

Minutes: The Blue Mountains Police Services Board

MEETING DATE: February 23, 2011
MEETING TIME: 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: OPP Station Board Room
PREPARED BY: Stephen Keast, Board Secretary

A. Call to Order

- The Secretary then called the inaugural meeting to order with former Chair Knott and Cliff Carr in attendance, Mayor Anderson absent due to a previous commitment.
- Also in attendance was Inspector John Trude and Sergeant Charles Watts of Collingwood – The Blue Mountains Detachment, Ontario Provincial Police.
- The Secretary then noted nominations were now open for Chair, with the following nomination then made

Moved by: Rod Knott

THAT Cliff Carr be nominated as Chair of the Police Services Board.

As there were no further nominations the Secretary declared that nominations were now closed and Cliff Carr was acclaimed as Chair of the Police Services Board. The meeting was then handed over to the Chair.

- Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Rod Knott

Seconded by: Cliff Carr

THAT the Agenda of February 23, 2011, be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda, Carried.

- No member declared a pecuniary interest with any matter as listed on the Agenda.
- Previous Minutes

Moved by: Rod Knott

Seconded by: Cliff Carr

THAT the minutes of the November 24, 2010 Police Services Board meeting be adopted as circulated, including any revisions to be made, Carried.

B. Deputations/Presentations**B.1 Larry Hall, Community Policing Committee Annual Report**

Larry then made introductory comments, noting progress had been made on a number of fronts, most significantly the Community Watch program.

Larry then noted it was hoped to strengthen membership in the Community Watch program, adding it was always a challenge to retain volunteers.

Larry then reviewed new and recent members and roles.

Larry then noted it was important to build the two core teams, being the Community Policing Committee (CPC) and Community Watch, adding a comprehensive Community Watch website had been developed.

Larry then reviewed CPC programs, noting the Security Alarm program had reduced OPP calls to false alarms by 50 to 60% of what it was before the program was put in place, representing a significant saving in OPP cost and time.

Larry then noted there would be another push to encourage alarm registration.

Larry then reviewed negotiations with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to reduce the speed limit on Highway 26 to 70 km/hr as a transition zone at the eastern entrance to Thornbury, the reduction approved by MTO but pending.

Larry then reported on opposition to the reduction expressed by the Agricultural Advisory Committee, Rod reporting the matter will be on the next Advisory Committee Agenda.

Charlie then noted the former Thornbury Police Services had recommended such a reduction but at the time, MTO would not consider such a reduction beyond what is considered the Connecting Link.

Rod then noted a Highway is intended to move traffic and the current speed reductions on Highway 26 to Collingwood is an example of impediment to traffic, adding Collingwood Council had recently agreed to increase the limit west of Collingwood.

John then noted Collingwood had to receive MTO approval for any change to the speed limit in the area.

Larry then reviewed Community Watch and the three components, being Neighbourhood, Business and Rural Watch, which will each have specific programs completed for operations.

Larry then noted Craigeith was the initial pilot Watch program, with increasing participation in Lora Bay with efforts ongoing in Thornbury, adding the Rural Watch program introduction is ongoing.

Larry then noted the Traffic Watch program has two components, signage and publicity.

Larry then reviewed 2011 CPC priorities, being the finalization of structure and recruitment of new members for the Committee and implementation of the Watch program in Thornbury and Clarksburg.

Larry then noted effectiveness of particularly the Community Watch program will only follow the education of citizens and encouragement of a discussion between residents and a coordinated enforcement approach including Council, municipal law enforcement and the OPP.

Rod then reported on a recent call he received offering a free home alarm installation, Larry noting this was an industry incentive, being the free alarm installation with a three year remote monitoring contract then required. Larry further noted local alarm firms worked with landowners in addressing alarm operation and maintenance but the remote monitoring companies are marketing firms who rely on the OPP as much as the landowner regarding alarm responses.

John then noted the remote monitoring firms are not local and are not impacted by the false alarm by-law, which does apply to the local resident who the remote firms tend not to work with.

Chair Carr then questioned CPC plans to publicize the website, Larry replying community meetings, Town Community Pages and links on the Town, Chamber of Commerce and Village Association websites.

Larry then requested the Board to consider the CPC goal of creating an integrated response to Community Watch issues.

Charlie then noted Town By-law Enforcement works less at night and on weekends than through the week and currently it is solely the OPP addressing noise by-law issues in Craighleith.

Larry then suggested Town municipal law enforcement officers could meet with short term accommodation (STA) operators and owners of sites operating as STA's to discuss issues of concern and give warnings they may be shut down if they fail to comply.

Rod then questioned Charlie as to why Town by-law enforcement officers do not respond to noise complaints in the Craighleith area, Charlie replying some time ago the OPP agreed to take over the noise by-law response but now the Town By-law Department has grown and response could be enhanced.

Rod then questioned if the Board should make a recommendation to Council on behalf of the OPP for an enhancement to by-law enforcement to address hours of operation, Larry adding any recommendation should also include STA issues including noting they may be closed down, Rod noting if enhance activity is organized that should be a result.

Chair Carr then noted we would have to consider STA's based on a history of complaints rather than simply meet with them.

John then noted such a program may have to wait until the final Ontario Municipal Board decision on STA's.

Cliff then noted the Board can request the Town to work in an integrated response manner with stakeholders and we could strive to make it work, Rod noting the Board would consider a recommendation later in the meeting.

Larry then thanked the Board and retired from the meeting.

C. Staff Reports

C.1 Detachment Commander's Report

Charlie then reviewed the Report, noting Staff complement is now at 100%.

Charlie then reported on a recent policing contract review as part of the 2011 Town Budget process.

