



Altona Police Board

“The mission of the Altona Police Board is to provide civilian oversight and governance of the Altona Police Service in order to ensure a safe community.”

Minutes of the Altona Police Board public meeting held in the Town of Altona council chambers on Wednesday December 4th, 2024 at 5:00pm

Present: Chair Audrey Schmidt, Vice chair Katie Eyre-Saunders, Tammy Braun, Archie Heinrichs, Gord Sawatzky, Joanne Wiebe, Police Chief Dan Defer

1. **Call to order** at 5:00 and approval of agenda
Motion: Gord Sawatzky-moved-Katie Eyre-Saunders that the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

2. **Approval** of the minutes of September 19th, 2024
Motion: Katie Eyre-Saunders-moved-Archie Heinrichs to approve the September 19th minutes as circulated.
CARRIED.

3. **Chair’s Report**
 - 3.1 Police Board orientation for new member Joanne Wiebe on September 19th, presented by Andrew Minor, attended by Audrey and Joanne.
 - 3.2 Dan and Audrey had an impromptu meeting on Oct 25, 2024. They discussed the budget and overtime and noting that the O/T budget would be over at the end of 2024.
 - 3.3 Performance review for Chief Dan Defer.
 - 3.4 Criminal forfeiture fund was discussed at RM of Rhineland council meeting.
 - 3.5 Subcommittee meeting on November 5th for the planning of the Altona Police Service meet and greet and recognition event. The event will be held January 7th from 6:30pm-9:30pm and invites have been sent out to the membership.

4. **Police Chief’s Report**
 - 4.1 Budget review for 2024: 87% spent for the year as of the end of November. Salaries, benefits and overtime up to date.
 - Development and training budget is showing over budget due to recruits at Police College. The 2025 will see budget increases for service contacts but salaries will be down. There will be an in-camera meeting set up when ready to review the 2025 budget.
 - 4.2 General operations updates: The new recruits have 9 days left of training. They will begin their field training December 16th and go until July 1st, working with officers means we will



- no longer be short staffed. Only need to ensure solo day shifts are not alone for the new recruits.
- 4.3 Monthly reports- It has been a quieter fall, but an increase in calls during the holiday season is anticipated including mental health calls.
- It continues to be difficult to find guards, one solution would be to share guards with Winkler and Morden.
 - Two possible grant ideas for the CPFF would be a drone (\$30,000) or a generator for Plum Coulee Emergency Services (\$187,000) The cost of the generator is more than expected and the board needs to discuss options, whether to apply for both or hold off on the drone for next year. Board members will consider these options and make a decision at the January meeting.
- 4.4 Strat plan review: New template is almost complete.
5. **New Business**
- 5.1 Audrey has received a letter from the Town of Altona confirming that Councillor Tammy Braun has been appointed to represent the Town on the Police Board with a term continuing until October 21, 2026
- 5.2 A form has been created for board members to complete after the meetings based on the key competencies and to support documentation for performance review.

Adjourned: 1:20pm

Next meeting: February 6th aud at 5:00pm. Supper optional, at 4:30pm