

Minutes of the Altona Police Board public meeting held virtually on Thursday, March 18th, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. on Zoom

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

1. Call to order at 4:31 p.m. and approval of the agenda

MOTION: Carol Penner – moved – Harv Schroeder – seconded – that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

2. Approval of the minutes

2.1 Minutes – November 26th, 2020

MOTION: Harv Schroeder – moved – Carol Penner – seconded – that the minutes of November 26th, 2020, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

3. Chair's Report

3.1 New Board Members Introduction

Chair Adam Mace welcomed two new members to the Board; Audrey Schmidt and Jeff Peters

3.2 Police Chief Review

Chair Adam Mace reported that due to Covid, the Board was not able to meet for a typical review but rather all members sent in their feedback via e-mail. Chair Mace then consolidated all the information in one document.

The Board thanked Chief for his work and reported that there were no concerns raised.

4. Police Chief

4.1 Monthly Reports: Nov-Dec 2020, Jan-Feb 2021

Chief Batchelor reviewed the monthly reports where he highlighted some of the significant occurrences that took place in the recent

months. He further reported that there has been an increase in firearm calls in the region, along with mental health and theft calls. Chief Batchelor further highlighted the benefits of community-based policing, and how it assisted officers in being able to apprehend suspects in a timely manner.

MOTION: Carol Penner – moved – Archie Heinrichs – seconded – the approval of the monthly reports as presented.

CARRIED.

4.2 Covid-19 Report

Chief Batchelor reported that Covid added an additional layer of busy and another dynamic to the day-to-day functions of the Service. There were an additional 300+ Covid-related calls for service in the reporting period, including quarantine check requests from Canada Border Services. Although minimal, we continue to see some non-compliance in our region.

Chief Batchelor further reported that since the start of the pandemic, two officers tested positive for the virus but were not on duty during the time, therefore there was minimal effect on the Service and its operations.

4.3 Update BWC

After the initial pilot trial, all first line officers were equipped with body-worn cameras. Chief Batchelor advised that a media release was sent to the local media outlets, with some bigger outlets picking up the story several weeks later. Altona Police Service was featured through Winnipeg Free Press, CTV, Global News and most recently The National Post has reached out to us to cover the story. Chief Batchelor has reported all positive feedback and the Service has already seen savings.

4.4 Intro Less Lethal Shotguns

Chief Batchelor reported that Altona Police Service, along with Winkler and Morden Police Services, has been looking at replacing the current shotguns from the arsenal with a less lethal option. This option would still utilize a shotgun but the it would be loaded with a bean-bag round. To differentiate the two, these shotguns are easily identifiable and different from the live round shotguns, as they have orange markings on the barrel and stock.

Chief Batchelor reported that a current policy review is underway and that other Policing Agencies in the country have seen some positive outcomes. He further reported that should this unit ever be

deployed, IIU would be notified.

4.5 POCG Applications

Altona Police Service has, over years, tapped in to some Proceeds of Crime Grants to upgrade various different pieces of equipment. This year the Service intends to submit 3 grant applications for:

- Ballistic shields for RSTT
- Upgrading member's aging sidearms from Glock 40 Cal. to 9s
- Permanent auxiliary power for our facility

4.6 Year End Financials from February Police Report

Chief Batchelor reported that Altona Police Service was slightly over budget by 2%. Due to Covid, the Service incurred some unexpected expenses such as PPE, sanitization products, with additional IT expenses enabling members to be able to work from home.

MOTION: Archie Heinrichs – moved – Carol Penner – seconded – the approval of year-end financial reports as presented.

CARRIED.

5. New Business - None

Adjournment at 5:45 pm

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