not only are they informative, they illustrate the range of service provided by the OPP. Lanark County is fortunate to have a widely listened to radio station, a community TV station and print media which would willingly circulate media reports both local, regional and Provincial. In addition, the above media could serve to provide educational and other informative exchanges with Police and community partners around the work underway in our community. The Board does see examples of this from time to time, particularly in print media. The Board urges you Sir and others to do more outreach so the community at large can be better informed of what may be happening within their own family and how to seek help.

2. The Board urges you to initiate contact periodically with other emergency service providers across the County. The purpose of which would be to

exchange thoughts on the mutual relationship and to short circuit issues before they fester. Such contact could be extended to Municipal Heads of Council and Chief Administrative Officers. Inspector, be assured the Board respects your work commitments but a planned exchange will help foster a good working relationship.

3. Tay Valley Board will commence asking you to provide a verbal summary of the interaction you have undertaken with other community stakeholders when we meet each quarter. The Board believes it is imperative that we better understand your leadership and relationship building in our Municipality. We are sure your response will include your contact with community partners inside Tay Valley and beyond. The Board believes in fairness to you that we acquire this knowledge so that we can better fulfil our legislated requirement "To Monitor the Performance of the Detachment Commander".

4 Inspector, we are sure that you agree that showing leadership and relationship building are core elements in meaningful community engagement. The Board urges you to consider an annual outreach to the residents of Tay Valley. The purpose of such interaction is to further enlighten residents to what the OPP offers and what are the priorities of their Police Service. The good work and challenges of Policing deserve to be shared with the community. While an in-person meeting is desirable, a brief commentary available to local media might suffice. In the end the Board is seeking to strengthen the Police /Community relationship.

The Board welcomes your feedback around how you may incorporate these communication strategies into the OPP Action Plan. You are Tay Valley Township's Senior Police Leader. You represent the Police Service to the public as an engaged component of our community and reflect it's values and those of Canadians generally. Further, you model for your members the importance of community engagement and relationship building.

The Board asked the Detachment Commander to comment.

The Detachment Commander does not know if the comments fall within the Action Plan, the comments are more related to what the Board is expecting the Detachment Commander to do. With regards to the weekly press releases, in consultation with the local media, most media outlets are not interested in what happened last week, they want what is happening right now. The media is not printing/using that data. The time it takes to do the media releases, other than Tay Valley, no one else has expressed a desire for them. It takes a full day to compile. So, a decision was made to stop doing them.

The Chair informed the Detachment Commander that it was a press release that had connection to the community, the Lanark Era and Perth Courier carried it and it demonstrated the work that occurred week to week by the local OPP.

The Detachment Commander indicated that he was always open to answering specific questions from the Board.

The Reeve suggested that maybe the Board and OPP through the Community Services Officer could look at putting on an annual event in the Township for residents on specific topics.

The Detachment Commander indicated that the OPP would be interested in participating.

The Board will discuss this further at their next meeting.

To date no other Boards in Lanark County have made a submission regarding the Action Plan.

v) **2022-2023 Festive RIDE Update.**

The Festive RIDE period has ended, and final reports have been submitted.

vi) **Lanark County Association of Police Service Boards Update.**

Met recently in Drummond/North Elmsley. The minutes have not come out yet. The next meeting is in July in Lanark Highlands.

vii) **OAPSB Zone 2 Update.**

The next meeting is on June 16th in Brockville.

viii) **Donation Surplus of \$1,244.84.**

The Board decided to hold the funds for future Board functions, such as any upcoming community sessions.

8. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. PSB MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Meeting or Event	Location
May 30 – June 1, 2023		OAPSB Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting	Niagara Falls
June 16, 2023	9:30 a.m.	OAPSB Zone 2	Brockville
July 19, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Lanark County Association of Police Services Boards	Lanark Highlands
September 15, 2023	9:30 a.m.	OAPSB Zone 2	Russell

September 26, 2023	2:00 p.m.	Police Services Board Meeting	Municipal Office
October 18, 2023	9:30 a.m.	Lanark County Association of Police Services Boards	Mississippi Mills
November 17, 2023	9:30 a.m.	OAPSB Zone 2	Cornwall
November 28, 2023	2:00 p.m.	Police Services Board Meeting	Municipal Office
February 27, 2024	2:00 p.m.	Police Services Board Meeting	Municipal Office

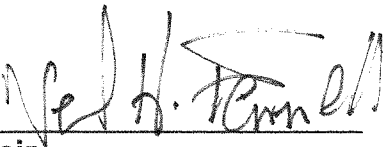
10. DEFERRED ITEMS

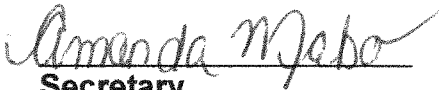
**The following items will be discussed at the next and/or future meeting:*

- None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 3:28 p.m.


Chair


Secretary