

MINUTES

OTTAWA-CARLETON POLICE SERVICES BOARD

RIDEAU TOWNSHIP
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

11 MAY 1998

7:00 P.M.

PRESENT

Chair: Mr. P. Vice
Vice Chair: Councillor H. Kreling
Members: Mr. G. Baskerville, Ms. A. Boudreau, Ms. E. Buckingham,
Councillor J. Legendre

REGRETS

Regional Chair Chiarelli

1. STAFF PRESENTATION ON TRANSITION INTO RIDEAU TOWNSHIP

Chair Vice thanked Mayor Brooks and members of Rideau Township Council for welcoming the Board into their community. He explained the Board has decided to hold meetings in various communities on a quarterly basis and Rideau was chosen as the first site because of the upcoming transition. He added the Osgoode Township meeting will be held in June, also in anticipation of the July changeover, after which a quarterly schedule will be resumed.

Member Baskerville, who chairs the Committee to Unify Police Services (CUPS), explained CUPS is a steering committee made up of senior Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police Service (OCRPS) and OPP officers. He indicated the transitions are going well. He introduced Deputy Chief Alex Mackie and asked him to provide a presentation outlining the services the OCRPS will be providing to Rideau Township as of July.

Deputy Chief Mackie introduced Inspector Ken Moodie who will be in charge of the district, and Sergeant Brian Duffy who will be the Community Liaison Officer assigned to Rideau Township and working out of the community policing centre in Manotick.

Deputy Chief Mackie explained the CUPS mandate was initially to look at unification dates. The transitions into the Village of Rockcliffe Park and the Township of Cumberland have been completed, with Rideau and Osgoode coming next, followed by Goulbourn, West Carleton and Kanata in July 1999. He indicated such changeovers require extensive planning, with a lot of work in the areas of operations and personnel. Part of the planning process is to ensure an evaluation is completed after each transition. He referenced the Cumberland experience, noting the Ice Storm presented a unique opportunity to work in partnership with the OPP and to police rural areas.

He recalled the Board made a commitment to maintain existing OPP staffing levels. He indicated 25% of the OPP officers in Cumberland transferred to the Regional Police Service and 40% in Osgoode and Rideau will be transferring. Inspector Moodie, appointed as District Inspector, is a long-time resident of Manotick. He believed the OCRPS will provide enhanced visibility. Extensive communication and surveys will be conducted to evaluate the transition after the fact.

Deputy Chief Mackie outlined the transition activities: a District Inspector has been identified; equipment and facilities planning is on-going; media liaison and communications, link with volunteers, school resources, community liaison officers, orientation and training were initiated in the spring; and ride-alongs will begin soon in preparation for the July changeover.

Before turning the presentation over to Superintendent Moyle, Deputy Chief Mackie noted some of the main policing concerns identified by residents of Rideau Township: break and enters, speeding and traffic enforcement, visibility and police presence, youth, community policing and volunteers, and urban versus rural policing.

Superintendent Moyle explained the Township would be part of the West Division, of which he is in charge. He indicated 16 officers plus an NCO and a District Inspector are being assigned to Rideau Township. He noted all are either transferring OPP officers or have volunteered to work in the area. The complement has an average of 11 years experience. He stated that at any given time, there will be on duty two patrol/emergency response officers, a Community Liaison Officer, and a Traffic Unit. There will also be special investigators, a marine unit, a break and enter team and/or youth officers working in the area as required.

He explained the operational structure for the district. Inspector Moodie will be responsible for overseeing policing activities as well as liaising with elected officials and community groups, monitoring trends, and accessing required resources. He will work in partnership to resolve community issues. There will be two officers assigned solely to patrol and enforcement and they will be available to respond to calls for assistance. Their shifts will overlap from 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Highway 416 will be the dividing line for the two patrol areas, with officers reporting to the Greenbank station and coordinated by a platoon sergeant.

Sergeant Duffy's role as Community Liaison Officer will be to work with community volunteers, support crime prevention programs, address community issues and concerns, and access regional resources as required. He works flexible hours and will be working out of the Manotick centre. Supt. Moyle stressed the goal of the Police Service is to be flexible and provide the services the community wants and needs.

He confirmed the Community Policing Centre (CPO) will be located in Manotick as per the Board's commitment. It will be run by volunteers, with support from the Liaison Officer. There will be start-up assistance provided by the Regional Volunteer Coordinator and other locations can be considered as demand and feasibility warrants.

Supt. Moyle outlined seasonal policing activities noting the Marine unit will patrol the Rideau River from the Manotick dam to Burritts Rapids locks. The traffic unit will patrol snowmobile trails in winter.

