



Minutes

The Blue Mountains Police Services Board

Date: November 16, 2022
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers and Virtual Meeting
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON
Prepared by: Kyra Dunlop, Deputy Clerk

Members Present: Jim Oliver, Gail Ardiel

Members Absent: Alar Soever

Staff Present Detachment Commander Loris Licharson, Staff Sergeant Chris Maecker, Sergeant Kevin Cornell, Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt,

A. Call to Order

Board Chair Jim Oliver called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with member Gail Ardiel in attendance. Alar Soever sent his regrets for the meeting.

Detachment Commander Loris Licharson, Staff Sergeant Chris Maecker, Sergeant Kevin Cornell, CAO Shawn Everitt, and Recording Secretary Kyra Dunlop were also in attendance.

Chair Oliver noted that this was the last meeting of the Police Services Board for the year and for the 2018 to 2026 Term of Council. Chair Oliver noted his congratulations to Gail Ardiel for being elected as a Councillor and noted his thanks to staff and officers for their hard work, which the community greatly appreciated.

A.1 Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

We would like to begin our meeting by recognizing the First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples of Canada as traditional stewards of the land. The municipality is located within the boundary of Treaty 18 region of 1818 which is the traditional land of the Anishnaabek, Haudenosaunee and Wendat-Wyandot-Wyandotte peoples.

A.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Gail Ardiel
Seconded by: Jim Oliver

THAT the Agenda of November 16, 2022 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda, being Item E.1. Traffic Reports.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Gail Ardiel

Absent (1): Alar Soever

The motion is Carried (2 to 0, 1 absent)

A.3 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2022-76, The Blue Mountains Police Services Board Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

A.4 Previous Minutes

Moved by: Jim Oliver
Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

THAT The Blue Mountains Police Services Board minutes of September 28, 2022 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Gail Ardiel

Absent (1): Alar Soever

The motion is Carried (2 to 0, 1 absent)

B. Public Meetings/Deputations/Presentations

None

C. Staff Reports

C.1 Detachment Commander's Report

Detachment Commander Licharson provided an overview of the Detachment Commander Report, including:

- RIDE and Impaired Drivers
- Foot Patrol Hours
- Staffing
- Training
- Collingwood and The Blue Mountains Community Street Crime Unit

- 2022 By-law Calls for Service
- Marine Patrol
- Auxiliary Unit
- Mental Health Response Unit
- Detachment Initiatives
- Automated Licence Plate Reader (ALPR) Vehicles
- Town of The Blue Mountains RIDE Grant
- Community Issues
- Records Management System, 2022 - Third Quarter

Chair Oliver asked Detachment Commander Licharson what the estimated value of the illegal substances confiscated during the third quarter would be. Detachment Commander Licharson advised that prices fluctuate and that he could report back on the estimated amount.

Chair Oliver noted that regarding the number of By-law alarm calls that the Detachment Commander had mentioned that the home of one of the individuals whose alarm went off was unsecured, and asked what the attending officer would do in that situation. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that if officers received an alarm call that their response was situational, and that officers will clear every home. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that for unsecured homes, officers will make every attempt to contact the homeowner to be able to secure the residence themselves, and then failing that officers will secure the home to the best of their ability.

Chair Oliver noted that the number of calls regarding Short Term Accommodation infractions seemed to have been less than in previous years, and Sergeant Kevin Cornell confirmed that they had received fewer calls than in years previous.

Chair Oliver noted that one of the charges for the Marine Patrol was for a pleasure-craft operator competency charge, and asked what that constituted. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that it was an administrative charge for unlicensed boaters.

Member Gail Ardiel asked if the Town had experienced homeless encampments or if the police had received calls about homeless individuals in the Town. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that he was not aware of any homeless encampments or that The Blue Mountains police had received calls about homeless individuals. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that homelessness was a regional issue that transcended the community and required support, and that there had been calls to support those people but that it was a transient issue and that the number of calls are reflective of the calls for service received and responses provided. Chair Oliver noted that the follow-up calls and visits from officers are just as much about the families as they are for the individuals.

Detachment Commander Licharson noted that the police force was looking into giving up a detachment vehicle to receive a vehicle outfitted with the newer Automated Licence Plate Reader (ALPR) technology. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that

the detachment had requested the RIDE Grant from the province and that Sergeant Cornell had been receiving calls from other detachments for assistance with their own applications as the Blue Mountains detachment application was so well done. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that ride checks never stopped but that the grant provided an enhanced capacity to do additional ride checks with staff. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that the program would be stepped up during the holiday season.

