



Attendance:

Policing Committee Members:

Perry Brooks, Chairperson
Bill Santo
Stewart Begg, Public Complaints Director
Ed Sperling
Sean Clements
Steven Hull
Absent:
Ian McDonell

Administration Representatives:

Coreen Rayner, A/Director of Protective Services
MJ Webster, A/Supervisor, Municipal
Enforcement Services
Insp. Mike McCauley, OIC Fort Saskatchewan
RCMP (via teleconference)
Kalie Anderson, Recording Secretary

1. Welcome and Call to Order

- a. Called to order at 4:57 pm

2. Consent Agenda (Agenda & Minutes)

- a. Addition to agenda: Public Education
- b. Stewart Begg moved to accept the consent agenda, Steven Hull seconded, carried.

3. RCMP Update – Insp McCauley (via teleconference)

- a. Recent increase in persons crimes could be due to pandemic pressures
- b. Property crime decreased significantly in certain areas such as theft of vehicle & fraud.
 - i. Overall decrease of 3% for property crimes, this is due to an increase in minor mischief (vandalism) reports
- c. Overall Criminal Code files are down 10%
- d. Motor Vehicle Collisions are overall down 20%. Very positive numbers this year due to enforcement efforts from RCMP, MES and Vision Zero programs
- e. Staffing update: full capacity other than one Cpl position which is posted, and a new Domestic Violence position is being staffed
 - i. Soft vacancies (long term leave or light duties) are at an all-time low
- f. New initiatives:
 - i. Creating an RCMP member Mental Health and Wellness Committee for the detachment. Currently in the stage of recruiting volunteers. Intent is to support member wellness and work on suicide prevention and resources for members.
 - ii. Partnering with Coreen and would like to partner with Policing Committee to create a focus group for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) in Fort Saskatchewan to learn and listen to determine how best to reach minority groups in our community. City Council was supportive of RCMP when we presented APPs, but questioned us on community outreach and engagement. Pandemic health restrictions prevent town halls so RCMP is trying to be proactive to reach vulnerable/minority communities
- g. Discussion on report:
 - i. Positive feedback for both initiatives mentioned (Member's Mental Health Committee and Community Focus Group) – would like involvement from the community and the Policing Committee. Would like a rep from Policing Committee to be part of the focus group.



- ii. Request: Can Policing Committee get the RCMP report the day before, so that they can review in advance? RCMP would need to build a specific report for Policing Committee. Want to find the right balance of regular reports, without having too much information to wade through.
- iii. Positive feedback for Crime mapping and media releases with information about crime in the community.
- iv. Question about Domestic Violence position: What are the details of this new position, and will there be specific training for the successful candidate? It was approved in last year's budget, agreed to wait to fill it until now for budget reasons. Will be attached to General Investigative Section, will engage with Families First, assist with court management of victims, Crown, high risk files. Training will be on the job for an established member. They can do a presentation to Policing Committee once they are fully engaged in the role.

4. A/Director Report – Coreen Rayner

- a. Public Complaints Director: Police Act says a former police officer cannot be the Public Complaints Director if they served in the same community. Policing Committee will need to appoint a new Public Complaints Director.
 - i. It can be a City employee or a committee member. It cannot be the City Council representative on the Policing Committee. Previously this role was filled by the Protective Services Director, there are different options available.
 - ii. Have reviewed Policing Committee bylaws from other municipalities. Fort Saskatchewan Policing Committee bylaws need to be refreshed.
 - 1. Would recommend increasing the number of committee members – other committees have 9 or 12 members.
 - iii. Ian McDonnell has stepped down from the Policing Committee effective December 2020.
- b. Policing Committee can be more involved in the Council process for Annual Performance Priorities (APPs) and can be more strategic about when Policing Committee presents to Council.
 - i. Annual report to City Council: options are October 13, October 20 (Committee of the Whole). Can present the Strategic Plan to Council during this report.
 - ii. October 20 chosen to report to City Council.
- c. Coreen will be presenting the new version of the Community Standards Bylaw to City Council on October 20. Coreen will send out the newest draft version to the Policing Committee, if there is any feedback please let Coreen know.

