

Minutes of the Altona Police Board public meeting held on Thursday, September 24th, 2020, at 12:00 p.m. in the Altona Civic Centre Council Chambers.

Present were: Chair Adam Mace, Harv Schroeder, Carol Penner, Archie Heinrichs, Chief Perry Batchelor
Regrets: Vice Chair Don Radford

1. Call to order at 12:05 p.m. and approval of the agenda

Additions:

- 4.9 Qualifications
- 4.10 ALPR Update

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

CARRIED.

2. Approval of the minutes

2.1 Minutes – June 25, 2020

MOTION: Carol Penner – moved – Harv Schroeder – seconded – that the minutes of June 15, 2020, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

3. Chair's Report

3.1 No additional information at this time.

4. Police Chief

4.1 Monthly Reports – June to August 2020

Chief Perry Batchelor reviewed monthly reports from June to August and reported seeing a slight increase in violent crimes. Additionally, Altona Police Service has also seen an increase of individuals lodged in cells overnight.

Chief Batchelor further reported that there have been several thefts but the numbers are on par with last years.

4.2 Covid-19 Report

Altona Police Service members continue to work Covid-19 files and none have been affected, resulting in no missed work days. RCMP requests for home checks continue to come in. Thus far, all individuals under quarantine were found to be in compliance and there have been no provincial or federal charges laid.

4.3 Body Worn Cameras

Altona Police Service has conducted extensive research on body-worn cameras with various different agencies, which included obtaining data from national and international level. Although the cameras are not yet mandated, a pilot project was secured with a company that will run a trial-based subscription for 3 months with several APS members.

4.4 Cannabis Forum/Funding

On September 15th, Town of Altona held a panel discussion on cannabis ahead of the plebiscite scheduled to take place on October 14th. Chief Batchelor, along with Mayor Al Friesen, CEO Dan Gagne and industry spokesperson Jehna Grobety provided extensive information and their insight on the topic. The video is now available on Town of Altona YouTube page and has, to date, seen 745 views by public.

4.5 POC Grant

This year, Altona, Winkler and Morden Police Services jointly applied for a Proceeds of Crime Grant, requesting funding for an armoured rescue vehicle (ARV) to be utilized by the Regional Support Tactical Team. Unfortunately, the grant was not approved. Further, Altona Police Service has independently applied for replacement of 3 radar units and has been successful in securing funding in the amount of over \$9,000.

4.6 Chief's Commendations

Several members of the Altona Police Service have been recipients of Chief's Commendations which were presented on July 10th during an intimate ceremony held at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre. Members of the press were on hand and were able to capture special recognitions, later shared on local media outlets that were well received by the public.

4.7 Town of Altona Planning Session

Planning sessions have been scheduled for early November and one of the topics brought forward is the contract between Altona Police Service and Plum Coulee, which is due to expire at the end of 2021.

4.8 Financial Statement

Financial statements were available for viewing up until the end of August. To date, Altona Police Service is at 65% expenditures and is tracking for a balanced budget at the end of the year.

4.9 Qualifications

Members of the Altona Police Service typically hold their yearly qualifications in spring, however due to Covid-19, these were pushed back and are currently underway. Most members have been successful qualifying in use of firearm, with couple still scheduled to take place. Additionally, all members are further scheduled to qualify in use of force and to be able to handle a taser.

4.10 Automatic License Plate Reader Update

Altona Police Service has been the recipient of one automatic license plate reader, where installation is currently underway on one of the police vehicles.

The unit, when on the road, will constantly and automatically scan license plates and alert officers when a traffic stop may be necessary. The project cost is approximately \$40,000 and was completely funded by MPIC.

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

CARRIED.

5. New Business

5.1 Strategic Planning Session

The Board will hold their strategic planning sessions at the Altona Civic Centre Council Chambers on November 5th, 2020, at 5:00pm.

5.2 Next Public Meeting Dates

November 26, 2020 at 12:00 pm

Adjournment at 12:45 pm

MOTION: Harv Schroeder – moved – Archie Heinrichs – seconded – that the meeting be adjourned and next meeting, both public and closed, be held on dates specified.