Member Ardiel noted that she had witnessed cars passing school buses, and asked if the police were catching some of the individuals that were still not slowing down. Member Ardiel noted that the speed signage was working to slow drivers down and that it would be good to keep those signs up during the holidays. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that where vehicles do pass school buses that officers would follow-up and take the appropriate enforcement action, and that Grey County had been supportive of the detachment using the County's speed equipment in the Town.

CAO Everitt noted that through the Transportation Master Plan project and budget the Town had purchased digital signage and data tracking equipment, and that if required the Town would purchase additional signage too. CAO Everitt noted that one of the digital signs was located at a Connecting Link on Highway 26 and that he anticipated bringing forward a report to Council and the Police Services Board regarding speed issues. CAO Everitt noted that it was reassuring as the data shows anomalies, but that the average speed through Clarksburg was under the posted speed limit. CAO Everitt noted that it was time-consuming for staff to pull the data from the tracking equipment. Chair Oliver noted whether it would be beneficial to publish the speed data in print media to educate the public about road safety and inform them about these community issues. Member Ardiel noted that social media may be an effective way to get that messaging out too. Staff Sergeant Chris Maecker noted that it was important that media officers got messaging out to the public and that officers wanted the public to know what officers were working on that officers were well versed in some of the social media, and do use Twitter. Chair Oliver noted that the Board also had an opportunity and obligation to raise its profile and role in the community.

Chair Oliver noted that there had been a lot of recent news reporting on vehicle thefts in large urban centres, and asked if that was happening in the Town or if it would be included already in the reports within "Theft Over \$5,000". Detachment Commander Licharson noted that vehicle thefts would be captured in the "Theft Over" statistics and that the detachment had received some reports, and that they were generally linked to theft from motor vehicles, rather than the vehicle itself being stolen. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that it was important for members of the public to lock their vehicles.

Chair Oliver thanked Detachment Commander Licharson for providing the overview of the report.

Moved by: Gail Ardiel
Seconded by: Jim Oliver

THAT the Detachment Commander's Report 2022 for the 3rd Quarter for The Blue Mountains Police Services Board be received as presented this 16th day of November, 2022.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Gail Ardiel

Absent (1): Alar Soever

The motion is Carried (2 to 0, 1 absent)

D. Correspondence

D.1 East Ferris Police Services Board Re: School bus Passing and Safety Concerns

Chair Oliver noted that the correspondence mentioned outfitting the school buses with cameras to catch the drivers' passing buses that have their lights flashing to stop. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that anything that provides additional support and evidence for officers is good, but that ultimately the driver must be identified to lay a charge. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that cameras could assist officers in being able to send a caution letter to the owner of the vehicle and that if officers were able to stop the driver the camera could provide additional evidence. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that school buses have amber lights to warn people that the bus is about to stop, so people have ample warning to slow to a stop. Chair Oliver noted that the East Ferris motion included in the correspondence seemed to place the responsibility for data collection onto schoolboards, which would be significant. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that there would be large financial implications to that as the data captured from cameras would have to be saved somewhere.

Moved by: Gail Ardiel
Seconded by: Jim Oliver

THAT The Blue Mountains Police Services Board receives the correspondence from the East Ferris Police Services Board dated September 22, 2022 regarding school bus passing and safety.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Gail Ardiel

Absent (1): Alar Soever

The motion is Carried (2 to 0, 1 absent)

D.2 Ministry of the Solicitor General Re: Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 and Detachment Boards Update

CAO Everitt noted that an update to the Board membership would be considered later this year and that any changes would take effect at the end of 2023 as to whether the Town continued with its own Police Services Board or if it would be combined with the

Town of Collingwood. CAO Everitt noted that for at least the 2022 to 2023 year the Police Services Board for the Town would be made up of one member of Council, one member of the public, and one provincial appointee.

Chair Oliver noted that the decision was expected to be released on November 30, 2022, and CAO Everitt confirmed that release date. CAO Everitt noted that the Ministry would likely be in a position to advise staff by November 30, and that a Board composition would become a 5 member board if it was to continue. Chair Oliver noted that the two additional Board members would be comprised of one additional member of the public and one additional provincial appointee.

Chair Oliver asked if the Town had advised the province regarding the provincial appointee vacancy as Member Ardiel had been elected as a Councillor for the 2022-2026 Term of Council and could not continue with her role as a Police Services Board member. CAO Everitt noted that Member Ardiel had advised the province and that staff would follow-up with their ministry contacts. Member Ardiel noted that it had taken a long time for her to be appointed and that the position on the Board was vacant for years before she was appointed by the Province. Member Ardiel noted that the province needed to have people appointed much more quickly. CAO Everitt noted that it could be a good opportunity to bring this issue forward to the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference in January 2023.