5. Municipal Enforcement Services Report – A/Sgt Webster

- a. Most MES statistics are significantly lower than previous years due to COVID
 - i. Parking complaints have increased.
 - ii. Automated Traffic Enforcement is down significantly overall. One site was not operational for 2.5 months due to road maintenance. There has also been a decrease in traffic volumes throughout the City during initial stages of COVID.
 - iii. Staffing – 2 vacancies so officers are very busy despite lower numbers of complaints



- iv. Interviewing for new casual officers next week to help out with shift coverage.
- v. Public education & awareness: have published media releases regarding license plates, aggressive driving, animals & pedestrian safety.
- vi. 65 positive tickets issued so far this year to youth, great engagement from CPOs with the community.
- vii. Several bike patrols done in recreational areas
- viii. Newest full time officer has completed their training and is fully operational
- ix. Animal control: patrols done for licensing, off leash, picking up waste. Continue to see dog attacks, in particular at the off leash park
- x. Continue to use speed sign data in areas where complaints are received.
- xi. Commercial Vehicle Enforcement – Due to COVID economic pressures, CVE was very limited. The provincial government put in official exemptions to many regulations through the first stages of the pandemic so enforcement was not possible.
 1. MES is planning future operations with RCMP & CVSE as regular enforcement resumes.
 2. There is a concern about a safe space for enforcement on the highway – need a larger area to safely pull over large commercial vehicles
- xii. Targeted traffic enforcement shifts continue, seeing positive results
- xiii. E-Ticketing just announced from the province – traffic tickets will be issued electronically instead of handwriting a ticket.
- xiv. Animal Control Building is almost completed, will be moving in very soon.
- xv. New initiative: MES has started posting photos of recovered bicycles to City social media channels, have already gotten 2 bikes returned to their owners.

b. Discussion on report:

- i. Dangerous Goods movement and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement is a priority from an Emergency Management perspective. This is a high priority for City Council for safety reasons due to large traffic volumes of industrial traffic.
- ii. The City is also increasing capacity for Commercial Vehicle traffic with the new bridge and expansions, enforcement will need to increase as well.
- iii. Question: Are any RCMP members certified for Commercial Vehicle Enforcement? No, members are not certified for that specific function, just general traffic enforcement. RCMP and MES work with provincial Peace Officers who focus on Commercial Vehicle Enforcement.
- iv. Question: Are dog attacks happening more between animals, or are they dogs attacking humans? There is a mix of both.

6. Strategic Planning – how to implement in COVID19?

- a. Can we continue to meet in person and have guests and still maintain physical distancing?
 - i. Suggestion to use Lions Mane room at DCC, then we have more room to spread out. Kalie will book DCC for the remainder of 2020.
- b. Discussion about having guests attend, decided that we can book Victim Services and Restorative Justice to attend next meeting



- i. Question: What is the purpose of having guests and visitors to the PC? Purpose to ask guests to talk about how policing affects their work, their organizations and the community. Another way to get feedback about whether RCMP/Protective Services is meeting the needs of the community.

