



Minutes

The Blue Mountains Police Services Board

Date: January 24, 2024
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers
32 Mill Street, PO Box 310
Prepared by: Kyra Dunlop, Recording Secretary

Members Present: Jim Oliver, Andrea Matrosovs

Staff Present: Acting CAO Director of Planning and Development Services Adam Smith, Recording Secretary Kyra Dunlop

A. Call to Order

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 Board Member Attendance

Recording Secretary Kyra Dunlop called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with all members in attendance.

Acting CAO Adam Smith, Detachment Commander Loris Licharson, Sergeant Kevin Cornell and Staff Sergeant Natalie Majer were in attendance. CAO Shawn Everitt sent his regrets for the meeting as he was in attendance at the ROMA Conference.

A.3 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Jim Oliver

Seconded by: Andrea Matrosovs

THAT the Agenda of January 24, 2024 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda, being Item A.9 Motion to Authorize the virtual participation of Member Matrosovs.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Andrea Matrosovs

The motion is Carried (2 to 0)

A.4 Appointment of Chair for 2024

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs

Seconded by: Jim Oliver

THAT, in accordance with the *Police Services Act* section 28(1), Jim Oliver is appointed as the Chair of The Blue Mountains Police Services Board for a one year term ending December 31, 2024.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Andrea Matrosovs

The motion is Carried (2 to 0)

A.5 Appointment of Vice Chair for 2024

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs

Seconded by: Jim Oliver

THAT The Blue Mountains Police Services Board defers the selection of a Vice-Chair until the April 17, 2024 Board Meeting.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Andrea Matrosovs

The motion is Carried (2 to 0)

A.6 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2023-62, 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.7 Previous Minutes

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs

Seconded by: Jim Oliver

THAT The Blue Mountains Police Services Board minutes of October 18, 2024 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Andrea Matrosovs

The motion is Carried (2 to 0)

A.8 Chair's Remarks

Chair Oliver thanked the Board for the appointment as Chair for the 2024 calendar year and that he looked forward to continuing to work with Member Matrosovs and staff. Chair Oliver noted that he appreciated that the Mayor was still able to attend virtually today given that she was in attendance at the ROMA Conference and he understood the importance of members of Council attending those conferences.

Detachment Commander Licharson introduced Staff Sergeant Natalie Majer to the Board. Sergeant Majer has many years of experience and moved from the South Georgian Bay detachment area. Sergeant Majer noted she had been made to feel welcome at the Board and looked forward to working with everyone.

Chair Oliver noted that he looked forward to welcoming new members of the Board once the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 came into effect on April 1, 2024 which would increase the membership of the Board from 3 to 5 members. Chair Oliver noted that under the new legislation the Board would need to make adjustments and conform to the Act, and would work with its sister Board in Collingwood during this process. Chair Oliver noted that there would be discussion about how the Board would be approaching these coming changes in today's meeting and that he felt that the changes in the Act would be a positive thing. Chair Oliver noted that the changes in the legislation would broaden the responsibilities of Boards across Ontario which is great for community and stakeholder awareness of the Board, and hopefully means greater support for Police Services Boards and officers within our communities.

A.9 Motion to authorize the virtual participation of Member Matrosovs

Moved by: Jim Oliver

Seconded by: Andrea Matrosovs

THAT The Blue Mountains Police Services Board authorizes the virtual attendance of member Andrea Matrosovs for the January 24, 2024 Police Services Board Meeting as

she is in attendance at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference from January 21-24, 2024.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Andrea Matrosovs

The motion is Carried (2 to 0)

B. Public Meetings/Deputations/Presentations

None

C. Staff Reports

C.1 Detachment Commander's Report - Quarter 4 2023

Detachment Commander Licharson provided an overview of the Detachment Commander's Report - Quarter 4, 2023.

Chair Oliver asked if the detachment had a full complement of officers or if there were any vacancies that needed to be filled. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that currently they have 4 vacancies in total, and that 2 of those were because the detachment had successfully increased the number of officers needed in the detachment, and were in the process to fill all vacancies.

Chair Oliver asked if the number of calls that officers were receiving for house alarms were comparable from 2022 to 2023. Chair Oliver noted that there were many comments in the media about how we were returning to a post-pandemic new normal and asked if what officers were seeing was a return to pre-pandemic volumes of calls for alarms, or if that had changed post-pandemic. Detachment Commander Licharson noted he would look into those numbers between 2022 and 2023, and Chair Oliver noted that this could be circulated to the Board separately.

