



PRIDE SERVICE TRUST **Guelph Police Services Board**

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Open Meeting

Minutes – June 16, 2022

An Open meeting of the Guelph Police Services Board was held by teleconference call on June 16, 2022, pursuant to sections 11.4 and 20.7 of Guelph Police Services Board By-Law 136 (2009), commencing at 2:30 p.m.

Present: R. Carter, Chair G. Cobey, Chief of Police
P. McSherry, Vice-Chair D. Goetz, Deputy Chief of Police
C. Billings, Member
C. Guthrie, Member
J. Armstrong, Member
L. LaCelle, Executive Assistant

Guests: J. Holmes, DCAO, Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise, City of Guelph
A. Vilkko, General Manager, Facilities and Energy Management, City of Guelph
S. Bowers-Peter, Program Coordinator, Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington
Insp. S. Grover
Sgt. G. MacDonald
Cst. C. Vaivods, Downtown Resource Officer
S. MacFarlane,

Regrets: J. Stoffman Sidlofsky, Legal Counsel

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Chair Carter introduced Jane Armstrong, Provincial appointee to the Guelph Police Services Board, and welcomed her to the meeting. Chair Carter invited Ms. Armstrong to share some information about herself.

Ms. Armstrong is a life-long resident of Guelph and practiced law in the city from 1982 until her retirement in 2018. Her areas of practice included corporate and commercial law, real estate, and trusts.

Ms. Armstrong is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Alectra Inc. She also currently serves as a member of the Executive of the Southwestern

Chapter of the Institute of Corporate Directors.

Throughout her career, she has been active in community and volunteer activities including her involvement with the Rotary Club of Guelph. In addition to serving on the boards of several community organizations, Ms. Armstrong was a member of the Guelph Police Services Board from 1996 to 1999.

2.0 Meeting Called to Order and Territorial Acknowledgment

Chair Carter called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m. by teleconference call between the attendees and gave Territorial Acknowledgement.

3.0 Declaration of Conflict or Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of conflict or pecuniary interest.

4.0 Closed Session Resolutions

There were no Closed session resolutions to bring forward to the Open Meeting.

5.0 Presentations/Delegations

5.1 City Update re: Headquarters

Chair Charter introduced Jayne Holmes, DCAO, Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise and Antti Vilkko, General Manager, Facilities and Energy Management with the City of Guelph.

J. Holmes provided an update on the headquarters renovation project. While the project is not yet finished, it is approaching completion and occupancy should happen in the next couple of weeks.

Chief Cobey thanked J. Holmes and A. Vilkko and their team for the great partnership in navigating several variables together. The Service is grateful for their time, attention, and professionalism as the project moves forward.

Chair Carter thanked J. Holmes and A. Vilkko for sticking with the project amidst the challenges.

J. Holmes and A. Vilkko left the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

5.2 Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington Annual Report

Chair Carter welcomed Sarah Bowers-Peter to the meeting. Ms. Bowers-Peter presented the Annual Report of Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington, noting the following:

- From 1998 to 2022, there were 22,778 tips, 1,590 arrests made, 2,303 cases cleared, 4,488 charges laid, and \$180,165 rewards (\$4,935 in rewards in 2021).
- Due to the pandemic, Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington had to pivot and embrace engagement in new ways as the world went mostly remote.
- Over the past year, there have been multiple online and in person presentations given in the areas of Crime Stoppers 101, Student Crime Stoppers, Senior Crime Stoppers, Human Trafficking and EPACT.
- Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington has seen an increase in mobile/web tips over phone calls.
- The Board currently consists of 13 members.
- In May, the #MayMulchMonth was held at JL's Home Hardware locations.
- The 2021 Shredding event was second only to the record setting event in 2020.
- A new website has been launched – www.csgw.tips.
- Guelph Wellington Crime Stoppers has been very active on social media, utilizing platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn.
- Valuable partnerships with Guelph Wellington Women In Crisis, Safe Communities Wellington County, Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy, and Victim Services Wellington continue.
- Challenges continue to be faced in the area of fundraisers, volunteer recruitment, radio engagement in Guelph, and ongoing legal issues.
- In February, Guelph Wellington Crime Stoppers was named as a benefactor of the 100 Men Who Give a Damn – Guelph group.

C. Guthrie commented that Ms. Bowers-Peters has taken Crime Stoppers from a place that was not very well known but is now prominent and that she can't be thanked enough for everything she, the organization, and its Board does on a daily basis.

Chair Carter thanked Ms. Bowers-Peter for her excellent presentation and asked her to pass on the Board's appreciation for the work that Crime Stoppers continues to do to keep the community safe

S. Bowers-Peter left the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

5.3 Cst. Connor Vaivods, Downtown Resource Officer

Chair Carter introduced Cst. Connor Vaivods, Downtown Resource Officer, and asked him to provide an update.

Cst. Vaivods spoke about his commitment to the community and the Downtown.

Cst. Vaivods first addressed data that was being collected in two areas – community contact (i.e. speaking to businesses in the Downtown or being available to be approached by members of the public for discussion) and proactive patrol (i.e. walking the beat or going into areas where cruisers cannot). Between November 2021 and June 2022, there have been 238 occurrences of community contact and 88 occurrences of proactive patrol generated. These are healthy numbers.