7. Police Act Review – Bill Santo

- a. Participated in video conference meeting organized by Alberta Justice and Solicitor General.
- b. Government is reactivating the review of the Police Act, looking at what other provinces are doing. Themes are being developed and they want results by Fall 2021.
 - i. Recruiting
 - ii. Training
 - iii. Remuneration
 - iv. Resourcing
 - v. Standardization
- c. Various topics discussed at the review meeting:
 - i. Discussion on qualifications required for Policing Committees: legal/financial experience, and debate about whether the RCMP should be mandated to attend. RCMP do not always attend meetings in every community.
 - ii. Some other committees have experienced problems. Grande Prairie is exploring a municipal police instead of RCMP.
 - iii. Some Policing Committees have more oversight over their local RCMP. Many of the Policing Committees are experiencing problems with their local RCMP in areas such as control, lack of respect, lack of attendance at meetings.
 - iv. Discussion over the difference between policing commissions and policing committees.
 - v. Discussion over resourcing for Policing Committees in Alberta: Better training, regionalization for committee for larger geographic area. This did not have a lot of support at the meeting.
 - vi. Discussion regarding cost of the RCMP versus local/municipal police forces.
 - vii. Discussion of paying committee/commission members for their time.
- d. Discussion/feedback from Policing Committee regarding Police Act Review report:
 - i. Discussion: Who has input into choosing the Officer in Charge (Detachment Commander)? Historically the Policing Committee hasn't had concerns.
 - 1. The Police Act covers municipal police forces such as the Edmonton Police Service. The RCMP are governed by the RCMP Act.
 - 2. Areas with municipal police forces have a Police Commission that will hire their own Officer in Charge (Police Chief or Detachment Commander).
 - 3. In Officer level RCMP detachments, there can be several candidates brought forward to City Council to conduct interviews and choose the Officer in Charge. The RCMP works with each municipality to find the right person.



- ii. Suggestion to have someone else from the Policing Committee take over participating in the Police Act Review as Bill will be leaving the committee at the end of the year. Steve is interested, Bill will forward the info.

8. New Business – Land Treaty Recognition

- a. Treaties were established between the Government of Canada and Indigenous peoples, these treaties were often not honoured by government.
- b. Discussion – request to discuss further in camera.

9. Public Complaints Director – Stewart Begg

- a. No new business
- b. As mentioned in A/Protective Services Director report, Policing Committee needs to appoint a new director.
- c. Steven Hull will be the new Public Complaints Director.

10. AAPG Representative – Perry Brooks

- a. Nothing to report over the summer
- b. Conference has been postponed until next year.

11. Council Report – Councillor Ed Sperling

- a. Going into budget season.

12. Community Award Update

- a. Subcommittee needs to meet to set up parameters for the award
- b. Perry will meet with Coreen next week to get things started, then send the info out to Sean.

13. Public Education

- a. Would like to educate the public about how policing works, ATE, intersections, traffic laws, and other frequently asked questions.
- b. ME & You is broadcasted on radio and local media including newspapers. Will include PC in those broadcasts.
- c. Information about ATE is posted on the City website and more detailed report will be posted later this year.

14. Round Table:

- a. Protective Services is not bringing forward any new budget requests due to the City's financial situation, some projects are being delayed.
 - i. Policing Committee budget is done in April/May of every year – need to plan for the next year for budget to request from Council.
- b. Discussion: What is causing negative public opinion towards the RCMP? What are possible causes?
 - i. Affected by events in the United States including Black Lives Matter movement
 - ii. Combined with current political climate provincially, there is anti-RCMP sentiment due to western alienation and frustration with federal government.
- c. Question about Halloween and COVID safety: Task force and City Council is supposed to be reviewing and will make some suggestions to City residents. Will be following AHS guidelines as well.



- d. Discussion regarding increasing number of Policing Committee members. What is required to make that happen? The Committee will be already advertising for new members because of vacancies coming up.
 - i. Would need to amend the Policing Committee bylaw, then we can advertise and fill the positions. In the meantime we could invite people to attend as non-voting members until the bylaw is amended.
 - ii. This could help with recruitment to let people see what it's like before making the full commitment.
 - iii. What would the process be for bringing on non-voting members in the meantime? Coreen will investigate.
 - iv. Rewriting a bylaw is a big commitment as there is a lot of research involved.

In Camera Discussion:

Bill moved to go in camera at 1822 hrs, seconded by Stewart, carried.

Adjournment:

Next meeting: October 15, 2020 5:00pm.