

Pembroke Police Services Board Meeting

City Hall, Council Chambers
Pembroke, Ontario
January 17, 2024
4:00 p.m.

Present:

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

Also Present:

Inspector Stephan Neufeld, OPP
Acting Inspector – Interim Detachment Commander MaryAnn MacNeil, OPP
Acting Staff Sergeant Sylvain Sabourin, OPP
Brian Lewis, Director of Operations
Heidi Martin, Recording Secretary

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Secretary of the Pembroke Police Services Board called for nominations for the position of Chair for 2024. Ron Gervais was nominated and there were no further nominations.

Motion:

Moved by Christine Reavie

Seconded by Michael St. Jean

That Ron Gervais be appointed to the position of Chair of the Pembroke Police Services Board for the year 2024.

Carried

The Secretary of the Pembroke Police Services Board called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair for 2023. Christine Reavie was nominated and there were no further nominations.

Motion:

Moved by Ron Gervais

Seconded by Pat Lafreniere

That Christine Reavie be appointed to the position of Vice Chair of the Pembroke Police Services Board for the year 2024.

Carried

Ron Gervais assumed the Chair.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Prior to calling the meeting to order the Chair made special mention on the loss of the Boards former Board member Malcolm Montgomery. He acknowledged his knowledge and depth of

understanding of issues and stated that he will be greatly missed. A moment of silence was held to reflect upon Malcolms passing and what he meant to us.

3. Call to Order

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

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

5. Approval of Agenda

Mr. St. Jean requested that the agenda be amended to include the OPP Golden Helmets under New Business

Motion:

Moved by Christine Reavie

Seconded by Pat Lafreniere

That the agenda of the Pembroke Police Services Board meeting of January 17, 2024, be approved as amended.

Carried

6. Minutes

- Receive minutes of October 26, 2023

Motion:

Moved by Michael St. Jean

Seconded by Pat Lafreniere

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

Carried

7. Presentation

Ms. Jacqueline Pearson was present to provide an overview of the newly created OPP Civilian Victim Specialist position. She explained that her role is to liaison between the police and the victims and/or survivors and to ensure the community and court-based supports are available to the victims and survivors. She stated that her position is the only position in the East Region, she primarily works out of the Pembroke Detachment, and that this position is in this area due to the high number of domestic and sexual assaults and as the result of recommendations made at the inquest.

The Chair thanked Ms. Pearson for attending and thanked her for her value-added service to the community.

8. OPP Report

- OPP Strategic Plan

Inspector Neufeld presented the OPP Strategic Plan. He noted the following:

- Three priorities - people, work, and communities
 - People – an empowered, respectful, and responsible workforce connected to its vision, mission and values.

- Work – an enabled organization equipped to meet its policing responsibilities.
 - Increase in calls for service from 2022 to 2023 which included 40% increase in sexual assaults, 37% increase in Property Crime, Theft under \$5,000 doubled, shoplifting up 20%, Drug related occurrences up 75%, landlord tenant issues up 49% and Mental Health calls up 60%.
 - Launch of the Victim Specialist position in 2023, the work completed at the Collision Reporting Centre, the Mobile Community Response Team responding to Mental Health calls, and Fraud Investigator.
 - Community – an engaged organization positioned to co-create meaningful public safety solutions for Ontarians.
- Quarterly Report (October – December 2023)
Acting Inspector McNeill provided an update and noted the following items:
 - During this quarter, the calls for service have increased in the following categories: crimes, sexual assaults, frauds, drugs, suspicious persons, and mental health related calls.
 - Motor vehicle collisions has seen 30 more than the previous year.
 - There are currently two public complaints and no new requests for secondary employment.
 A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:
 - The increase in the calls for service of suspicious persons may be a direct result of the Neighbourhood Watch Program as we encourage the community to report any suspicious activity when they see it.
 - If children are in a home during a serious call for service, referrals are immediately made to Family and Children Services and Victim Services may also be involved.

