

POLICE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ross Siemens, Chair
Mandy Padda
Paula Olmstead
Amrik Narang
Gordon Holloway

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM & STAFF PRESENT:

Chief Constable Colin Watson
Deputy Chief Constable Jason Burrows – Administration
Deputy Chief Constable Dan Culbertson – Operations
Director Bea Nicolato – Finance & Budget Branch
Director Adrienne Alford

REGRETS:

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Shyanne Bergen

GUEST(S):

Aird Flavelle*
Special Advisor - Chris Dominato

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 AM.

1. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be **approved**. The motion was **adopted**.

2. Special Advisor

It was moved and seconded that Chris Dominato be appointed as a Special Advisor. The motion was **passed**.

3. Consent Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the consent agenda be **approved**. The motion was **adopted**.

- a. Minutes of previous meeting – February 28, 2024
- b. Media Report – Mid-February to Mid-March 2024
- c. POLICIES
 - I. Policy & Procedure Repeal Package D
 - II. Policy & Procedure Repeal Package E
 - i. Mr. Narang confirmed that the Governance Committee is handling traffic nicely.
- d. Operation Crime Overview Report – February 2024
 - I. DCC Culbertson went over the current Operation Crime Overview report for February 2024, including discussions on different ways to display the data being presented for further clarity. He reported on the following:
 - i. **Violent Crime** – More events are being captured than previously, which is resulting in an increase in violent crimes-
 - ii. **Domestic Violence** – Is up 18%, but has noted there is a supervisor position and 3 detectives (1 of which is Punjabi speaking), to assist. He noted numerous initiatives to bring awareness including Purple Night Lights, including messages throughout the community in different languages. He also noted that the recent domestic homicide investigation is progressing and has reached out to community partners to better understand the drivers of domestic violence.

- iii. **Property crime/mental health** – up 10.6% since last week and noted that drivers continue to be low-level thefts and offenses among the street entrenched. Discussion led to the note that there are more officers out on the street given Provincial funding as the AbbyPD is almost at full staffing levels. Chief Watson advised that the AbbyPD will monitor closely as February and March usually have lower call volumes/severity and noted that overall staffing levels can change very quickly.
- iv. **Project spotlight** – Received \$832K from the Province, which resulted in increases in equipment (radios, 3 additional cameras, and traffic initiatives), which are being strategically used. Mr. Holloway asked about public safety cameras and was advised that the cameras are put up in hot spots throughout the community and noted there are limitations due to privacy concerns. The cameras are recorded 24/7 and noted that a person is not monitoring them 24/7. Mr. Narang asked if there are reporting requirements in exchange for the funding received and DCC Culbertson confirmed the stringent reporting requirements and that the AbbyPD is well-positioned to report as required. DCC Culbertson confirmed that it is a multi-year \$5 million project and that other municipalities are also getting funding from the Province, but AbbyPD received the most so far.
- v. **Mental Health Car** – February 2024 update – received 316 calls (roughly 11 calls per day), resulting in 85 individuals taken by mental health car (25%), with 0 use of force applications for MICR teams. 4 incidents of use of force when patrol responded alone. The rate which a member presented individuals to be committed was higher than that of the mental health car presenting an individual. When the mental health car nurse attended the hospital, the average reported wait time was 132 mins, compared to when an officer attended, they waited an average of 88 mins. Discussion about what may be the cause of the difference in wait time including the time of the day and the mental health car shifts. DCC Culbertson advised that there are no additional supports at Abbotsford Regional Hospital (Zone 5 – Psychiatric Ward) (“ARH”), and that the AbbyPD has an excellent relationship with Fraser Health. It was noted that Fraser Health did try to guarantee a 90-minute turnaround time. HealthIM was rolled out by Port Moody Police Department and that the AbbyPD is working on rolling that out as well. It was also noted that officers do not get priority when they are at ARH. Ms. Padda advised that there would likely be comfort that the individual waiting is with a mental health care professional, causing the longer wait time. Ms. Padda requested the statistical information about how many people were committed, and DCC Culbertson will provide. Discussion about whether more people would be committed if there were more beds. Ms. Padda asked if the AbbyPD performs any follow-up visits to the individuals that are committed and was advised that the emphasis would be on the hospital, not the police.
- e. Reserve Constable Program – 2023/2024 Annual Grant

4. Business Arising Out of Previous Minutes - None

5. Board Correspondence – CAPG bills

Discussion was had about whether there was an increase in due for CAPG. CAPG has confirmed the dues have increased.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that the invoices received from CAPG be paid. The motion **passed**.

Chief Watson noted the CAPG conference in August will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. If members want to attend, please advise the Board. It was also noted that there have been recent issues with hotels booking up quickly and that there is a CACP conference which will be held shortly after the CAPG conference in the same location.

6. Board correspondence: authorization BCAPB

Discussions about the current board representative and the alternate representative.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that Mandy Padda continue as the board representative and Gordon Holloway as the alternate. The motion **passed**.

7. Board meeting change in start time

Chief Watson requested a change in start time allowing city hall to fully open their doors before the board meeting starts.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that the start time of future board meetings be changed to 8:45 AM. The motion **passed**.

8. Chief's report

Chief Watson, Deputy Burrows, and Deputy Culbertson reported on the following topics:

- Chief Watson's continued efforts to meet with community members, including the Abbotsford Youth Commission and the new school superintendent, among others.
- **Building Update** - We are on track for the move into the new building in Jan 2025. Internal alignments and reporting relationships are being finalized.
- **Recognition** – Cst. Janelle Smith & Cst. Jacqueline Cardinal recently received awards from the Chilliwack RCMP for life saving efforts of a drowning person while off duty in 2023.
- **Awards Ceremony** – Scheduled for May 29. The Senior Leadership Team is changes to the award ceremony to include long service awards in addition to commendations.
- **Staffing Update** – DCC Burrows reported that seconded members returning from secondment impacts the planned budget. The AbbyPD intended on hiring up to 8 Operational Support Officers; however, had to stop as it would severely affect the budget. It was reported that in 2023 there was 303 applicants (which was up 6% for 2022, but still down in 2021). Of the 303 applicants, 28 officers were hired. It was reported that a reevaluation was being conducted for IHIT secondments to offset and react to staffing. Mr. Holloway asked about Surrey Police Service, and it was advised that the AbbyPD lost 2 members to Surrey. Mr. Narang asked if exit interviews were being done, which was confirmed. It was advised that typically the reason for leaving was a cost-of-living factor, and that the HR Director does exit interviews.

9. Committee reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Holloway advised that a comprehensive finance report will be forthcoming in April.

Governance/Policy Committee – Mr. Narang reported that they continue to work with Karen Wilcox to review the policy band that there is a priority in place. Ms. Olmstead and Mr. Narang are reviewing accordingly.

Human Resources Committee – Special Advisor Mr. Dominato advised with the new Human Resources Director in place the committee will develop a report package for the board on a quarterly basis.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

None raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 AM.

"Original Signed"

Chair – Ross Siemens

"Original Signed"

Recording Secretary – Shyanne Bergen