

MINUTES

OTTAWA-CARLETON REGIONAL POLICE SERVICES BOARD

OTTAWA-CARLETON REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

CHAMPLAIN ROOM

24 FEBRUARY 1997

5:00 P.M.

PRESENT

Chair: Mr. P. Vice

Members: Mr. G. Baskerville, Ms. A. Boudreau, Regional Chair P. Clark, Councillor D. Holmes, Councillor D. Pratt

REGRETS

Vice Chair: Mr. A. Bouwers

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police Services Board confirm the Minutes of the 27 January 1997 meeting.

CARRIED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND INTRODUCTION

Chair Vice announced that Inspector Vic Burns has retired from the OPP and effective 28 February, will be joining the Ottawa-Carleton Police Service. In his new position he will be assisting the Transition Team overseeing the changeover of OPP-policed areas. On behalf of the Board and the Police Service, Chair Vice conveyed thanks and appreciation to Inspector Burns for his cooperation and the significant contribution he has made throughout the lengthy and sometimes difficult process of amalgamation. He is a credit to the OPP organization, as he will be to the Ottawa-Carleton Police Service.

Chair Vice next introduced Acting Inspective Mike Hopkins, who is replacing Inspector Burns as Transition Commander for the detachments in Ottawa-Carleton. Inspector Hopkins will continue in this capacity until the position is permanently filled.

Chair Vice noted Inspector Hopkins has been a member of the OPP for 23 years, during which time he served in communities across Ontario including: Longlac, Midland, Blind River, Casselman, Cochrane and Kanata. During this time he was involved in all aspects of policing ranging from criminal and traffic investigations, to assisting in the re-organization as a member of the Traffic and Marine Sub-Project Team.

He took over the post of Detachment Commander for Kanata in Sept. 1995. During the following year, with the commitment of the community and detachment staff, the incidents of crime were reduced 19% with dramatic reductions in the number of break and enters by 45%, and stolen property by 77%.

Chair Vice extended a warm welcome to Inspector Hopkins on behalf of the Board and the Police Service.

INQUIRIES

a) Letter from Mr. J. Sankey re Police Telephone System

Councillor Holmes referenced a letter that Regional Chair Clark had forwarded to members of the Board from Mr. John Sankey dated 13 February 1997. Mr. Sankey expressed concern about the Police computerized telephone system and inquired whether community police centres could have direct numbers. He also cited other suggestions for improvement.

Councillor Holmes requested that a response to the letter be included in the agenda for the next Board meeting on 24 March 1997.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. UPDATE - CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Letter from J. Cardinal dated 14 Feb 97 and 1997 Workplan
(Sept. 1995 Recommendations Report issued separately)

Joanne Cardinal, Chair of the Criminal Justice Sub-Committee thanked members of the Police Services Board for providing the opportunity to make a presentation. Ms. Cardinal commenced by highlighting important recommendations made in their 1995 report and providing information on new developments.

In 1995, the Criminal Justice Sub-Committee presented the following three reports to the Police Services Board:

1. Recommendations for Case Tracking and Data Collection
2. A Regional Victim Crisis Unit Service
3. A Community Police Protocol, Police Policies and Procedures and Police Training

Case Tracking and Data Collection

Speaking about the first report, Ms. Cardinal stated in 1994 the Criminal Justice Sub-Committee received funding from the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Municipality to develop recommendations and to improve police services and policies on partner abuse and sexual assault. The purpose of the report was to generate information on the extent of violence against women in Ottawa-Carleton and to provide information on police activity in cases of partner sexual assault. It provides a mechanism by which to assess the quality of police policies and procedures. A statistical profile of the police response to violence against women can provide useful information which can be used to address training, service delivery, education and resource issues. This report highlights the importance of holding on-going consultation with community groups about the design and implementation of the data collection system to ensure its integrity.

Regional Victim Crisis Unit Service

The key role of the Victim Crisis Unit is the link between women, the community and Police. It plays an important role in providing information to women who are victims of partner sexual violence. Crisis intervention is a very important component of this service. The report identifies the need for a Community Advisory Board to establish and develop more direct links between the community and the Victim Crisis Unit.

