



PRIDE SERVICE TRUST

## Guelph Police Services Board

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### Open Meeting

### Minutes – February 16, 2023

An Open meeting of the Guelph Police Services Board was held by teleconference call on February 16, 2023, pursuant to sections 11.4 and 20.7 of Guelph Police Services Board By-Law 136 (2009), commencing at 2:30 p.m.

**Present:** P. McSherry, Chair  
J. Armstrong, Vice-Chair  
C. Guthrie, Member  
P. Allt, Member  
L. LaCelle, Executive Assistant  
G. Cobey, Chief of Police  
D. Goetz, Deputy Chief of Police  
J. Sidlofsky Stoffman, Legal Counsel  
J. Allsop, Executive Assistant  
S. Purton, Financial Services Manager

Guests: D. Sprague, SOLGEN, Insp. S. Gill

#### 1.0 Welcome and Introductions

#### 2.0 Meeting Called to Order and Territorial Acknowledgment

Chair McSherry called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. by teleconference call between the attendees and gave Territorial Acknowledgement.

#### 3.0 Declaration of Conflict or Pecuniary Interest – None

#### 4.0 Closed Session Resolutions

**Moved by** C. Guthrie

**Seconded by** J. Armstrong

THAT the Guelph Police Services Board approve the reinstatement of the collection of the \$35.00 user fee payable by the individual or agency for volunteer vulnerable sector record checks effective Monday, February 20, 2023, as outlined in the user fee by-law;

**- CARRIED -**

**Moved by** J. Armstrong  
**Seconded by** C. Guthrie

THAT the Guelph Police Services Board approve the updated user fee by-law (Appendix A) effective immediately to reflect the change to the Police Record Checks Reform Act where fees can no longer be charged for Police Criminal Record Checks and Police Information Checks.

**- CARRIED -**

## **5.0 Presentations/Delegations**

### **5.1 Community Response Break Enter Auto Theft Team Update – Insp. Steve Gill**

- Chief Cobey introduced Inspector Steve Gill and asked that he provide an update to the Board with respect to the Break Enter Auto Theft team.
- Inspector Gill told the Board that the Break Enter Auto Theft team has been a great success and is a valuable resource, not only to the Service, but also to the community. It has been successful in addressing property crimes and auto thefts, holding offenders accountable in deterring further offences, removing illegal substances and firearms off of the streets, and improving the overall feeling of safety within the community.
- Oftentimes, property crime overlaps with the drug subculture, so drug-related charges are also laid by the unit.
- The unit has recovered vehicles, a boat, a trailer, numerous e-bikes, generators, tools, and more.
- In addition, the team, which consists of a Sergeant and four Detective Constables, also seized over \$122,000.00 in drugs, as well as firearms. Two of the firearms were loaded when they were recovered.
- Over 600 charges have been laid, 28 search warrants executed, 90 arrests have been made, and over \$500,000.00 in stolen property has been recovered.
- Of the 90 arrests made 14 were repeat arrests by the team. Of the 14, two had been arrested at least three times. In addition, one individual has been released up to eight times for vehicle thefts.

Chief Cobey thanked Insp. Gill and his team and reiterated how much the Service understands the impacts of property crime on the community. The Chief also reminded everyone that if anyone is a victim of these crimes, it is crucial to let the Service know.

Board members thanked Insp. Gill for his presentation. Chair McSherry also thanked Insp. Gill for making the Board aware and making the Board aware of steps being taken to ensure the safety of the citizens of Guelph.

S. Gill left the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

## **6.0 Approval of Minutes of the Open Meeting, January 19, 2023**

**Moved by** P. Allt

**Seconded by** C. Guthrie

**THAT** the Guelph Police Services Board approve the Open Meeting minutes of January 19, 2023.

**- CARRIED -**

## **7.0 Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by** J. Armstrong

**Seconded by** C. Guthrie

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

**- CARRIED -**

## **Part 1 – Consent Agenda**

**Moved by** C. Guthrie

**Seconded by** J. Armstrong

**THAT** the Consent Agenda items be approved.

**- CARRIED -**

### **7.1 Board Correspondence Report**

**THAT** the report titled "Board Correspondence Report – Open Meeting," and dated February 16, 2023, be received for information.

### **7.2 Canadian Association of Police Governance Membership Renewal for 2023**

**THAT** the Guelph Police Services Board renew its membership for 2023 in the Canadian Association of Police Governance at a cost of \$2,080.00, to be paid from the tax supported budget.