THAT The Blue Mountains Police Services Board receives the correspondence from the Ministry of the Solicitor General dated October 4, 2022 regarding the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 and OPP Detachment Boards Update.

Moved by: Gail Ardiel
Seconded by: Jim Oliver

THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains Police Services Board requests that Council direct staff to submit a delegation to the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference in regards to the provincial process for the appointment of provincial appointees to the Police Services Board.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Gail Ardiel

Absent (1): Alar Soever

The motion is Carried (2 to 0, 1 absent)

D.3 Ministry of the Solicitor General Re: Proposal for OPP Detachment Board Submission Update

THAT The Blue Mountains Police Services Board receives the correspondence from the Ministry of the Solicitor General dated October 7, 2022 regarding an update on the Town's submission for OPP Detachment Board.

D.4 Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce Re: Coordinator Report July to September 2022 (Quarter 3)

THAT The Blue Mountains Police Services Board receives the correspondence from the Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce regarding their Coordinator Report from July to September 2022 (Quarter 3).

Moved by: Jim Oliver

Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains Police Services Board receives items D.2, D.3 and D.4 under Correspondence for information.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Gail Ardiel

Absent (1): Alar Soever

The motion is Carried (2 to 0, 1 absent)

E. Other Business

E.1 Traffic Reports

Member Ardiel noted that the traffic on Grey Road 40, Grey Road 2 and Grey Road 13 had all had significant accidents during the summer and she had witnessed some of them. Member Ardiel noted that the volume of traffic on Grey Road 40 had increased and that people were still missing the stop signs. Member Ardiel noted that she was not sure what more Grey County could do but that she believed a reporting system was needed for how many accidents were happening at these spots. Member Ardiel noted that with all the traffic being diverted to County roads from Highway 26 that it was time to have these conversations with Grey County staff about installing lights or other safety measures to make County roads safer. CAO Everitt noted that the Board could make a request to Council to request that the County review those two County road intersections to report back. CAO Everitt noted that the sightlines at Grey Road 2 and 13 were not bad and that a lot of other measures had been put in place. Chair Oliver noted that going east and west along Grey Road 40 that it felt as though there had been speed bumps in the past, and that speed bumps would certainly catch drivers attention to slow down. Member Ardiel noted that there used to be speed bumps along those sections but they had been removed. Member Ardiel noted that roundabouts might help with safety. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that collision data belonged to the Ministry of Transportation and that the County had access to that data. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that one aspect that needed to be accounted for was the human element in that no matter how many safety measures there were, that if someone was driving distracted, an accident was more likely. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that as our communities grow and see an increased volume of traffic that the community would struggle with this more. CAO Everitt noted that there was work proposed to be done along Grey Road 2 in the next few years and that this sort of review work would be critical as traffic flows were likely to change. Staff Sergeant Chris

Maecker noted that they had experienced some low-level accidents at roundabouts and that although they are expensive they tend to result in less serious accidents. Member Ardiel noted that they may be expensive but roundabouts save lives.

Moved by: Gail Ardiel
Seconded by: Jim Oliver

THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains Police Services Board requests that Council direct staff to request a traffic review from Grey County of Grey Road 40, including at intersections at Grey Road 2 and Grey Road 13, as a consequence of recent serious accidents at those intersections.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Gail Ardiel

Absent (1): Alar Soever

The motion is Carried (2 to 0, 1 absent)

F. Closed Session

None

G. Adjournment

Chair Oliver noted his thanks to Member Ardiel and Member Soever for their service on the Board.

CAO Everitt noted his thanks on behalf of staff for Chair Oliver's leadership and to the members for their hard work. CAO Everitt noted his appreciation and thanks to the positive working relationship with the OPP and that it was unique for a municipality of this size to have a proactive and positive relationship with its police force. CAO Everitt noted his hope that the Blue Mountains Police Board and the Collingwood Police Board could continue on separately and have joint meetings annually.

Member Ardiel thanked the OPP, staff and the community for allowing her to be the provincial appointee.

Moved by: Gail Ardiel
Seconded by: Jim Oliver

THAT The Blue Mountains Police Services Board Meeting does now adjourn at 10:07 a.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Gail Ardiel

Absent (1): Alar Soever

The motion is Carried (2 to 0, 1 absent)