

Chatsworth Police Services Board
October 21, 2010
MINUTES

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

Present: Board Members Bob Elliot, Cornelius Vlieland, Staff Sargeant Rick Sinnamon, and Grace Nayler, Secretary.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Adoption of Minutes

11/2010 Moved by Cornelius Vlieland

Seconded by Frank Beirnes

That the minutes August 19, 2010 be accepted as circulated.

Financial Reports:

Information Correspondence

**Item a) OPP – Chatsworth Police Services Board Reports:
August, September 2010
Statistical Reports – August, September 2010**

Staff Sgt. Rick Sinnamon reviewed the OPP Reports for August and September. Officer Sinnamon started his report with the Detachment Commander's Report for August and September. He pointed out a noteworthy occurrence involving a domestic dispute. The officers were called to a residence on Concession 4 where the female party resides. He reported that the male who was charged with uttering threats and careless use of firearms was from Singhampton but presided at the property in Chatsworth before that. Officer Sinnamon informed the board that the male party is an ongoing problem with a long history.

The next highlighted occurrence involved a stolen vehicle that was taken by an Owen Sound youth. The vehicle was stolen in the Puschlinch area where they also stole fuel from a gas station. Police in the area were chasing the vehicle but had to stop when it became unsafe to continue the chase. The vehicle eventually made its way up to the West Grey area where the West Grey Police force also tried to stop it unsuccessfully. In time the Grey County OPP were informed that the vehicle was at Concession 2B where the driver had left the scene. After some investigating involving other police agencies the suspect was arrested due to photo ID technology. He was arrested on August 23 and faces 10 charges.

It was reported that officers attended a property where three of his dogs attacked the neighbour's dog. This is an ongoing problem and charges were laid that included Fail to prevent biting or attacking a person or domestic animal, breach of court order and behaving as a menace to the safety of persons or domestic animal. Currently, the dogs are still with the owner.

Officers received a phone call from a person who owned a very expensive bike that had been stolen in Huron County. He had found his bike advertised for sale on the internet and had called the advertiser asking to see the bike and told him he was interested in seeing it. The Chatsworth OPP was told that he was to meet this person at the Chatsworth Legion to look at the bike and he wanted the OPP to also attend. The person who stole the bike arrived with the bike and was arrested by the OPP. He was then charged with possession of stolen property and fraud charges.

An incident occurred involving a male who attended his neighbour's property on a tractor while impaired. This incident relates back to the domestic dispute incident mentioned earlier in the report as he knew both parties and was upset about the incident. It resulted in the male subject using the tractor to ram into several vehicles and the house, damaging part of the house. He had left the scene when officers arrived, but was later apprehended on Highway 6. He faces several charges.

Officer Sinnamon noted that under Benchmark Crimes the August 30 Sexual Assault in Chatsworth investigation was not going to go any further.

Under personnel issues it was noted that Paul Stevenson was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and started his position at Grey County in September filling a platoon leader vacancy. He noted that of the absences that included injuries only one was work related. The others were due to personal injuries.

Training commenced more heavily in September as everyone is back to work with summer vacation season over. Training is ongoing and an important part of policing.

Media relations have been quiet over the past little while as Officer Steve Starr was off. He has now returned and this very important endeavour will start to be more active again.

Overtime resulted in significant hours of overtime due to the Concession 4 incident involving domestic dispute.

Officer Sinnamon then went on to the Statistical reports. He noted that occurrences were up slightly. Motor vehicle accidents were down significantly 24.18% which is a good indication of more responsible driving.

Overtime hours are up by 117.09% which is significant. However, May's shooting is the reason for a large amount of this overtime. It is the hope that the next three months, overtime will be minimal and the percentage can be whittled back down again.

Seat belt enforcement shows a decrease of 54.52%. This is not from cars not being checked for seat belts, but, due to people wearing their seat belts which is a good indication.

Night time ride hours are down but will be increasing in the coming months.

Drinking and driving offences is also down by 29.17%, again a good indication that people are driving more responsibly and not drinking and then getting behind the wheel. Also, personal injury MVC's is down also indicated more responsible driving.

Property crimes are down by 19.56%. It was reported to the board that Grey County Detachment is the 2nd highest rating for clearances in the whole region.

Although bike patrol continues to be down, foot patrol has increased and going forward officers will be commencing foot patrol by going into the arenas as winter progresses.

Officer Sinnamon reported to the Board that in the incident regarding the shooting incident that occurred southwest of Berkeley on the West Back Line that the officers were cleared of any wrong doing regarding this incident.

b) Snow Plow Operators – travelling on closed roads in the winter. A discussion was held with the Roads Foreman for the Township of Chatsworth regarding the snowplow operators having to cross the barricades to get to the snowplows in the winter if the OPP closes the Highways. The OPP are aware that roads employees have to get to work. It was suggested by Officer Sinnamon that should any of the roads employees have any difficulty crossing the barriers, that they should get ahold of the Roads Foreman who will then contact the OPP supervisor for that shift and they will work it out.

Another suggestion is that cards or letters stating an employee is working for the township in the capacity of a snowplow operator and should include a copy of that employee's drivers license on the letter along with the signature of a township official confirming that this actually is a snowplow operator of the municipality.

c) Signs on roadsides – the OPP do not have any jurisdiction over signage on township roads, the only avenue of controlling them would be through a by-law adopted by the municipality. It was mentioned however, that election signs should be erected on the unmaintained section of MTO highways and not on the shoulder. MTO will take down any signs that are not placed properly.

d) Semi-Annual Contract Policing Costs – noted and filed.

Discussion took place again regarding the possibility of increased costs to the Township of Chatsworth due to the closure of the Meaford office and the Markdale office to the public. Officer Sinnamon reported that there is no possibility of any increase to any municipality due to these closures. The decrease will be the reduced service to the people in these areas.

When questioned if it will have any effect on future costs when the contract becomes due again as a result of increased calls for service, Officer Sinnamon reported that he did not think that would happen.

New Business

12/2010 Moved by Cornelius Vlieland

Seconded by Frank Beirnes

That the PSB adjourn at 12:15 pm.

Carried

Next Meeting

Thursday December 16, 2010 10:00 am