

Pembroke Police Services Board Meeting

City Hall, Council Chambers
Pembroke, Ontario
October 26, 2023
4:00 p.m.

Present:

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

Regrets:

Malcolm Montgomery

Also Present:

Acting Inspector, Interim Detachment Commander MaryAnn MacNeil, OPP
Acting Staff Sergeant Sylvain Sabourin
Heidi Martin, Recording Secretary

1. Land Acknowledgment

2. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:59 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 October 26, 2023, be approved as circulated.

Carried

5. Minutes

- Receive minutes of July 27, 2023

Motion:

Moved by Christine Reavie

Seconded by Michael St. Jean

That the minutes of the Pembroke Police Services Board meeting of July 27, 2023, be received as circulated.

Carried

6. Presentation

a. Mary Street – Rotary Park Speed Reduction Presentation – Eric Robb

The Chair introduced Mr. Robb who indicated that he is a resident of the City and lives across from the Rotary Park. The purpose of his presentation was to request that the City take action to reduce the speed limit from 50km/h to 30km/h on both Mary Street and James Street; impose signage that indicates Rotary Park as a playground zone; the use of photo radar enforcement and the addition of a Speed Hump on Mary Street between James Street and Dominion Street. Since moving to the area, Mr. Robb has noticed the excessive speeding around Rotary Park and witnessed close calls where children or pets ran across the street. He also requested that a stop sign be added at the intersection of James Street and Isabella Street. He also noted that Christie Street is not signed or zoned for a School Zone therefore he suggested the addition of a stop signs as well as a crosswalk on Christie Street at the intersection of Christie Street and Isabella Street. Mr. Robb indicated that the risk needs to be evaluated as he feels there is a high probability of something happening with a high severity therefore he suggesting mitigation with the use of stop signs, speed humps and photo radar to reduce the risk.

A discussion was held, and the following points were noted:

- Drivers on Isabella Street pull out quite far onto Christie Street before entering the intersection.
- The Isabella Street/Christie Street intersection is very dangerous.
- Isabella Street/Christie Street and Mary Street are very busy right now due to construction detours.
- If stop signs are installed on Christie Street at Isabella Street, traffic issues may result due to the traffic lights on Pembroke Street West/Christie Street, as well as the existing 4-way stop at Mary Street/Christie Street.
- Council and the Operations Department has been looking at the Hincks Street intersection and the area around surrounding École L'Équinox
- The City of Orleans uses speed humps as they have value
- The Operations Department has placed the speed monitors in this area, and once the data is received, it will be reviewed by the OPP and the Operations Department. A staff report will be requested following the review.

The Chair thanked Mr. Robb for his presentation.

b. Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan Update and Next Steps – Pat Finnegan

The Chair introduced Mr. Finnegan who participated virtually to provide a quick overview of the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan and to discuss next steps. Mr. Finnegan reminded the Board that there is no need to wait until all the participating municipalities accept and endorse the Plan, work can begin at any time. He indicated that the top four risk factors (red zone) were mental health challenges, access to appropriate housing, drug addiction, and alcohol abuse which are common across the province.

A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- City Council passed a resolution to support and accept the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, which once it is made accessible will be published to the website.
- If you want to move quickly on an item, build a team of interested individuals who can be brought together to identify the problem, brainstorm, look at other communities to see what is working, look to see if there is another way to approach the problem that

doesn't require funding and create a business case. Situation tables are an excellent example of this. Mr. Finnegan indicated that he would be happy to act as a guide.

- Everyone needs to work together.
- Should hear something about Warming Centre funding within the next two weeks. Another municipality has expressed that they may be willing to also contribute to the cause.
- The Plan will not be re-written every year; however, an addendum should be added.

The Chair thanked Mr. Finnegan for his assistance. Mr. Finnegan indicated that he is happy to participate and reminded the Board that this problem is not just the OPP and the PSB but should also include Public Health who should take the lead on this issue and other partners.

1. **OPP Report**

a. **OPP Detachment Commander's Update**

- Quarterly Report (July – September 2023)

Acting Inspector MacNeil provided an update from the third quarter of 2023.

- Overall calls for service are similar to last year.
- Property Crime Violations are down. The Lock it or Lose Program is probably having some effect.
- Increase number of calls for service for drug possession.
- Increase in number of calls between Landlord/tenants with 46 calls in this quarter compared to 14 in 2022. Most calls are generated by 4-5 residents.
- Calls for suspicious person remain high, however neighbour disputes are down.
- The Collision reporting centre has diverted 159 calls for service from the front line
- There is currently 1 public complaint that remains open.
- There were no new secondary employment requests made this quarter.
- 3 focus patrols were held during this quarter; downtown area due to mischief with an arrest made; Mary Street and Isabella Street/Christie Street; and Operational Decal which had a significant impact.
- This year's Kids Cops and Fishing event had the largest turnout of children with 109 participants.
- A very successful school supply drive was held with the proceeds going to Victim Services who distributed the items to families in need.
- RIDE Program will be held between November 16, 2023, to January 1, 2024. Did the PSB wish to have Officers distribute swag during the program?
- A Victim Specialist has joined the UOV Detachment. Her role is to ensure victims involved with investigations by the OPP have access to the rights and assistance they are entitled to under the law. It was suggested that she attend the next PSB meeting.