Chair Oliver asked if auxiliary officers were able to do ride-alongs with officers for RIDE Programs, and if that information was included as a line item in the total number of auxiliary officer hours. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that auxiliary officers were able to attend RIDE checks with officers and would look into whether that data could be pulled out separately in the report. Chair Oliver noted that ride-alongs with officers were always very informative and interesting to participate in and he looked forward to doing more in 2024.

Chair Oliver asked if the increase of staff to include front-line Sergeants and an Operations Manager would benefit officers during weekend coverage, as he understood that a high volume of calls could be coming in during the weekend. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that the detachment had essentially increased the amount

of additional coverage provided to front-line staff from 4 days to 6 days through these additional staff members. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that they currently had weekend coverage, but that they had been able to increase coverage due to the staffing complement so that front-line workers had additional support from 4 days to 6 days now, which was a significant improvement and greatly assisted front-line staff.

Chair Oliver asked if the OPP is corporately looking at the carbon footprint of the fleet including opportunities for Electric Vehicles. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that the Bureau is always looking for efficiencies including fuel costs and emissions, and the Collingwood-Blue Mountains detachment received its first Hybrid patrol vehicle. The OPP would be looking at the wear and tear of these vehicles over time as well.

Chair Oliver asked with what officers attributed to the increase in the number of assaults reported in the last quarter and if officers had noticed any trends. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that officers did always review the data and look for emerging trends, but based on the statistical increase no emerging trends were apparent. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that while the percentage increase looked high, the number of assaults were not significantly increased, and noted that mostly the assaults reported in the report were due to some altercations at bars where individuals did not end up wishing to press charges, and that officers have increased their presence at licensed establishments.

Chair Oliver asked if officers took initiative to offer assistance to licensed establishments and offered any training to help with those kinds of situations, and Detachment Commander Licharson noted that while OPP staff not offer training to private businesses they do continue to cultivate positive relationship with businesses and can increase their foot patrols to act as a deterrent.

Chair Oliver asked if there had been any significant increases in the number of vehicle thefts in the area which Detachment Commander Licharson confirmed that while there had been reports of stolen vehicles in the area it was not a significant trends in The Blue Mountains.

Member Matrosovs noted that she appreciated that officers engaged in continuous learning opportunities and asked if the Life Saving Citation awarded by the OPP was a regular occurrence. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that the citations were a regular occurrence across the province any that there could be delays between when an event took place and when the citation was awarded as there were various committees and processes in the OPP that assisted in the issuance of the awards, and that sometimes awarded were not given until after a court case concluded, which could also be a lengthy process. Member Matrosovs noted that if the municipality can offer

assistance to celebrate and recognize these important awards that detachment staff were encouraged to reach out to Town staff and Council.

Moved by: Jim Oliver

Seconded by: Andrea Matrosovs

THAT The Town of The Blue Mountains Police Services Board receives for information the Detachment Commander's Report - Quarter 4, 2023

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Andrea Matrosovs

The motion is Carried (2 to 0)

D. Correspondence

D.1 Terry Gates, Resident Re: Letter in support of using the CAMSafe program in the Town

Chair Oliver asked if the CAMSafe Program is something in our detachment area and should we support it. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that CAMSafe is a video program, and it started in Belleville and has since grown under the OPP. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that other detachments use this, and it is a voluntary registry where citizens can register that they have doorbell cameras which officers can use for investigations. The workload is around marketing and advertising this, and the auxiliary unit would likely play a role in this. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that this program would in no way negate the need for a video canvass in the event of an investigation, particularly significant investigations, so officers would still go door-to-door asking for assistance, but CAMSafe can be a good starting point. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that Staff Sergeant Majer had seen this in her previous detachment, and Chair Oliver asked if the citizens in her community supported the program. Staff Sergeant Majer noted that just prior to her departure from her previous detachment in December 2023, Tiny Township had started rolling out the program, and it has a lot to do with social media and communications through the Police Services Board to get the message out to the community. Staff Sergeant Majer noted that front-line officers would register into the program as someone who can extract the information, and noted that this is a voluntary program for community members to be part of this, and noted she did not have data to provide regarding how often the videos were used in investigations. Staff Sergeant Majer noted that this was another tool in the tool belt to work with the community in investigations. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that within 3 months the CAMSafe Program may be up and running in the community as an option for individuals to participate in if they wished.