In terms of front-line support, he indicated specialized sections are regularly available. They include such services as: school resource officers; a traffic section for specific problems and enforcement; the break and enter team to identify patterns and suspects; and many more. He noted these officers have developed an expertise in their respective fields.

In closing, Supt. Moyle stressed that the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police Service wants to work cooperatively with the community. They want residents to advise them of any concerns or problems and if they can make it a better place, they will.

2. COMMUNITY DELEGATIONS

Rideau Township Councillor Don Stephenson inquired about the shift overlap for patrol officers. Supt. Moyle confirmed an overlap is built into the shift schedule.

A resident referenced the youth centre in Ottawa, noting it is too far away to benefit Rideau Township youths. He wondered if the police would be looking at implementing a similar program locally. Chief Ford indicated Regional Police currently deliver youth services throughout its jurisdiction and assured everyone that they will be reviewing youth issues in Rideau Township and determining where services are needed.

The resident further wondered if arrangements could be made with Rideau's RA centre in terms of youth activities. Chief Ford stated the police will be working with schools to develop appropriate programs and they are always prepared to collaborate with community organizations. Mr. D. Pepper, Director of Community Development, added the Police Service was very fortunate to have received a grant from the province to develop a

manual for other communities to start-up youth centres modeled after the one in Ottawa, which might be of benefit to Rideau.

Mr. B. Tupper questioned how the Manotick CPO will be operated. Inspector Moodie explained it will open as of July 6 but staff will have to wait and see the number of volunteers available before determining programs and hours of operation. He assured those present that the goal is to meet the needs of the community. In response to a further question from Mr. Tupper, Mr. D. Moore, Accommodation Professional, indicated a site has been identified on Anne Street in Manotick. It will be located on the ground floor of Ken Gordon's building.

Mayor Brooks wondered if provisions had been made for CPO's in other communities such as Kars, North Gower and Burritts Rapids, and whether there were criteria established for setting them up. He noted some community members are very anxious to know. He reminded members that Rideau Council deferred a motion on the matter until it becomes clear whether the Board would support establishing CPO's in those communities.

Deputy Chief Mackie explained the Regional Police Service is currently moving toward a decentralized, district policing model and Chief Ford has ordered a moratorium on the establishment of new CPO's until the decentralization is complete. He indicated there are criteria applied to CPO's in terms of size, access and community support through volunteers. He added any cost aspects would have to be approved by the Board.

Chair Vice noted the Board is much more receptive if municipalities come forward with offers of free space. He expressed a willingness to consider such places as Orange Hall where the space and costs could be shared with the municipality.

Mayor Brooks indicated Kars residents in particular are anxious to move forward. The facility is there, the community has volunteers and they want some assurance that the Board is prepared to consider their proposal. In light of the fact that there is interest and a facility, Chair Vice believed it could be feasible.

Member Baskerville cautioned the Police Service has to evaluate the location, the community's willingness and desire to support the centre, the level of need demonstrated by calls for service, and the costs. He also noted the centre in Manotick has to be established before others can be considered. He believed the Board would be willing to approve the CPO under the correct circumstances but was not prepared to make an immediate commitment without knowing all the details.

Referring to the criteria mentioned by Deputy Chief Mackie, Councillor Stephenson wondered whether the size of a facility would be a constraining factor if all other aspects were in place. Deputy Chief Mackie indicated that as long as the volunteer base and the need are there, the District Inspector would look at all proposals and work with the community to resolve matters.

Councillor Stephenson expressed concern about the cost of starting a CPO in Manotick where there would likely be little volunteer support, while in Kars a facility is being offered and there is a base of keen and active volunteers. He stressed residents are looking for some commitment of appropriate support from the Board and staff. He believed answers given were non-committal and asked that someone explain the process.

Chief Ford re-iterated the Board made an earlier commitment to maintain the Manotick office. However, he indicated he would direct Inspector Moodie to start working with the community to explore the possibilities as soon as possible. He believed Insp. Moodie would be happy to work with community groups but stressed the need for a facility and a strong, long-term community commitment.

Member Baskerville stressed that as long as there is a long-term commitment and a dedicated base of volunteers, staff will look at facilities and the organizational structure. He stated there is a desire and willingness to help, but that the Board cannot make a decision without knowing the details of each situation. Chair Vice committed to dealing with the matter as soon as a comprehensive proposal can be prepared and brought forward.