A Community Police Protocol, Police Policies and Procedures and Police Training

This report recommends that a committee composed of community representatives be established to create a community-wide protocol on partner abuse and a separate protocol for sexual assault. A companion protocol should also be developed for the Police on custody access and other family law matters. The Criminal Justice Sub-Committee has extensively reviewed the Gloucester Police Protocol and made some recommendations for changes that would improve Police response in cases of partner assault. The report recommends that the Ottawa-Carleton Police Service purchase services from community groups with expertise in issues related to the diversity of community interests. The goal is to sensitize police officers and investigators on myths and stereotypes concerning women from these communities and to learn about community needs and resources. The Criminal Justice Sub-Committee has received little feedback or information on the status of these recommendations and believes it is important that they be incorporated into the restructuring process of the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police Service. In light of the motions passed by the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board in September and

November 1995, the Criminal Justice Sub-Committee requested information on progress made to date.

Ms. Joan Gullen, a member of the Criminal Justice Sub-Committee and Past Chair of the Regional Co-ordinating Committee to End Violence Against Women took the opportunity to distribute copies of pamphlets produced by the Committee. She indicated that thanks to a Police Services Board grant, the pamphlet entitled "A Message for All Women", was produced and translated into a number of languages such as English, French, Arabic, Somali, Vietnamese, Cambodian and Spanish.

Ms. Gullen stated she met with Deputy Chief Renaud about a year and half ago to discuss the notion that data surrounding wife assault victims should be incorporated into the new computer systems. Deputy Chief Renaud was aware of this and asked Ms. L. Brandon, Director, Computer Section to speak about the status of this proposal in more detail.

Ms. Brandon explained that the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police has requested a proposal for a new computer dispatch and records management system. A number of bids have come in and are being evaluated. The application for tracking victim data is part of the records management component, which is planned to be implemented in 1998.

Ms. Gullen made a remark on behalf of Nancy Kelly, a member of the Accessibility Sub-Committee, and who has a physical disability. Ms. Gullen noted the Accessibility Sub-Committee has offered their services to the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police in regards to training and is still waiting to hear from them. The Aboriginal Sub-Committee has recently given training sessions to over three hundred officers.

Ms. Karen Green spoke about the training that took place for Ottawa-Carleton Police officers with the assistance of the Odawa Native Friendship Centre. Ms. Green stressed that this training session was a resounding success and established a good dialogue between the aboriginal community and the Ottawa-Carleton Police.

Chief Ford noted they receive offers from many groups in the community who would like to be part of the officer training process and cannot accommodate all requests. However, they have incorporated a significant aboriginal component into Police training. Chief Ford concluded by saying they would do their best to accommodate all of the requests they receive, but noted it will be a lengthy process.

In closing, Ms. Cardinal stressed the importance of co-ordinating new developments being implemented to improve the response of the criminal justice system to end violence against women. Ms. Cardinal concluded by stating it is very important for different organizations to work together on these developments by sharing information and ensuring that relationships between the different components of the response are developed.

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board receive this report for information.

RECEIVED

2. PUBLIC COMPLAINTS REPORT (JANUARY 1997)
- Chief's report dated 06 Feb 97

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board receive this report for information.

RECEIVED

3. 1997 DRAFT BUDGET -
RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM RMOC FINANCE COMMISSIONER
- Director-General's report dated 19 Feb 97

In response to a question from member Boudreau, Mr. Kanellakos, Director General, confirmed the contract policing proposal identified in both scenarios as saving \$100,000 has been finalized.

Regional Chair Clark noted that when the Board approved its budget in December, the estimated provincial reductions were approximately \$1.4 million lower than what was announced more recently. This led to the request from the Finance Commissioner for further review. The Chair stated the Board should be proud of the job staff have done in trying to work around these fiscal problems.

Mr. Kanellakos expressed a preference for Scenario 1 because it would have less impact on staffing positions. Addressing the summer student position identified in Scenario 2, he noted the position has become an integral part of managing the workload associated with records maintenance and data inputting. He stated it is hoped the position can be maintained at least until the records systems are integrated.

Moved by G. Baskerville

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board approve the budget reductions outlined in Scenario 1, to be presented to Regional Council in conjunction with the RMOC budget deliberations on 26 February 1997.

CARRIED

4. OTTAWA-CARLETON REGIONAL POLICE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM UPDATE
- verbal presentation by S. Cardarelli, Project Manager

S. Cardarelli, Project Manager, provided the Board with an update on the progress of the information technology program. A copy of Mr. Cardarelli's presentation is held on file with the Board Secretary.

Mr. Cardarelli pointed out staff anticipate the network portion of the program will be completed by the spring of 1997 and the actual infrastructure (i.e. installation of all micro computers, etc.) will be completed by early summer 1997. By the late fall 1997, the CAD will be in production, followed by the core RMS and the Intelligent Mobile Terminals. He stated to date the program is on target and within budget, owing greatly to the cooperation and dedication of staff.

