

LAKEHEAD POLICE SERVICE BOARD

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD

Held at the Township of O'Connor Municipal Office
On Thursday, November 8, 2018

PRESENT: Mayor Kevin Holland, Township of Conmee
Councillor Jerry Loan, Township of O'Connor
Mr. Joseph Beitz, Community Member (resident of Neebing)

Rosalie A. Evans, Solicitor-Clerk for the Municipality of Neebing and Board Secretary
Inspector Al Gordon, O.P.P. Thunder Bay Detachment Commander

GUESTS: Councillor (Mayor-elect) Erwin Butikofer, Municipality of Neebing

1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

(a) Call to Order

Chair Holland called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

(b) Attendance

Attendance was recorded.

(c) Approval of the Agenda:

Chair Holland asked whether any members wished to make any additions or adjustments to the agenda. None were forthcoming.

Res. No. 2018-008

Moved by: Member Loan

Seconded by: Member Beitz

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for this evening's meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED ✓

(c) Request/Receive Declarations of Interest:

Chair Holland called for any declarations under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. No declarations were received.

2. REPORTS, DEPUTATIONS, OR CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING DIRECTION:

2.0 Minutes of the Meeting June 27, 2018 (for approval)

Members present reviewed the minutes.

Res. No. 2018-009

Moved by: Member Beitz
Seconded by: Member Loan

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes for the meeting held on June 27th, 2018, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED ✓

2.1 Variance Report for 2018 Budget; Year to date

Members present reviewed the report. The Secretary advised that she had neglected to include accommodation/travel costs for conferences in the budget, however, there is no overage overall due to the number of members being fewer than had originally been anticipated.

Res. No. 2018-010

Moved by: Member Loan
Seconded by: Member Beitz

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the variance report be received.

CARRIED ✓

2.2 Discussion Relating to Meeting Stipend

Chair Holland advised he had been invited to represent the Board at an awards ceremony. The invitation had arisen relatively last-minute. He asked whether this type of meeting is one that would attract the “per diem” payment as set by the Board. Members present discussed the matter.

Res. No. 2018-011

Moved by: Member Beitz
Seconded by: Member Loan

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, as Chair Holland was in attendance at the awards ceremony as a representative of the Lakehead Police Service Board, that his mileage be paid, and the per diem rate apply to his attendance;
AND FURTHER, THAT this logic applies to future requests for attendance/appearance which are received where the invitation is for a seat representing the Board.

CARRIED ✓

2.3 Report from Staff Sargeant Reppard Regarding June-September Calls

Staff Sargeant Reppard’s report had been distributed with the agenda. Inspector Gordon handed out a different version, with the information broken down “into layman terms”. He reviewed the reports with respect to each municipality, noting any anomalies.

There were motor vehicle collisions with wildlife in all communities. Property crime is up across all of Thunder Bay District.

A recurring issue, which is true across Ontario, are false 9-1-1 calls. These are caused by “pocket dials” or children. Where the operator cannot get a responding voice, it is mandatory for officers to attend – and it is a 2-person call (typically). This is quite a waste of resources. Inspector Gordon recommends public education/communication to attempt to curb the problem.

Councillor Butikofer asked Inspector Gordon whether there had been increased calls relating to cannabis – whether grow-ops or retail stores or other issues – since legalization. Inspector Gordon responded all was quiet thus far. Mandatory training is underway. There were changes by the new provincial government “at the last minute”. Stores will be regulated by the Alcohol and Gaming commission.

Chair Holland commented that cannabis was a focus of training at the OAPSB conference in May. Statistics from the States show increased calls after legalization. Members present discussed with Inspector Gordon the amendment to the Highway Traffic Act allowing officers to pull vehicles over to check the driver even without probable cause; training relating to drug impairment detection and training of “drug recognition” officers. There is a machine that can detect the use; but not the levels. It will be helpful for young drivers (for which there is “zero” tolerance), but not others.

Inspector Gordon referenced that more and more incidents are occurring with respect to household calls where handguns are involved. There is an increase in gang activity and gang violence – and all seem now to involve handguns.

Councillor Butikofer asked whether the OPP are having similar issues to Thunder Bay Police in getting tied up at the Emergency room. Inspector Gordon replied it is not an issue at present. Discussion ensued about de-toxification centers (as opposed to hospital emergency rooms), the Ambulance Act requirements for delivery of patients, the “center of responsibility” table that Inspector Gordon sits at, and municipal concern relating to the issue due to the resulting increased costs for paramedics and police.

Inspector Gordon commented that our communities’ calls relating to mental health and addiction issues are nowhere near as problematic as Thunder Bay’s or Greenstone’s.

3. REPORTS OR CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION:

Members present were able to view the information correspondence.

4. BY-LAWS:

No by-laws were presented for passage.

5. DISCUSSION: NEW BUSINESS RAISED BY MEMBERS; DISCUSSION WITH OPP; ETC.

Chair Holland mentioned that he had had a productive discussion with (then) Minister Tibolli at the AMO conference in Ottawa in August. Since then, however, there has been a cabinet shuffle, and there will be a need now to connect with the new Minister.

The secretary mentioned that there is no word as yet from the Province relating to its appointees to the Board. Chair Holland indicated a delegation request to meet the Minister should be sent to the ROMA conference.

Mayor Holland raised the issue of the OAPSB spring seminar – as Member Beitz will be away until April, approvals to attend should be looked at this evening.

Res. No. 2018-012

Moved by: Chair Holland

Seconded by: Member Loan

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board's Chair and Vice-Chair be authorized to attend the spring conference, and that the Secretary be authorized to make the travel and attendance arrangements when they become available.

CARRIED ✓

Chair Holland asked Inspector Gordon whether the OPP attend the OAPSB conference. Inspector Gordon replied that 1 or 2 from this region attend, and then report back to the others. This is not out of the municipal policing budget or the Board budget.

Member Beitz indicated he would be interested in seeing a mission statement or job description for a member of the board. Inspector Gordon indicated he would ask whether the Shuniah Board has any such documentation.

Councillor Butikofer asked whether, in Inspector Gordon's opinion, the signs that flash and tell folks how fast they are driving are helpful in reducing speeds. Inspector Gordon believes they are.

The Secretary advised Inspector Gordon of the outcome of the meeting of the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition representatives and the Ministry of Transportation – Gillies is looking to extend its community safety zone, and representatives of MTO referred the Reeve-elect to Inspector Gordon.

Inspector Gordon mentioned that Constable Diana Cole had been requested to speak at the Thunder Bay District Municipal League relating to the Cannabis legalization. She will touch upon key points only. It is too soon for anything more detailed. The Secretary advised that she had been requested to speak about this Board.

The Secretary reminded those present that the member municipalities will need to re-appoint the Police Service Board members once their new Councils take office.

The next meeting will be scheduled for December 13th 6:00 p.m. This will be counted as an early January meeting, given Member Beitz' travel schedule.

Further meetings in 2019 were scheduled for: April 24th, July 24th, and October 9th.

6. CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session was held at this meeting of the Board.

7. ADJOURN THE MEETING:

There being no further business to attend to, Chair Holland adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD

Kevin Holland
BOARD CHAIR

Rosalie A. Evans
BOARD SECRETARY