

Chatsworth Police Services Board

December 16, 2004 – 10:00 AM

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Chatsworth Police Services Board was held on the above date.

Present: Board Members Bob Elliot, Cornelius Vlieland, Bill Coke, Commander Mark VanLanduyt and Grace Nayler, Secretary.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Call to Order

Adoption of Minutes

030/2004 *Moved by Bill Coke*

Seconded by Cornelius Vlieland

*That the minutes of the October 21, 2004 be accepted as circulated.
Carried.*

Information Correspondence:

a) **Grey County OPP Report**

Commander Mark Van Landuyt presented the Board with the OPP report for the months of October and November, 2004.

Commander Van Landuyt informed the board, in the Matters of Interest section, of an incident involving a possible abduction attempt. The matter has been closed after investigating and questioning the subjects.

Commander Van Landuyt noted that the Drug Officers found a cultivation of plants resulting from another incident in Georgian Bluffs. This led them to a property in Chatworth Township. There were 450 kilograms of marihuana leaf and 35 marihuana plants. The investigation is ongoing, but as of yet no charges have been made.

An arson investigation led to charges being laid after receiving information from the Listowel detachment. The Listowel detachment retrieved information from an unrelated domestic occurrence they were investigating in November 2004. The Grey County OPP Crime Unit was then able to uncover information needed to charge two men with Arson and Fraud. The officers were also able to retrieve information from this investigation that led to the seizure of 5 long guns. One of the accused is also being charged with 15 additional criminal code charges relating to firearms.

Under the Personnel Issues section, the Commander informed the board that the Grey County Detachment is currently with 3 staff vacancies and two more will be leaving in January. There are new officers arriving, some in January and some in March that will fill the vacancies. Three of these officers are new officers who have just graduated from school.

The detachment is also currently experiencing two officers who are off with medically related problems.

Under Public Complaints, a female lodged a complaint against one of the officer's, accusing the officer of unwelcome phone calls and personal contact. The officer has been ordered to avoid all contact with the complainant and disciplinary documentation has been placed on the officer's file. The complaint was withdrawn.

Another female lodged a complaint against two officers accusing them of improper conduct during an investigation. The complaint has been withdrawn; however, as is the protocol of the OPP the Professional Standards Bureau is still investigating.

An officer was accused of aggressive and inappropriate language while in the process of charging an individual who was extremely difficult to handle. The officer apologized and the complaint withdrawn.

The OPP received several tributes from individuals for their conduct. One citizen expressed her gratitude for the efforts of the Emergency Response Team locating a missing person. She was very grateful for the professionalism and compassion shown. Another was thanking the OPP for their assistance during the International Plowing Match. Several more tributes were also received.

Commander Van Landuyt reported that two new ATV's have been obtained after a local business approached the detachment and offered to lease 2 Bombardiers for 1 year. The only cost to the OPP will be the license, insurance and any repairs required. The ATV's are currently on display at the Heritage Mall to promote recreational safety. On the note of leasing, the Commander also informed the Board that the Leasing Agreement Invoices for the computer being used by the Grey Detachment will be forthcoming. The Township has been waiting for receipt of these invoices for over a year.

Statistical reports indicated that the Arrests for Drinking and Driving Offenses targets show a much lower result than the Commander was hoping. The board was informed that the targets will not be met, and that the officers will be strongly encouraged to do better in 2005. The target amount was set higher than realistic and not all vehicle contacts were being reported as some officers were unaware that they should have been included in that section of the statistics. The Commander also reported that a couple of officers on staff also need to make a stronger effort in doing their part to help achieve this goal and this will be addressed.

The Commander was happy to report that there were much lower motor vehicle collision occurrences than last year.

Overtime hours have been lower than what was budgeted for, and so the OPP are stepping up their overtime efforts in order to meet the contracted amount. Regular hours were well exceeded this year; the excess regular hours are of no cost to the Township. The Commander was pleased that the Township was able to experience the benefits of these extra hours.

b) Grey County Business Plan 2005

The Commander went over the Rough Draft of the 2005 Business Plan with the Board, noting that it was a very rough draft. The plan is very similar to 2004, but there are some differences.

Commitment # 1 Road Safety

The day time RIDE program has been removed. This was not nearly as effective as the evening and night time RIDE programs, so efforts will be concentrated to the more effective times.

The Staff Traffic Sargent has been tasked with creating a Traffic Initiative every month to help increasing education and enforcement and to decrease traffic incidents.

Commitment # 2 Community Safety

One of the Activities is a commitment to continue the Bicycle patrol and foot patrol that is already in place. The bicycles are expected to be used more in 2005 as the patrol vehicles have been housed with carriers to transport the bikes.

Commitment # 3 Recreational Vehicle Safety

Although the goal is to support and maintain safer trails, roads and waterways with the use of the Marine Unit and Snow Vehicle patrols, there is the element of weather that may effect the achievement of the target.

The ATV patrol will be a first in the 2005 year. The starting goal will be 8 hours per month and then a hope to exceed this target should it prove an easy target.

One initiative is to put together a public educational ATV safety training program with the help of the ATV association.

Commitment # 4 Youth Initiative

There is currently a strong focus on High Schools and youth and to promote a relationship between the youth and officers. Included with this focus is a hope for stronger drug enforcement. This enforcement is to include dogs and searches; however, this can only be achieved with the support and agreement of the school boards. It is illegal to carry out a search and seizure in a school without the permission of the school board.

Included in this section is an effort with the Shallow Lake Detachment in applying for grant monies to obtain additional educational equipment supplies.

Commitment #5 Criminal Investigations

Added to this section is a Domestic Violence focus. The Detachment has been able to obtain a staff member who has the training allowing her to specialize in Domestic Violence and will be taking over this new function.

The OPP have a zero tolerance policy where Domestic Violence is concerned, which takes away the focus on the victim having to initiate charges and puts it in the hands of the OPP Officer's discretion.

Also, a new initiative is, once a month an officer will put out a crime educational tip for educational and awareness purposes.

c) Estimated 2005 Policing Costs – OPP

There will be a 3.65% increase in policing costs from 2004 to 2005. The increase is solely made up of wages and benefits.

d) Option “Four” Traffic Offender Diversion Programs

Note and File.

031/2004 Moved by Bill Coke

Seconded by Cornelius Vlieland

That the Board thank and congratulate the OPP for their work and effort shown in the 2004 year. Carried.

032/2004 Moved by Cornelius Vlieland

Seconded by Bill Coke

That the Chatsworth Police Services Board send a letter asking that Bill Coke’s appointment as Provincial member be extended for another term. Carried.

New Business

A letter was drafted to Mr. Mike Kelly at MTO requesting that they do a study of the highway traffic and the potential safety hazard on Highway #10 that fronts the Holland Chatsworth School. The letter is to be signed by the Chairman and sent on to MTO for their assistance.

The issue of Court Security Costs in Owen Sound was brought to the table. It was reported that Owen Sound is looking into it and that Grey County is waiting for their response. It was decided that the Police Services Board has no avenue to deal with this situation; the Council of the Township of Chatsworth has to deal with the matter.

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 17, 2005 at 10:00 am

Adjournment

033-2004 Moved by Cornelius Vlieland

Seconded by Bill Coke

That the Chatsworth PSB adjourn at 11:15 a.m. Carried