Member Baskerville asked what steps were being taken to prevent unauthorized access to the mobile workstations (i.e. the police cars). Mr. Cardarelli advised that different levels of security have been put in place; one at the workstation level, another at the network level and another at the application level. He noted when an employee leaves their workstation it automatically locks within a certain number of minutes and is not accessible without a security code/password. At the network level, if an unauthorized person were to obtain access to a laptop for example, the key encryption codes are controlled centrally and can be disabled at the network level, if necessary. At the application level, there are a number of things that challenge the person to verify who they are. Mr. Cardarelli offered that although nothing is 100% secure, all possible precautions have been taken to minimize unauthorized access to the network.

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board receive this report for information.

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5. WORLD POLICE AND FIRE GAMES
- Chief's report dated 4 Feb 97

Moved by D. Holmes

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board approve a donation of \$1,000 towards Ottawa-Carleton Police members attending the World Police and Fire Games in Calgary, Alberta.

CARRIED as amended

6. REQUEST FOR ENFORCEMENT OF “ANTI-BEGGING” BY-LAW

- Board Secretary's report dated 18 Feb 97 and letter from Mayor J. Holzman,
City of Ottawa, dated 15 Jan 97

Chief Ford noted a number of initiatives have been undertaken by front-line officers in the areas where begging is most prevalent and he deferred to Deputy Chief Mackie to expand on them.

Deputy Chief Mackie acknowledged begging is a constant problem in the downtown area and a number of proactive and reactive initiatives have been undertaken by staff to address it. He noted work has been done with Business Improvement Associations (BIAs) and social agencies (both from the Region and community groups), and programs such as “Ottawa Cares” have been initiated. As well, the areas most affected by begging have been identified and some hard-core enforcement has been carried out. The Deputy Chief pointed out there are some legal issues concerning the by-law with respect to identification of individuals and powers of arrest, however, this is being worked on.

Deputy Chief Mackie advised that one officer has taken a particular interest in this issue. Constable Hogan has started issuing “Part 3” summons in the hope there would be some consequence to identifying individuals and establishing parameters with respect to them constantly remaining in one area. By way of example, the Deputy Chief referred to St. Patrick's Church on Kent Street which has been identified as a problem area and noted officers pay particular attention to enforcement of the by-law there.

The Deputy Chief advised he also recently had discussions with the legislative and by-law staff at the City of Ottawa and indicated to them that a close partnership between the Ottawa-Carleton Police, the business community and City staff would be helpful in developing strategies to address this problem.

Responding to questions from Chair Vice concerning the Part 3 summons, Chief Ford advised when a Part 3 is issued, the officer can attach conditions to it; for example, that the person cannot continue the type of activity they were doing. The by-law does not allow for arresting or physically removing the person, however, if a Part 3 summons is issued with the condition that they not come back to a particular area, the officer then has “added weight” for taking further action (i.e. the person did not obey a specific instruction therefore arrest is possible). The Chief cautioned the legality of using Part 3 summons will likely be tested in the courts, however, for now it appears to be working.

Chief Ford clarified officers are actively enforcing the by-law in instances where individuals are being aggressive, intimidating or threatening. He stated there are a number of people that beg who pose no problem and the officers are not being aggressive towards them.

Regional Chair Clark questioned why the Ottawa-Carleton Police would be “policing” local municipalities’ by-laws. Chief Ford responded it was not a matter of policing a by-law, but rather, that these people present a legitimate law enforcement problem in that they are very aggressive, intimidating and border on obstructing people passing by. The officers are in fact maintaining law and order. The Regional Chair stressed he felt it was not appropriate that a City by-law dictate the details of policing requirements.

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board receive this for information.

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7. REGULAR REPORT FROM THE CHIEF AND OPP INSPECTOR
- verbal update from Chief B. Ford and A/Inspector M. Hopkins

Inspector Hopkins advised he had nothing unusual to report.

Chief Ford spoke of the recent shooting on 18 Feb 97 in which one officer was wounded and another officer used her firearm to protect the first officer. He noted the incident was under investigation by the Special Investigation Unit, however, he stated it appeared to him that both officers acted according to their training. The Chief reported both officers were doing fine and would be back at work soon.

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board receive this report for information.

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IN CAMERA

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board move In Camera to discuss a personnel matter, in accordance with Section 35(4)(b) of the *Police Services Act*.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

W. Fedec
Secretary

P. Vice
Chair