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs

Seconded by: Jim Oliver

THAT The Blue Mountains Police Services Board receives for information the correspondence of Terry Gates, Resident Re: Letter in support of using the CAMSafe program in the Town;

AND THAT the Board supports the concept of the CAMSafe Program;

AND THAT the Board requests that Mr. Gates' correspondence be provided to Council for consideration of how the Town can support the communication of the CAMSafe Program within the community.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Andrea Matrosovs

The motion is Carried (2 to 0)

D.2 Ontario Association of Police Services Board (OAPSB) Re: All Chiefs Memo Number 23-0085: In-force date of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019

Moved by: Jim Oliver

Seconded by: Andrea Matrosovs

THAT The Blue Mountains Police Services Board receives for information the correspondence of Ontario Association of Police Services Board (OAPSB) Re: All Chiefs Memo Number 23-0085 In Force Date of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Andrea Matrosovs

The motion is Carried (2 to 0)

D.3 Crime Stoppers, Grey Bruce Re: Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce Coordinator Report - October to December 2023-Q4 and Tipster Magazine for Winter 2024

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs

Seconded by: Jim Oliver

THAT The Blue Mountains Police Services Board receives for information the correspondence of Crime Stoppers, Grey Bruce Re: Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce Coordinator Report - October to December 2023-Q4 and Tipster Magazine Winter 2024.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Andrea Matrosovs

The motion is Carried (2 to 0)

E. Other Business

E.1 Update to Board Re: Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 and alignment between Collingwood and Blue Mountain Police Services Boards

Chair Oliver noted that the Chairs of the Police Services Boards, the CAO's and Recording Secretary's from The Blue Mountains and Collingwood met in December 2023 to meet to discuss the implementation of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 on April 1, 2024 and how the two Boards would work together. Chair Oliver noted that a lot of work would need to be done going forward as the new Act came into effect.

E.2 Discussion Re: Deputation to Council regarding the Auxiliary Unit

Chair Oliver noted he was pleased to see the information in the Town's Newsletter regarding the Auxiliary Program and wondered if there would still be merit in presenting in a deputation to Council about this. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that the article in the Newsletter was welcome to see and that he was willing to provide a deputation to Council at any time about the auxiliary unit, though it may not be necessary but a greater exposure would be a positive. Chair Oliver noted that the auxiliary program was of great benefit and it would be beneficial for Council and the community to have that exposure to the program.

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs

Seconded by: Jim Oliver

THAT The Blue Mountains Police Services Board directs the Board Chair and Detachment Inspector to provide a deputation to Council at the appropriate time in 2024 in the community, with respect to the Auxiliary Unit.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Andrea Matrosovs

The motion is Carried (2 to 0)

E.3 Update Re: Request to Meet with Bluewater District Schoolboard regarding the continued relationship between OPP staff, Schoolboard staff and the Police Services Board (verbal)

Chair Oliver noted that he had had a good meeting with School Board representatives and agreed that they wished to have a deputation in front of their Board because of the value of exposing the public and trustees of the role of the OPP in supporting the School Board, Schools, and most importantly in supporting students and helping students be comfortable with officers, and as individuals who can support the students. Chair Oliver noted that there was an impression that senior staff would coordinate this. Chair Oliver noted he had been informed at the meeting that at the staff level there is a liason

committee and that The Blue Mountains was meant to be part of that. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that he and Sgt. Cornell attended the Bluewater District School Board Liason Committee Meeting in the fall 2023 and January 2024 and that there were good discussions about school and police protocol, and ensuring that contact information for various police detachments in the Board's area to ensure the right individuals were able to come to those meetings.

Recording Secretary Kyra Dunlop confirmed that School Board staff had provided some dates to present and she would connect with Board members to confirm their availability.

Chair Oliver noted at the meeting with School Board staff, it was noted that there had been a reversal of the decisions to prevent officers from assisting in schools in the Simcoe County school boards. Detachment Commander Licharson noted they had continued their engagement with the boards in Simcoe County, and had ongoing meetings with executive leadership at the School Board who had been very positive and extremely effective, and this has allowed for some barriers and structures to be addressed and some consistency of approach to be allowed for, which has allowed relationships between the schools, principals and OPP staff to flourish. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that this has allowed for a much greater impact to work more collaboratively with principals in Simcoe County and OPP staff have seen a positive difference already. The resumption of a School Police Committee will start in the spring 2024 and Detachment Commander Licharson intends to be part of that, which will be a positive step in ongoing relations. Member Matrosovs noted that she was pleased to see these changes, and that it would be worthwhile to continue with a deputation to the Bluewater District School Board to share this good news story. Chair Oliver noted that Member Matrosovs would be welcome to attend the deputation to the School Board, which Member Matrosovs noted she would be pleased to come.