A discussion was held on the recent suspected overdoses and deaths in the community since July and the following points were raised:

- A request has been received to have the Community Street Crime Unit provide a presentation to Council.
- Residents can call Crimestoppers to report drug activity anonymously.

- It's important to remember that you can't charge the ways out of addictions, it takes a community effort.
- The OPP continue to endorse the CAMSafe Program which has been rolled out across the province.

2. Old Business

a. Annual Kids, Cops and Canadian Tire Fishing Derby

The Chair referred to the information report and Mr. St. Jean added that the Board might want to increase the Board's donation from \$250 to \$500.

Motion:

Moved by Michael St. Jean

Seconded by Christine Reavie

That the Pembroke Police Services Board increase their donation to the annual Kids, Cops and Canadian Tire Fishing Derby to \$500 for the 2024 budget.

Carried

b. School Calls for Service

The Chair reviewed the report, provided a brief overview of the discussions held to date, and indicated that he has requested a copy of the finalized Local Police Board Protocol to share with the Pembroke Police Services Board.

9. New Business

a. 2024 Budget

The Chair reviewed the report, and a discussion was held with the following points raised:

- Swag suggestions for the RIDE Program – flashlights, air fresheners, cases for your cell phone imprinted with “I drive sober” and Pembroke Police Services Board
- Use unspent 2023 budget to purchase swag for RIDE and Community Watch signage,
- Stop texting magnets and armbands were very popular.
- Would rather the Board promote ‘stop texting’ on their own, rather than with the Pembroke Fire Department.
- Items to hand out during the Christmas parade.
- Rather than purchasing an item that can only be handed out at a certain event, purchase something that can be handed out throughout the year.
- The Board and Parks and Recreation Department should not increase their budget for extra security in the Riverside Campground, however may wish to add Lock it or Lose it signage in the Park.

Direction:

The Chair was directed to purchase the following from the 2023 budget: RIDE Swag imprinted with “I drive Sober” and PSB up to \$2,000, PSB Pull up Banner and continue with PSAs until December 31, 2023; and

The Chair was directed to include the following in the 2024 budget: Community Watch Signage and decals, PSAs for the year, Security Camera Maintenance, and funding to host the OAPSB zone meeting on September 19 & 20, 2024.

The Board does not recommend that the Parks and Recreation Department increase their budget for extra security to decrease unwanted activity in Riverside Campground. The Department may wish to consider posting “Lock it or Lose it” signage throughout the campground.

b. Pembroke Community Watch – 260 Elizabeth

The Chair reviewed the report.

Motion:

Moved by Michael St. Jean

Seconded by Christine Reavie

That the Pembroke Police Services Board approve that 260 Elizabeth Street become its own Community Watch zone.

Carried**c. Downtown Community Watch Issues**

The Chair referred to the report. A discussion was held, with the following points raised:

- Perhaps the women who feel intimidated to walk to their vehicles after work, could apply for permission to park in other city parking lots closer to the downtown.
- The OPP have met with merchants to explain when and how to call the OPP.
- Community watch meetings are not to be used as a complaint process.
- In conjunction with the County of Renfrew, look for lighting solutions .
- Downtown employees may wish to establish parking buddies when walking to their vehicles after work.
- Move a “Used Sharps Container” from one of the underutilized areas (Douglas or Waterfront) prior to purchasing a new Container. Place the container in an area at 10 Pembroke Street West.
- Education on what to do if used sharps are found should be provided to the downtown staff.

Direction:

The Chair will respond to the Downtown Community Watch Captain regarding the issues raised.

d. OAPSB Zone 2 Meeting Update – M. St. Jean

The Chair asked Mr. St. Jean to provide an update on the recent OAPSB Zone 2 meeting he attended. Mr. St. Jean indicated that the City will be hosting the Ontario Association of Police Services Board Zone 2 meeting. The event will be held over two days (September 19 and 20, 2024) and should attract between 30-50 participants.

10. Correspondence**a. Police Record Checks**

The Chair referred members to the information provided in their agenda packages.

b. Email re. 332 Alfred Street

The Chair referred members to the correspondence that was provided in their agenda package. A discussion was held, and the following points raised:

- Great work by the OPP regarding the activity occurring at this address.
- Efforts by the By-law Enforcement Department are appreciated.
- The property has been sold.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2024, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

12. Motion to Adjourn

Motion:

Moved by Pat Lafreniere

Seconded by Christine Reavie

That the October 26, 2023, Pembroke Police Services Board meeting adjourn at 6:36 p.m.

Carried

Chair

Recording Secretary