

**Attendees:**

**Policing Committee Members:**

Perry Brooks, Chair  
Ian McDonnell  
Steven Hull  
Sean Clements  
Ed Sperling, City Councillor  
Stewart Begg, Public Complaints Director  
Bill Santo, Vice Chair

**Administration & Detachment Staff:**

Heather Cowie, GM Community & Protective Services  
Coreen Rayner, A/Director Protective Services  
Insp. Mike McCauley, OIC RCMP  
A/Sgt. MJ Webster, Municipal Enforcement Supervisor  
Kalie Anderson, Recording Secretary

**1. Welcome and call to order**

Meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

Steven Hull moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Ian McDonnell. Carried.

**3. Approval of minutes**

Ed Sperling moved to approve the minutes of the February meeting, seconded by Sean Clements. Carried.

**4. GM Update**

- City created a Task Force to respond to the pandemic, this allowed administration to move quickly and work with City Council. Major changes were made to service levels and service deliveries across the entire City. The community responded very well to all the changes.
- City is now moving into relaunch stages and taking into consideration public health orders and how other municipalities in the region are responding.
- Kudos to MES and the RCMP for the education efforts and enforcement of public health orders.

**5. Officer in Charge Report**

- Training for members has increased and proactive work is also increasing
- Slight increase overall in persons and property crime. Collisions have decreased.
- Staffing: +2 above establishment total
- New APPs:
  - Crime reduction property & drugs
  - Traffic safety
  - Community engagement, in particular youth
  - Public confidence
- Looking for more ways to involve community partners instead of always focusing on enforcement
- COVID response: lot of changes will be coming as RCMP modernizes, innovations happened because of the restrictions around COVID
- Increased media releases and public relations, there is now a constable assigned to this.

- Discussion around Fair Deal Panel and recommendation regarding Provincial Police for Alberta.
- Discussion regarding the structure of the RCMP and who gives direction.
  - Ottawa does not make operational decisions at the provincial or detachment level.
  - Commanding Officer of K Division sets the tone for the province and each detachment structures policing according to their community
  - Discussion about how to communicate this to the public and strategies about educating the community

## 6. A/Director Report

- MES was given authority to enforce public health orders, Community Peace Officers were seeking voluntary compliance within the community and had a great response
- Things were rapidly changing especially in the beginning of the pandemic
- Most admin staff stayed working in the office because we had sufficient space for physical distancing
- Enhanced custodial services
- Front counter services were reduced and one staff member was laid off temporarily, will be brought back to work once workloads have increased
- Recovery plan is in place for relaunching services safely
- Council notice of motion regarding implementation plan for reducing residential speeds to 40 km/hr within the City, presented by Grant Schaeffer. Will be going back to Council with more information about the speed limits within the City. Once report is prepared it will be provided to the Policing Committee
- Revenue has affected budget in many areas
  - Budget for the policing committee: reduction of \$2500 from 2020 budget
  - Reduction of 25% of Policing Committee moving forward, Coreen will provide details to Perry
- Community Engagement
  - Protective Services is working with City Corporate Communications on a social media strategy to create accounts to tell our stories
  - Pride Week and video created, good feedback!

## 7. MES Report

- Call volume increased significantly for COVID as well as Animal Control complaints. Increased patrols and visibilities throughout public spaces and essential businesses. Community has responded very well to public health orders
- Neighbour disputes have seen a large increase over various concerns. MES is engaging with Restorative Justice to find alternative solutions
- Street sweeping has taken a lot of resources, contacted 500 vehicle owners while assisting the Roads Department
- Full operations have resumed for traffic enforcement but officers are mindful of current situations
- One officer in process of onboarding. Staffing was not significantly impacted by COVID.

## 8. Strategic Planning

References are being created to help with the process.

- Quick reference guide to help align initiatives within the strategic plan
- Poster of strategic plan to show during meetings as a reference for committee members
- Discussion about feedback from the community: committee members were able to correct misinformation in the community regarding COVID enforcement

## 9. New Business

### a. Recent BIPOC movement, how does this affect Fort Saskatchewan?

- Movement is regarding the racism and treatment of Black, Indigenous and people of colour (BIPOC) by police, concerns about police brutality across North America, and how complaints against police are investigated. Many in the movement are calling for defunding the police to increase other community services in lieu of police. Others are calling for better de-escalation training for police. In the US and beginning in Canada, movement is becoming very extreme and protests are widespread. In some places protests were stifled in order to protect property from fire/damage.
- Our community is not very diverse. More diverse residents in Fort Saskatchewan every year but still very homogenous
- Discussion of whether this affects Fort Saskatchewan: some committee members have not heard any negative feedback from the community. Others have seen instances of discrimination first hand.
- Discussion regarding public opinion: media plays a big role. It's important to show the full picture of incidents and advocate for what you believe. Public opinion is very extreme especially on social media
- What can we do as a group to strengthen our community? Does the Policing Committee have a role?
  - Can advocate for common solutions and working together. Planning for a community town hall with RCMP and the Policing Committee to allow the community to have a voice
- Discussion: How can we recruit more diverse committee members? Have to be more proactive to locate and recruit a more representative membership

### b. Award sponsorship for RCMP/MES officers who have gone above and beyond working with the community

- Discussion: Can some budget money go towards it and then the committee can work out details for how it was judged and awarded
- Ian McDonnell moved to set an initial amount of \$500, seconded by Steven Hull. Carried.
- Discussion: can be named the 'Policing Committee Community Service Award'. Nominations put forward by detachment leadership, could possibly open it up to the community to submit nominations, and a sponsor to help with costs. Committee will vote on the nominations to award it
- Subcommittee formed to examine this idea further: Sean Clements, Stewart Begg, Steven Hull and Perry Brooks

#### **10. Public Complaints Director Report**

- Travis dispute is going to civil court action

#### **11. AAPG Update**

- Online meetings
- Conference moved to October but unsure if it will still be happening

#### **12. Council Report**

- Regular meetings were initially suspended because of COVID, special meetings were held regarding the COVID response. On April 14 regular meetings resumed, all done virtually. Looking for a location with space for physical distancing
- Property tax and utility tax deferral programs in progress. Planning happening to accommodate residents, arrears due by December.
- Working with Chamber of Commerce - Assistance for small businesses for various initiatives
- Regional Transit vote: voted again to join, one more vote happening before the Commission stands up. Working out details

#### **13. Round Table**

- AHS is moving the obstetrics program back into Fort Saskatchewan, positive for our community
- Photo from February has been added to the website. Need to update a few details on the website

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, July 16 at 5:00 pm, Protective Services Building

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.