### **7.3 Towing and Storage Contract Award**

**THAT** the reported titled "Towing and Storage Contract Award," and dated February 16, 2023, be received for information.

#### **7.4 Community Account Annual Report**

**THAT** the report titled "Community Account Annual Report," and dated February 16, 2023, be received for information.

#### **Part 2 – Discussion Agenda**

#### **7.5 Chief's Monthly Report**

- Chief Cobey indicated that monthly report is on the Strategic Plan and moved into the update.

#### **7.6 Strategic Plan update**

- Chief Cobey provided the Board with a comprehensive overview report of things achieved and focused on priorities. Highlights of the report include:
  - Community Policing:
    - In 2022, the Community Police Committee created its Mission Statement: "The Guelph Police Service aims to build and foster true collaborative partnerships through engagement that supports a strong relationship of trust between the Guelph Police Service and the community. This will be achieved through innovative, proactive, and responsive community policing for the purpose of having a safe and vibrant city."
    - In 2022, the Citizen's Police Academy was launched and delivered to members of the Canadian Arab Women's Association and members of the Arab Women's Society of Guelph. The program consists of an eight week session in which participants learn about Members and the Service via presentations from different GPS units. This program has been very well received and has allowed Members to learn about important perspectives from community members.
    - The 2024-2027 Strategic Plan is currently in development, and an important component of the plan will be the inclusion of a strategic plan that focuses specifically on the development of new Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion goals and objectives.

- 2022 saw the deployment of Body-Worn camera technology to Members. This was achieved after the completion of a pilot project in 2021, and services to further demonstrate the Service's commitment to community trust and original goals of the program.
- A new Duty to Report procedure was introduced to ensure the Service's commitment to the most professional and transparent conduct is enshrined in procedures and daily practices.
- Post Ontario Police College training continues to be offered to new recruits, and includes training from Immigrant Services Guelph-Wellington, the African Canadian Initiative, and the Guelph Multicultural Festival Chair.
- The transition to hybrid-technology for all marked front-line police vehicles as completed in 2022. This transition demonstrates the Service's commitment to the environment and is aligned with the City of Guelph's goal to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- Working with Members and citizens, the Community Policing Committee developed several new initiatives in 2022, including a newly created webpage dedicated to providing easily accessible and comprehensive information in relation to Community Policing initiatives.
- The Service's commitment to Community engagement was reflected in the organization, facilitation, or participation in numerous community events and proactive engagements with citizens, including: Youth In Policing Initiative; Youth Engagement Program; and School safety Program.
- Organizational Health and Service Effectiveness:
  - Expansion of supports available to Members continued in 2022, including work to document and support Members involved in critical incidents and work to enhance the GPS website to afford members' families more fulsome access to benefits, resources, and tools. Work on a new Health and Safety Incident Reporting Application was also introduced.

- The Wellness Coordinator has been certified in Road to Mental Health Readiness Training, and is now able to provide in-house Member training.
- Before Operational Stress Training is now available to all Members through the auspices of a grant.
- The Service's first full time Health and Safety Advisor was on boarded in July 2022, and immediately initiated a number of support sessions for Members.
- The Safeguarding program (regular psychological assessments for certain positions) was expanded in 2022 and this will continue in the coming calendar year. Wellness orientation was also implemented for all new recruits.
- In 2022, the Service introduced the first Internal Support Network (ISN). The Women's Internal Support Network is a voluntary, Member-led self-support network designed to help Members who identify as women share information and experiences while providing mentoring and guidance in an effort to ensure all Members develop personally and professionally.
- One of the key priorities for 2022 was to review the existing patrol zone boundaries to ensure optimal deployment of resources and responsiveness to community needs. The previous patrol zone structure had not been evaluated in over 20 years. In addition to realigning the patrol zones, a new zone was created to better respond to both call volumes and community growth. 2023 will see an expansion of this work as the call management strategy is reviewed and new technologies and analytics are examined in order to continue to modernize service delivery and fully leverage service and community resources.
- Community Wellness:
  - In keeping with the goal of developing measures to capture the support being provided to those experiencing mental health/wellness related calls for service, the Mobile HealthIM application was updated to include increased management information

capabilities for documenting previous interactions with individuals to better support those in need and assist medical professionals with follow up supports.