Charlie then reported on recent meetings with Town Staff to extend no parking regulations on Provincial Highway 26 in the Northwinds Beach area. Regarding enforcement, Charlie noted one concern is that the OPP must issue a ticket to a person and cannot tow a vehicle unless it is impeding traffic flow. Charlie noted Town tickets have been issued by the OPP to vehicles but the tickets are not legally binding as the Highway is Provincial property and jurisdiction.

Charlie then noted he has been to be part of the Town Development Review Committee and will comment on traffic and safety issues.

Regarding Public Information Service, Charlie noted the DARE and Cyber Cop programs continue at Beaver Valley Community School and the OPP will participate in the Town Public Works Day.

Regarding Operations Updates, Charlie noted extra Officers will be in the resort area during College Reading Week.

Charlie then reported on a youth initiative called the Beaver River Crawl with Officers involved with traffic control and escort during the event on Canada Day.

Charlie then reported on an increase in false 911 calls originating from speed dials on cell phones in the resort area, usually when the cell phone user is skiing or accessing a lift, John noting the OPP is obligated to respond.

Charlie then noted there has been 32 noise complaints with five charges laid.

Charlie then noted there were no public complaints during this reporting period.

Chair Carr then questioned if the false 911 calls were an issue of concern, Charlie noting the new open face cell phones may be a cause, John noting it is an area of corporate concern.

The Board then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: Cliff Carr

Seconded by:

Rod Knott

THAT the Detachment Commander's Report be received as presented this 23rd day of February, 2011, Carried.

D. Correspondence

Author

Recommendation

D.1 The Sustainable Path, Thank you

Receive for information

D.2 OPP Business Bureau, 2011 Policing Estimate

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Charlie then noted this was reviewed at the previous meeting.

D.3 Niagara Police Services Board, 2011 Conference

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Rod noted the Board has not been a member of the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards in the past as information is received through Collingwood.

D.4 PAVIS Grant Program Application

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John then noted the PAVIS Program is intended to address gun and gang problems in urban areas which are not evident in our area, Chair Carr noting it was a fairly specific program.

D.5 Revised 2011 OPP Salary Rate Estimates

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Chair Carr then questioned if the revised salary estimates would have any impact on the policing contract, Rod noting salaries would increase by three per cent above the contract estimate. John then noted this would increase the estimate for wages but we have always been under Budget and it should have little or no impact with contract actuals to come in April or May, versus estimates.

Rod then noted he believed there was to be a steady increase in Officer complement to utilize the full contract hours, John noting that is proceeding but one full Officer is fully funded by the Federal government at no cost to the Town.

D.6 2010 Community Policing/School Officer Awards

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John noted the Detachment has an officer attending in Beaver Valley Community School as part of the normal Detachment activity.

The Board then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: Cliff Carr

Seconded by: Rod Knott

THAT this Board does hereby receive the Correspondence of February 23, 2011 and further does support the Staff Recommendation made with regard to the Correspondence items, including any additional direction given to Staff through discussion, with an appropriate Staff action or response awaited for report back to the Board, a Committee or Council where indicated, Carried.

TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS
POLICE SERVICE BOARD MEETING

Wednesday February 23, 2011

CHAIR:

MEMBERS: Mr. Rod Knott, Mayor Ellen Anderson and Mr. Cliff Carr

Secretary: Stephen Keast

Prepared by: Sergeant Charles Watts – Dedicated Liaison Sergeant to The Blue Mountains
Inspector John Trude – Detachment Commander
Collingwood and The Blue Mountains Detachment, Ontario Provincial Police

COMMUNITY POLICING COMMITTEE ACTIVITY:

The Community Policing Committee continues its efforts towards building a successful Community Watch program and is currently involved with expanding the Business Watch program to the Thornbury/Clarksburg area along with Neighbourhood Watch. The Committee continues its search for volunteers to organize and run the Community Watch.

DETACHMENT COMMANDERS UPDATE:

Inspector Trude and Sergeant Watts met with council on February 8th and explained the costing in the current contract for their budget purposes. They met with Acting CAO Reg Russwurm on February 9th to discuss Parking issues at Northwinds Beach and other municipal issues. On Tuesday February 22nd they made a presentation, to the Development Review Committee, which was well received and offered police advisory service. As a result of that meeting Sergeant Watts has been asked to become part of the committee.

The RIDE Grant funds were all used prior to the end of January and the final billing has been sent to the Ministry.

Through efforts of the detachment personnel and BMR Security a Ski Coral was incorporated at the base of Blue Mountain to better protect the skies and snowboards. It appears to be having a positive effect on reducing the number of thefts.

PUBLIC INFORMATION/SERVICE.

DARE continues at BVCS along with a Cyber Cops program (internet safety) for grade 7 students and Youth Drug Awareness for grade 8 students. The Blue Mountains will be involved in the Public Works Day once again this year and planning will begin shortly for that event.

OPERATIONS UPDATES:

Extra officer's will be deployed in the Craigeith Zone over the College/University week to do some proactive policing as well as enforcement of the LLA and the Municipal Noise By-law.

Planning is underway for a Beaver River Crawl, which includes bicycling, canoeing and running from Talisman Resort and finishing in Clarksburg on Canada Day. We will have officers involved with traffic control and escorting this event.

We have been experiencing a high number of 911 calls due to visitor's accidentally pressing a button on their cell phone. Many of these calls are originating from the resort area and police policy is to respond to each call. Many hours are being spent searching for the person responsible.

Noise complaints continue to be high priority for some residents living in the Craigeith Zone near STA's. To date we have responded to 32 complaints of violations of the Noise By-Law and 5 charges have been laid.

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS:

None for this reporting period.