9. New Business

a. Electronic Surveillance System Status Update

Mr. Lewis was in attendance to present his report. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- What maintenance needs to be completed on the lens, i.e. snow coverage on the lens?
- Once the system is up and running for awhile, a meeting will be held with members of the OPP to look at various lenses that are available as well as their advantages and disadvantages.
- This system is beneficial to the Operations Department as well to allow staff to remotely check on weather conditions, traffic counts, pedestrian counts, and other weather-related events such as flooding.

The Chair thanked Mr. Lewis and his department for their hard work.

Motion

Moved by Pat Lafreniere

Seconded by Christine Reavie

That the Police Services Board accept the report as presented.

Carried

b. Fortification By-law

The Chair reviewed the report, and a discussion was held and it was noted that this by-law is outdated and the legislation cited is no longer in force.

Staff will be asked to update the by-law and bring it back for review at a future meeting.

c. Pembroke Community Watch – Glenwood Drive

The Chair reviewed the report regarding a new Community Watch Zone on Glenwood Drive. It was noted that it is nice to see the zones created throughout the City and not just in one area.

Motion:

Moved by Christine Reavie

Seconded by Michael St. Jean

That the Pembroke Police Services Board approves the new Community Watch Zone on Glenwood Drive (east of Cecelia Street).

Carried

d. Lets Remember Adam Campaign

The Chair reviewed the report. A discussion was held, and it was noted that more information is required, and a request was made to defer this item until the next meeting.

e. PBIA Downtown Pumpkin Treats Event

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

- This is a safety issue as it is common to see children stepping out in the road.
- Perhaps look at a road closure in a certain area of the PBIA between the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Closing down Pembroke Street is significant as it would entail closing Pembroke Street from MacKay to Hincks Street as well as the connector streets.
- In 2023, the Operations Department provided barrels and pylons and the PBIA lined the sidewalk along both sides of the road as well as along the centre line to slow down the traffic. Signs were also displayed on the barrels asking drivers to watch for pedestrians.
- Cars parked along the street don't help – it would be good to have no parking in the downtown area on Pembroke Street West during this event.
- Majority of the stores are involved in the event.
- This event brings people to the downtown area and circulating through the stores.

Direction:

Michael St. Jean will meet with the PBIA to express the Pembroke Police Services Board concerns and have a discussion regarding strategies and report back at the next meeting.

f. End of Fraser Street Concern

The Chair stated that an email concern was received and distributed in the agenda package. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- There seems to be plenty of signage in the area however there might be a couple of locations that an extra one-way sign could be added.

- Support the position of having a one-way due to the narrowness of the road.
- Minimal OPP enforcement action or occurrence action has been required in the area (5 mostly traffic complaints over a 2-year period which occurred closer to the date of the change). Due to the short one-way section, it is very difficult to find a vehicle who has been reported to be travelling the wrong way on the one-way street.

Direction:

Staff to review the current signage and add any additional signage required. The Chair, on behalf of the Board will follow up with the individual who expressed the concern.

g. **OPP Golden Helmets**

Inspector Neufeld indicated that the OPP Golden Helmets is a very impressive show of 20 precision motorcycle riders. A request has been submitted to bring the team to Pembroke on September 21, 2024, which is right after the Zone 2 OAPSB meeting. He stated that this is a great community engagement event. A location will need to be secured however it is hoped that the event will occur in the downtown area or the waterfront area. The Team has their own bikes, trailers and mechanics and there is usually a reception following the event.

9. Correspondence

- a. Ken Weatherill, Assistant Deputy Minister Public Safety Division, Ministry of the Solicitor General

Correspondence was circulated from the Ministry of the Solicitor General regarding the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA) which comes into force on April 1, 2024. Inspector Neufeld indicated that as per the correspondence, there will be training offered in Toronto on February 27-28, 2024, and asked Board members to save the 5th of March for local training. The training on March 5th will look at the exemptions under the CSPA, what the transition will look like for the local area, and a Q&A session with Graham Wight, Police Services Advisor.

10. Date of Next Meeting

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

11. Motion to Adjourn

Motion:

Moved by Christine Reavie

Seconded by Michael St. Jean

That the January 17, 2024, Pembroke Police Services Board meeting adjourn at 7:03 p.m.

Carried

Chair

Recording Secretary