While data allows the Service to capture the work done in the public to support the needs of the community, there is a lot of work that goes on behind closed doors. This includes collaborations with the Welcoming Streets Initiative due to aligned interests. This also includes the Downtown Support Officers program evolving to meet the needs of the downtown.

Cst. Vaivods has noticed two emerging themes that provide direction on how to proceed and support the core: Disruptive behaviour (yelling, name calling, littering, loitering, inappropriate drug use) and organizational collaboration.

With respect to disruptive behaviour, while there is not concrete data, sometimes having police presence visible can have a positive impact on behaviours. The Downtown Support Officers present in the core can assist with mitigating some behaviour.

In some instances, however, these behaviours don't come from a criminal intent. In these cases, having an officer present will not stop the disruptive behaviour. To this end, Cst. Vaivods holds a puzzle piece in the bigger picture of trying to solve these greater issues. This is why organizational collaboration is important as other groups in the community can work with the Service to address the bigger picture.

From a policing perspective, there is the opportunity and responsibility to work collaboratively with all other stakeholders as it is really important that the wellness of a community is a collective holistic discussion rather than a policing issue alone.

Discussion ensued with respect to policing resources for the Downtown as well as the Guelph community and the need to address the issues on all levels.

C. Guthrie mentioned that the biggest piece of the puzzle that can come together to help most of the situations that are happening in the Downtown and across the City – mental health, addictions, and housing supports – are all under the jurisdiction of the Province with the help of Social Services which is under the jurisdiction of the County. The Guelph Police Services Board and many other agencies have spoken up multiple time regarding the help needed in our cities and it is very disappointing that upper levels of government continue to not help cities with these issues when cities are not built to respond to them. To address this concern, C. Guthrie brought forward a motion to have the Guelph Police Services Board once again reach out to upper levels of government.

Moved by C. Guthrie
Seconded by C. Billings

THAT the Guelph Police Services Board urgently reaffirm our continued position decision dated December 15, 2020, and February 16, 2022, that without delay the Government of Ontario provides immediate funding for full 24/7 coverage of the IMPACT program to address the growing addictions and mental health impacts within the City of Guelph.

- Carried UNANIMOUSLY -

Chief Cobey thanked Cst. Vaivods for his presentation and reminded everyone that addressing these concerns is truly a community effort. The police service cannot do it alone.

Chair Carter thanked Cst. Vaivods for his terrific presentation. Chair also.

Cst. C. Vaivods, Insp. S. Grover, and Sgt. G. MacDonald left the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

6.0 Approval of Minutes of the Open Meeting, May 19, 2022

Moved by C. Billings
Seconded by C. Guthrie

THAT the Guelph Police Services Board approve the Open Meeting minutes of May 19, 2022.

- Carried -

7.0 Approval of Agenda

Moved by J. Armstrong
Seconded by P. McSherry

THAT the Guelph Police Services Board approve the Open Meeting agenda.

- Carried -

Part 1 – Consent Agenda

7.1 Headquarters Renovation & Expansion Report

THAT the report titled “Police Headquarters Renovation and Expansion Project,” and dated June 7, 2022, be received for information.

7.2 Human Resources Report – Member Appointments

THAT Briar Smith be appointed as a temporary full-time member of this Service as an Information Processor, effective June 13, 2022.

AND THAT Reena Dhillon be appointed as a full-time member of this Service as a Forensic Video Technician/Analyst, effective June 20, 2022.

7.3 Board Correspondence Report

That the report titled “Board Correspondence Report – Open Meeting,” and dated June 16, 2022, be received for information.

7.4 Annual Use of Force Report

THAT the report titled “Use of Force Audit Report,” and dated June 16, 2022, be received for information.

AND THAT the report titled “Revised 2020 Annual Use of Force Report,” and dated June 16, 2022, be received for information.

AND THAT the report titled “2021 Annual Use of Force Report,” and dated June 16, 2022, be received for information.

Part 2 – Discussion Agenda

7.5 Chief’s Monthly Report

All wrapped together with Annual report.

7.6 2021 Annual Report

The 2021 Annual Report was provided to the Board for information. Chief Cobey acknowledged Sarah MacFarlane, University of Guelph co-op student working with Media Relations, for her tremendous work in making this year’s online report fully interactive. This is a great example of how a new technology and perspective can be brought in to improve the report and make it more interesting and easier to read.

S. MacFarlane walked the Board through the accessible report located on the GPS website.

The report will be posted to the Guelph Police Services website later today for the public to review.

Chief Cobey noted that total crime decreased last year by 4.5%.

7.7 New Business

None

8.0 Information Items

- Next Open Meeting: Thursday, September 15, 2022, 2:30 p.m. via Teams meeting, livestreamed on YouTube.

9.0 Adjournment

Moved by C. Billings

Seconded by C. Guthrie

THAT the Open meeting of the Guelph Police Services Board adjourn at 3:57 p.m.

- Carried -

“Robert Carter”

R. Carter, Chair

“Leslie LaCelle”

L. LaCelle, Executive Assistant