Chair Oliver noted that the Board had received a deputation from a researcher in fall 2023 about the school resource officer (SRO) program across Ontario, and its positive impacts on students, and Detachment Commander Licharson noted that there are 31 Case Study Detachments in the OPP in this project, so there have been some delays in receiving a report back. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that he understood that a second report was expected in the next 6 months but there is a lot of data for them to work through.

E.4 Ontario Association of Police Services Board (OAPSB) 2024 Conference Re: Community Safety and Policing Act Summit and Spring Conference

Moved by: Jim Oliver

Seconded by: Andrea Matrosovs

THAT Chair Jim Oliver and Member Matrosovs of The Blue Mountains Police Services Board attend the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards Annual General Meeting and Conference and to provide a verbal report back to the Board at the following Board meeting.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Andrea Matrosovs

The motion is Carried (2 to 0)

E.5 Special Joint Board Meetings with Town of Collingwood Re: Joint Board Meetings to discuss the Community Safety and Policing Act/Performance Approval Process for Detachment Commander and to discuss 2025 Budget/Strategic Plan (verbal)

Recording Secretary Kyra Dunlop advised that Collingwood staff were requesting two Special Joint Board Meetings with The Blue Mountains and Collingwood Police Services Board and that staff at both municipalities would work together to ascertain Board Member availability.

Chair Oliver noted that the detachment has a 3 Year Action Plan, an individual Board Plan and the Town's Community Safety and Well-being Plan, and that the Police Services Board would need to wait to see what the Strategic Plan would be as envisioned by the Chair of the Collingwood Board. Chair Oliver noted that the Board and detachment staff had already been doing great work engaging with the community and that he did not want to see the process for the Board Strategic Plan to get weighed down, and asked for detachment staff to provide a bit more information on the process for the development of the Strategic Plans. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that the requirements for Boards under the new CSPA will have the requirement for Strategic Plans for Boards, which can be simple or complicated, depending on the Board and the legislative requirements. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that the OPP had a Strategic Plan and the Detachment had a Community Action Plan, which Collingwood is currently reviewing and updating, and the Town will also be doing soon. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that all the strategic plans should speak to one another.

E.6 Follow-up Direction from Council

Note: Council passed the following resolution at their November 20, 2023 Council Meeting further to staff report FAF.23.146 Traffic Data Reporting and Key Intersection Data. This resolution is being provided to the Police Services Board for information.

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.23.146, entitled “Traffic Data Reporting and Key Intersection Data”;

AND THAT Council express their appreciation to both The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment and Grey County for providing resources to collect data at key locations within the Town;

AND THAT Council direct staff to work with the OPP and Grey County Transportation in regard to additional safety measures at the subject intersections contained in Staff Report FAF.23.146, including speed limits through downtown Clarksburg, and to report back to Council

Chair Oliver asked if OPP staff or the Acting CAO can confirm what locations were of concern as a result of this initiative, and the Board would be interested in knowing where the concerns are.

Sgt. Cornell noted that the two key intersections were Grey Road 2 and Grey Road 13, and Grey Road 2 and Grey Road 40, as well as in Clarksburg. Member Matrosov noted that Council had put the motions in place to ask staff to spend the time to work towards this in collaboration with the Board.

F. Closed Session

None

G. Notice of Meeting Dates

The Blue Mountains Police Services Board Meeting, April 17, 2024
Town Hall, Council Chambers

The Blue Mountains Police Services Board Meeting, July 17, 2024
Town Hall, Council Chambers

The Blue Mountains Police Services Board Meeting, October 16, 2024
Town Hall, Council Chambers

H. Adjournment

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs

Seconded by: Jim Oliver

THAT The Blue Mountains Police Services Board Meeting does now adjourn at 10:30a.m. to meet again April 17, 2024 or at the call of the Chair.

Yay (2): Jim Oliver, and Andrea Matrosovs

The motion is Carried (2 to 0)