

# Pembroke Police Services Board Meeting

City Hall, Council Chambers  
Pembroke, Ontario  
April 27, 2023  
4:00 p.m.

## **Present:**

Ron Gervais, Mayor  
Patricia Lafreniere, Councillor  
Malcolm Montgomery  
Christine Reavie  
Michael St Jean

## **Also Present:**

Inspector Stephan Neufeld, OPP  
Staff Sergeant MaryAnn MacNeil, OPP  
Heidi Martin, Recording Secretary

### **1. Land Acknowledgment**

### **2. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

### **3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

### **4. Approval of Agenda**

#### **Motion:**

Moved by Michael St. Jean

Seconded by Christine Reavie

That the agenda of the Pembroke Police Services Board meeting of April 27, 2023, be approved as circulated.

**Carried**

### **5. Minutes**

- Receive minutes of January 26, 2023

#### **Motion:**

Moved by Patricia Lafreniere

Seconded by Michael St. Jean

That the minutes of the Pembroke Police Services Board meeting of January 26, 2023, be received as circulated.

**Carried**

### **6. OPP Report**

- a. OPP Detachment Commander's Update

- Quarterly Report (January – March 2023)  
Inspector Neufeld provided an update and noted that there has been a significant increase in the calls for service during this quarter.
  - an increase in the number of assaults reported which is not unique to the City. Some of the calls included youth fighting at school and several involved disputes among room mates.
  - There has been an increase in Property Crimes with a large number occurring at one location within the City.
  - Thefts are continuing to occur from motor vehicles. Lock it or Lose it messaging is continuing which encourages motorists to lock their vehicle doors and remove all valuable from the vehicle
  - There have been 6 occurrences of Fraud resulting in one individual being charged twice
  - There were 3 reports of Indecent Acts but there are no community safety issues as a result of these calls
  - Mental Health numbers are similar to last year. The Mobile Crisis Response Team is still very engaged
  - Domestic Disturbance numbers are high
  - Suspicious persons calls are significantly higher than 2022. No charges laid as there was nothing of concern raised from those calls
  - Noise complaints are decreasing from last year however one address in the City has numerous calls for service due to noise complaints. The Inspector noted that Hamilton Police Service will no longer respond to noise complaints unless someone's life is in danger.
  - Neighbour disputes have seen a significant jump (81 calls for service) but no criminal charges were laid. This may be due to the aftereffects of COVID and the housing crisis. More people are living together that were not living together before, resulting in increased noise and neighbour disputes.
  - The number of collisions were up which may be due to the weather received late in the season.
  - A community response is being taken at one particular address in Pembroke. The problems are being addressed from a Community Safety and Wellbeing angle.
  - The Inspector also highlighted some of the recent media releases involving fraud educational sessions, shoplifting, fraud, and traffic related charges laid against individuals.
  - Phone satisfaction survey's were completed between Jan 12<sup>th</sup> and March resulting in 77.9% of the respondents indicating that they felt safe and 90% felt satisfied with the quality of service provided
  - May 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> is Police Week and there will be massive recruitment across the province. A recruiting session will be held in the future at the Civic Centre.
  - There were no secondary employment requests or complaints received this quarter
  - Focused Patrols related to complaints were held at 260 Elizabeth Street, Giant Tiger, The Grind, Mary Street/James Street Rotary Park, Walmart and the Pembroke Mall,
  - Detachment Operations Clerk pilot has been extended for another year. This pilot position directly supports the Officers by completing their administrative work and allows the Officers to be out doing their job in the community

## 7. Old Business

### a. Mary Street Traffic Complaints

The Chair provided a brief overview of the report.

### b. Public Education Events

The Chair requested Councillor Lafreniere provide an update on the Bicycle Rodeo being held on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Pembroke Expo. She indicated that CNL will be promoting the event, the RCDHU will conduct helmet safety checks, and OPP Auxiliary Officers will be present to assist individuals go through the bicycle rodeo. The PSB provided \$250 for prizes.

Mr. St. Jean indicated that he had nothing further to report on the 2024 OPSB Conference.

### c. Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan Update

The Chair provided a verbal update and reviewed the slides provided by the Consultant. The expectation is that the final document will be available in May 2023.

### d. School Calls for Service

The Chair reviewed the report. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- Why are the police being called to handle discipline matters at schools? Shouldn't this be handled by the school and School Boards?
- How do we go about starting this conversation with the School Board to look at alternatives i.e., security, social workers, etc.
- Pro-active presence at schools has been removed and perhaps now it has resulted in negative implications.
- Should a letter be sent to all the School Board Chairs/Trustees to seek out a conversation with them to address this issue?
- The letter should include a question regarding the School Boards position to allowing Police Officers back in the schools.

**Direction:** The Board Chair to send a letter to all School Board Chairs/Trustee's asking for a conversation to look at the calls for service in schools as well as to their position of allowing Police Officers back into schools.

## 9. New Business

### a. Eganville Road Safety Concerns

The Chair reviewed the information report.

### b. The Grind

The Chair reviewed the report. Inspector Neufeld reviewed the Presentation he previously provided to City Council. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- The Grind provides a very supportive, useful service to the community.
- The Warming Centre at the Grind closed as of April 1, 2023
- The OPP Detachment Commander will send a letter of response to the City regarding The Grind
- During a Neighbourhood Watch meeting a request was raised to have a reduction of speed in the area on Isabella Street

- The Inspector indicated that in the City of Waterloo, case law was set where you can't remove an individual from a tented city, if no alternative suitable housing is available to the individual.
- No one wants this in their back yard – it's a community problem that will require a community response.

c. County of Renfrew Letter – Provincial Offences

The Chair referred to the letter from the County of Renfrew as well as the response received from Inspector Neufeld. Inspector Neufeld stated that there are 3 Detachment Commanders within Renfrew County but only Inspector Neufeld received the letter from the County. Inspector Neufeld indicated that the OPP's tickets are safety driven and not used as a revenue generating activity. He stated that not every traffic stop will end in a ticket.

d. Parking on Isabella Street

The Chair reviewed the report. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- Cars are occasionally parked on the sidewalk on one side of the road during busy periods.
- Speed radar units will be used to monitor speed on the street and once received it will be brought back to a meeting.
- During funerals, cars are sometimes parked on the road as there isn't enough room in the Church's parking lots.
- During the winter months, snow is piled in the Church parking lot, which when it is busy, such as during a funeral, people may need to park on the street.

**Direction:**

The Chair will follow up with a request for the erection of the missing "No Parking" signs.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2023, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

**11. Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion:**

Moved by Christine Reavie

Seconded by Malcolm Montgomery

That the April 27, 2023, Pembroke Police Services Board meeting adjourn at 6:16 p.m.

**Carried**

Chair

Recording Secretary