

Minutes of the Altona Police Board public meeting held virtually on Thursday, June 17th, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. on Zoom

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

1. Call to order at 4:35 p.m. and approval of the agenda

MOTION: Audrey Schmidt – moved – Harv Schroeder – seconded – that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

2. Approval of the minutes

2.1 Minutes – March 18th, 2021

MOTION: Harv Schroeder – moved – Audrey Schmidt – seconded – that the minutes of March 18th, 2020, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

3. Chair's Report

3.1 National Police Reputation Study from Leger

Chair Adam Mace briefly explained what the independent study would entail and took a poll to see if there was any interest among the Board. It was mutually agreed upon that the Altona Police Board would not proceed.

3.2 Resignation of Carol Penner

Chair Adam Mace reported that Carol Penner has resigned from her position with the Police Board. Further, he advised if there are any recommendations for the position, they can be directed to our local MLA.

4. Police Chief

4.1 Monthly Reports: March-May 2021

Chief Batchelor reported that the Service handled some significant files over the last few months. Covid-19 has impacted the workload but is slowly starting to diminish. Chief Batchelor also reported that

most businesses and the public are complying with the Public Health Orders, and only minimal reminders are, at times, needed. Chief Batchelor also reported that most Members have been vaccinated but the uptake is not at 100% as of yet.

Chief Batchelor further reported that a significant amount of meth, cash and firearms have been removed from the streets, and further pointed out that theft from motor vehicles continues to be a problem.

Chief Batchelor also reviewed end of May financials and it appears Altona Police Service is tracking on budget.

4.2 Body-Worn Camera Update

Chief Batchelor has reported that the body-worn cameras have been working well and that the Service is looking at adding in-car cameras as well; which would also be supported through Visual Labs. To date, there have been no negative responses from the public. Chief Batchelor reported that the Service has been working with the Crown's office to ensure the video footage qualifies as evidence in court proceedings.

4.3 POC Grant 2021

Chief Batchelor has reported that the Altona Police Service has, once again, applied for funding through Proceeds of Crime Grant. An amount of \$7000 has been granted for ballistic shields and an additional \$32,000 for a dedicated generator for the building Altona Police Service is in. The Town would match that amount for the purchase and install of that generator. Further \$25,000 was granted to YFC (Youth for Christ) in Altona, through Altona Police Service.

4.4 RSTT Vehicle

Chief Batchelor reported that the Regional Support Tactical Team is currently looking at acquiring a vehicle dedicated to the Team and their equipment. Presently, Members are using patrol vehicles, which are then taken out of service and not available for general patrol. Discussions are currently taking place to lease an ambulance, which would enable the RSTT to have a dedicated vehicle for any calls they may be involved in.

4.5 Road Watch

Altona Police Service has received \$25,000 in funding from MPI to conduct Road Watch shifts; which enables officers to dedicate an overtime shift to road safety. Currently, there are 3 officers that are taking part in the program.

Chief Batchelor also reported that the Automatic License Plate Reader, also supplied by MPI, has been producing some good results and APS members continue to use it daily.

MOTION: Harv Schroeder – moved – Archie Heinrichs – seconded – the approval of Chief's reports as presented.

CARRIED.

5. New Business – There was some discussion around Regionalization; forming one Police Service. Chief Batchelor advised this should be done for the right reasons. Altona, Winkler and Morden Police Services work well together now and currently have joint units such as Regional Support Tactical Team, Regional Crisis Negotiations Unit and Incident Command Unit.

Next Police Board Meeting to be held on September 16th, 2021, at noon. To be determined if it will be in-person or via Zoom

Adjournment at 5:26 pm

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