- In 2022, prevention and response measures for community wellness issues continued to be developed. This included the Downtown Liaison Officer's direct involvement with various community partner agencies.
- Over the past year, advocacy for 24/7 coverage of the Integrated Mobile Police and Crisis Team (IMPACT) continued. The present IMPACT team is comprised of 7.5 Members working at both the GPS headquarters and CMHA Waterloo Wellington.
- Road Safety:
  - In May 2022, the Service launched the COPLOGIC Online Reporting tool to receive traffic complaints from citizens. By the end of the year, 137 reports had been received and processed via this platform.
  - Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) inspections were carried out in conjunction with Waterloo Regional Police, Ontario Provincial Police, Halton Regional Police, and the Ministry of Transportation on five occasions in 2022. The June 2022 inspection in Guelph saw the inspection of 11 trucks, 73% of which were found with defects that required immediate corrective actions.
  - In 2022, Impaired Operation (alcohol) related arrests totalled 135, and Stunt Driving rose to 95.
- Drugs and Property Crime:
  - Drugs:
    - Harm reduction through direct involvement with community partners, including the Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy, continued to be a priority in 2022. The Service worked to share vital overdose information with the Public Health Unit in order for Public Health to make informed decisions regarding community alerts

for more potent strains of fentanyl that may be circulating in the community.

- 2022 saw a significant increase in drug seizures over the previous year. The total value of drugs seized in 2022 increased by over 50% to \$1,129,700.00. Canadian currency in the sum of \$269,857.75 was seized in conjunction with these drug seizures. A total of 329 CDSA charges and 17 Cannabis Act Charges were laid in 2022.
- Property Crime:
  - After two years of pilot programs, the Break Enter and Auto Theft team became a permanent unit within the Service in January 2022.
  - 2022 saw several strings of overnight commercial break and enters. In July, five businesses in the north end of the city were targeted by the same individual. In September and October, seven businesses in the south end were entered by one individual. In December, another four businesses in the south end were broken into. In all 16 instances, the crimes were committed by individuals who were not from Guelph and had no previous involvement with the Service.
  - In 2022, the Break Enter and Auto Theft team executed 28 search warrants; arrested and charged 90 individuals; laid 600 charges; and recovered over \$500,000.00 in stolen property.
- Downtown:
  - 2022 saw the continued focus on the Downtown and the refinement of the Downtown Resource Officer Unit. The pilot program was launched in 2020, and after achieving positive results, with the support of the community, became a permanent unit in 2021 and continued to evolve in 2022. The Downtown Resource Officers have worked with



community partners to support residents, businesses, and visitors to the Downtown.

- In 2022, the close working relationship with the Welcoming Streets program and the Guelph Community Health Centre continued. Members of the Guelph Community Health Centre provided training to front line officers as part of the Critical Incident training sessions. Members of the Welcoming Streets program presented to front line members to ensure they had a comprehensive understanding of the work Welcoming Streets does and the supports available to Downtown community members.
  - Working with community partners, bi-weekly meetings were established with the Welcoming Streets team, the Guelph Community Health Centre, the Downtown Resource Officer, and others to ensure that everyone is working together to assist vulnerable persons in the Downtown with a focus on connection to community resources and supports.
  - 2022 also saw a very significant increase in the amount of time front line Patrol and Tactical Unit officers were able to attend and conduct proactive foot patrols to increase a visible presence in the Downtown.
- C. Guthrie commented that the work was fantastic and that it's great that this information is out in the open for the Board and the community to digest. The Chief, Deputy Chief, Senior Leadership Team, and those behind the scenes staff and front line officers cannot be thanked enough. It is difficult some times but the good work is not going unnoticed and needs to be acknowledged more often.
  - The Chief thanked C. Guthrie for the thank you and indicated that the thanks will be passed along to everyone.
  - Chair McSherry thanked the Chief for update. The Board looks forward to hearing about continued improvements in 2023.

## **7.7 New Business – None**

## 8.0 Information Items

- Next Open Meeting: Thursday, March 16, 2023, 2:30 p.m., via Teams meeting, livestreamed on YouTube.

## 9.0 Adjournment

**Moved by** P. Allt

**Seconded by** J. Armstrong

**THAT** the Open meeting of the Guelph Police Services Board rise and recess at 3:13 p.m.

**- CARRIED -**

"Peter McSherry"

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P. McSherry, Vice-Chair

"Leslie LaCelle"

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L. LaCelle, Executive Assistant