

Pembroke Police Services Board Meeting

City Hall, Council Chambers/Virtual
Pembroke, Ontario
January 27, 2022
4:00 p.m.

Present:

Ron Gervais, Chair
Pauline Edmonds, Electronically
Malcolm Montgomery, Electronically
Christine Reavie, Electronically
Michael St Jean, Electronically

Also Present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Secretary of the Pembroke Police Services Board called for nominations for the position of Chair for 2022. Ron Gervais was nominated and there were no further nominations.

Motion:

Moved by Michael St. Jean

Seconded by Pauline Edmonds

That Ron Gervais be appointed to the position of Chair of the Pembroke Police Services Board for the year 2022.

Carried

The Secretary of the Pembroke Police Services Board called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair for 2022. Michael St. Jean was nominated and there were no further nominations.

Motion:

Moved by Ron Gervais

Seconded by Christine Reavie

That Michael St. Jean be appointed to the position of Vice Chair of the Pembroke Police Services Board for the year 2022.

Carried

Ron Gervais assumed the Chair.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion:

Moved by Christine Reavie

Seconded by Pauline Edmonds

That the agenda of the Pembroke Police Services Board meeting of January 27, 2022, be approved as circulated.

Carried

4. Minutes

- Receive minutes of October 28, 2021

Motion:

Moved by Christine Reavie

Seconded by Malcolm Montgomery

That the minutes of the Pembroke Police Services Board meeting of October 28, 2021, be received as circulated.

Carried

- Receive minutes of December 6, 2021 (Special Meeting)

Motion:

Moved by Michael St. Jean

Seconded by Pauline Edmonds

That the minutes of the Special Pembroke Police Services Board meeting of December 6, 2021, be received as circulated.

Carried

5. Presentations and/or Delegations

a. Project Nield

Inspector Neufeld introduced D/S Chad Culbert who joined the meeting electronically. Inspector Neufeld indicated that D/S Culbert is responsible for the Community Street Crime Unit who recently finished a very intensive, very successful investigation. D/S Culbert indicated that in response to the high volume of overdoses in Renfrew County, the Community Street Crime Unit began an investigation and on December 2, 2021, members of the OPP executed multiple search warrants in multiple locations in Renfrew County. As a result, 26 individuals were charged with a total of 220 offences; various illicit drugs, cash, weapons, ammunition and stolen property were also seized. In response to a question, D/S Culbert indicated that there is often a direct correlation to property crimes and drugs. A discussion was held, and the following comments were made:

- Great to see the immediate effect of the investigation with the number of individuals charged and the number of illicit drugs and other items removed from the community
- A void is created when individuals are removed off the street; within time new individuals move in however it takes time for them to regroup
- Great cooperation with community partners (Public Health, Addictions, Hospitals, etc.) following the investigation

- Since the inception of the Street Crime Unit in the area in 2018, there is now a 5-year low for the number of property crimes within the City
- The City/County/Province is in an opium crisis which is a community problem not just a policing problem.

The Chair thanked D/S Culbert for his presentation and indicated that this was a very successful increasing the safety in our community.

6. Reports

a. OPP Detachment Commander's Update

- Quarterly Report (October – December 2021)
Inspector Neufeld provided an update as follows:
 - Year to date end of 2021 property crimes is trending in the right direction with a 5-year low for Pembroke and similarly the violent crime is at a 3-year low
 - Theft from motor vehicles is down which is a direct result of the Lock it or Lose It Program
 - There has been a significant jump in the number of bail violations however with the courts slowly reopening and individuals going back to court, more people will be put on conditions which may result in more people breaking those conditions
 - Neighbour disputes are significant this year; the OPP will try to address this area with City By-law Enforcement as in some situations they may be able to become more engaged
 - The City has a process to deal with false alarms
 - There are no concerns at this time with the complaints received in Q4 which will be investigated
- CAMSafe Program
 - The CAMSafe Program will be going ahead in the Upper Ottawa Valley
 - Sgt Ashley from the Belleville Police Service presented to Petawawa who is interesting to come on board
 - The \$500 administration fee will be divided between the Pembroke and Petawawa Police Services Board
 - When the time, comes, a joint media release that is endorsed and supported by both boards will be released
 - The Program is gaining momentum as Prince Edward County and Quinte West are also on board
 - CAMSafe is a successful public safety tool that will only expand

Motion:

Moved by Christine Reavie

Seconded by Michael St. Jean

That the Pembroke Police Services Board provide the \$250 administrative fee to get the CAMSafe Project started for the City of Pembroke.

Carried

7. Old Business

a. 2021 Budget

The Chair reviewed the report and indicated that the majority of the 2021 budget was used. The 2022 budget will be formalized on February 1 with an expected increase of 5,000.

Motion:

Moved by Michael St. Jean

Seconded by Christine Reavie

That the Pembroke Police Services Board confirm the electronic motion to use the remaining unspent 2021 budget dollars to purchase and/or support additional public relations initiatives.

Carried

b. Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Update

The Chair provided a verbal update indicating that Pat Finnegan made a presentation to Council providing an update of where things are, setbacks, etc. He indicated that Pat is dedicated to assist us and this will move forward. The Chair indicated that he attended a ROMA presentation on Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plans and similar concerns (mental health, housing, homelessness, etc.) were noted in their CSWB Plans. It was also noted that it was crucial that that once developed, the Plan be implemented and not be placed on a shelf.

c. Community Neighbourhood Watch Update

The Chair provided a verbal update indicating that a meeting was held on January 24, 2022, and the next meeting will be held in April. The Program will be teaming up with the OPP to continue to promote the program at the upcoming Downtown Connects show case to promote the program to continue with the momentum. The Chair indicated that individuals from Laurentian Valley have expressed an interest in beginning a program in their area. These individuals have been invited to join the meetings and listen however if they start to open a zone in their municipality, the budget for the required signage, brochures, etc. will need to come from their municipality.

9. New Business

a. Safety Armbands

The Chair reviewed the report, and a discussion was held on distribution of the purchased armbands and the following was raised:

- It's important to get them into the hands of people who will use them – walkers, etc.
- No need to distribute to elementary schools as during Halloween motorists watch for pedestrians and kids are often accompanied by parents
- Good idea to distribute some armbands to the senior active living centres
- Christine and Malcolm with hand out armbands on the waterfront walkway
- OPP Officers can distribute safety armbands to individuals they see out walking
- Could provide some to Algonquin College Student Services to hand out
- Possibly distribute to those walking at the PMC
- Board members to use judgement and distribute to those they see out walking

10. Correspondence

- Town of Penetanguishene

The Chair referred Board members to the correspondence recently received and attached to the agenda package which was circulated to municipalities and to Police Services Boards. Following a discussion, it was noted that although COVID-19 has had an affect on individuals and court system, there are no concerns regarding the process in our area as those that need to be held in custody are kept in custody.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2022, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

12. Motion to Adjourn

Motion:

Moved by Malcolm Montgomery

Seconded by Christine Reavie

That the January 27, 2022, Pembroke Police Services Board meeting adjourn at 5:17 p.m.

Carried

Chair

Recording Secretary