

Minutes of the Altona Police Board public meeting held virtually on Thursday, November 4th, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. on Zoom

Present were: Chief Perry Batchelor, Chair Audrey Schmidt, Harv Schroeder, Archie Heinrichs, Jeff Peters

1. Call to order at 12:02 p.m. and approval of the agenda

Additions:

- 5.1 Detention Guards
- 5.1 Review of Financials
- 5.2 Public Police Board Meetings 2022

MOTION: Archie Heinrichs – moved – Harv Schroeder – seconded – that the agenda be approved as presented with above noted additions.

CARRIED.

2. Approval of the minutes

2.1 Minutes – September 16th, 2021

MOTION: Jeff Peters – moved – Archie Heinrichs – seconded – that the minutes of September 16th, 2021, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

3. Chair's Report

3.1 Police Board Member Expense Form and Indemnity Claim Report

Chair Audrey Schmidt explained that each Board Member is eligible to claim back expenses and will be e-mailing the appropriate forms to each Member. She further encouraged that if Board Members did not intend to retain the funds, they could donate it to the Charity of their choice.

3.2 Vice Chair Nomination(s)

Chair Audrey Schmidt explained that the Police Board is looking to fill vacancy of a Vice-Chair.

Harv Schroeder volunteered to fill the position.

MOTION: Archie Heinrichs – moved – Jeff Peters – seconded – that Harv Schroeder be named as Vice-Chair of the Altona Police Board.

CARRIED.

3.3 Provincial Appointee by MLA Josh Guenter

Chair Audrey Schmidt reported that we are still seeking a Provincial appointee to join the Police Board and if anyone has any suggestions, to forward the information along.

3.4 Upcoming Meetings to be Scheduled

Budget Meeting scheduled for December 8th, 2021, at 1:30 pm, with remainder of the meeting (Police Chief Assessment, Board Member Assessment and Strategic Plan) dates to be determined for February 2022.

4. Police Chief

4.1 Monthly Reports: September-October 2021

Chief Batchelor reported that break-ins to motor vehicles still continues to be the problem and Members are reminding individuals to lock up their valuables.

Chief Batchelor further reported that the Service has received recent complaints of extortion where fraudsters are demanding funds or potentially release intimate images of the victim if they do not comply. Chief Batchelor urges everyone to know who they are talking to online and not give out any personal information.

The Service is also continuing to see several calls for service in relation to Covid. Chief Batchelor reported there have been in excess of 400 Covid related files since March 2020.

Altona Police Service is also currently underway a trail for child pornography charges and currently investigating allegations of sexual assault.

4.2 New Hire Update

Constable Caitlyn Ginter has begun her employ with Altona Police Service as of October 14th, 2021. She is currently in field training and will be placed in regular shift rotation in the new year.

4.3 Less-lethal Training

Most members of the Altona Police Service have undergone less-lethal training, with 2 Members to go.

Once all Members have been trained, all police vehicles will be equipped with less-lethal shotguns which are clearly marked as such, and loaded with “sock rounds”, which incapacitates the target but is not lethal.

MOTION: Archie Heinrichs – moved – Jeff Peters – seconded – the approval of Chief’s reports as presented.

CARRIED.

5. New Business

5.1 Detention Guards

Chief Batchelor reported that D.A. Security, who typically provides guarding services, announced they would no longer be available for hire. Along with Winkler and Morden Police Services, Chief Batchelor reported we sought out other options and currently, detention guards are provided by Commissionaires. Commissionaires performed a hiring blitz in the area and recruited several local individuals to whom they then provided adequate training. The Service is currently reviewing longer-term commitment by way of signing contracts with the provider.

5.2 Review of Financials

Chief Batchelor reviewed financials with the Board, with no concerns arising.

5.3 Public Police Board Meetings 2022

The Police Board Members discussed future dates for meetings and settled on the following 4 dates:

January 6th, 2022

April 7th, 2022

August 4th, 2022

December 1st, 2022

Next Police Board Meeting, to discuss budget, to be held on December 8th, 2021, at 1:30 pm, in person.

Adjournment at 1:24 pm

MOTION: Archie Heinrichs – moved – Jeff Peters – seconded – that the meeting be adjourned and next meeting be held on dates specified.