Councillor Legendre wondered if the facility being suggested for the Kars CPO would also be suitable for a youth centre. He believed the Board's decision might be affected by such details as hours of operation and whether the site could serve multiple functions. He felt that the sooner such details were tabulated, the sooner the Board could address the matter. Councillor Stephenson believed it would only need to be open part-time and with less police resources than other, busier centres.

A resident inquired about the relationship between the OCRPS and the police in Kemptville. Deputy Chief Mackie stated the Police have had a long history of working cooperatively and helping each other. They have always adopted a professional approach and will continue to do so. Chief Ford noted the Drug Unit is a collaboration between the OCRPS and the OPP.

Mr. Tupper wondered how the marine patrol will operate. Supt. L. Hill indicated the OCRPS has just purchased a new, customized vessel. It will be staffed by 6 to 8 officers who will provide services 7 days per week to ensure a consistent level of service. A normal season will start mid to late June, but this year's start will coincide with the July 6 transition. He added they have the ability to put a boat in the water on very short notice.

Councillor Legendre inquired about the existing marine service with the OPP. Inspector L. Beechey indicated the Rideau River is currently patrolled daily from mid-May to mid-September and the OPP also have the ability to put their boat in the water earlier or later, as required. Deputy Chief Mackie stated that after discussions with the OPP, he understood their patrol was limited to weekends.

Ms. C. Lindsay noted weekends are very busy and wondered how many boats would be on the water between Manotick and Burritts Rapids. Chief Ford stated one boat will be patrolling the length of the river. He noted the OCRPS is not new to water patrol. The Service also has a number of boats patrolling the Ottawa River, and the Rideau River up to Black Rapids.

The subject of personal watercrafts on the river was raised. Residents felt they are particularly noisy and dangerous. Both Chief Ford and Chair Vice assured them the Police Service will do everything in its power to enforce the law and control such situations.

Councillor Stephenson requested clarification on the marine patrol as he believed the OPP had several boats and personal watercrafts patrolling the river on weekends. Inspector Beechey confirmed the OPP double its patrol on some weekends. He referred to the new licencing system coming into effect next year and believed it will help the situation with personal watercrafts. Chief Ford added the OCRPS also has two personal watercrafts at its disposal.

Rideau Township Councillor Rob Fraser requested an update on the budget process. Vice Chair Kreling explained the timelines involved in the process noting the Board's deliberations have been held and the budget has been forwarded to Regional Council for its consideration on Wednesday, May 13. He felt confident about the Police Service budget, noting a number of concerns have been addressed and Council members have a thorough understanding of the issues.

Regional Councillor B. Hill believed the public may be interested to know the dollar amount of the Police Service budget increase for the fiscal year. Chief Ford stated the increase is in the order of \$9.225M, adding this represents the total police needs including OPP costs for all municipalities in the Region. Chair Vice pointed out \$6.8M of the increase is in salary increments that were sadly lacking. He explained all police services in Ontario are facing the same situation as a result of the social contract.

Councillor Legendre referred to briefing notes prepared for the meeting and noted that all identified issues had been addressed except for the cost of policing being passed on to residents. He wondered if this is still a concern. Mayor Brooks felt rural areas have always had the perception that they are paying for services from which they do not benefit. It has always been a concern but he did not believe it was a major one.

Councillor Fraser believed residents are concerned that costs incurred by other municipalities are being passed on to them. Chief Ford explained that when amalgamation occurred, all assets and liabilities were passed on to Ottawa-Carleton including unfunded sick leave and building debts. In response to a question from Councillor Legendre, Mr. Kanellakos stated the unfunded liabilities totaled approximately \$23M and the debt, \$21M. He added the City of Ottawa provided room in its mill rate, at a value of \$3M, to

pay for annual cash-out of sick leave. The OCRPS also received a one-time grant of \$18M from the province to assist in the transition. Those funds have been used for such things as the radio system and buy-out packages. It is a complex formula but the Region also received some valuable assets in the process.

Referring to the governance issue, Mayor Brooks believed rural areas may be allowed to opt out of the regional structure. He stated should that come to pass, the rural townships will be looking at policing costs. He anticipated careful consideration will be given to contracting out the service to the organization of their choice.

With respect to big city costs being foisted on the townships, Councillor Legendre did not believe that to be the case. He noted at the time of the garbage contract, costs went down in rural areas as a result the regionalization of the service.

In reference to the on-going expansion into OPP areas, Councillor Legendre wondered if plans for Goulbourn, West Carleton and Kanata had progressed to the point where they could not be halted. Inspector Beechey explained the OPP and the OCRPS keep a running list of officers wanting to transfer but until six months before the actual transition date, the list is quite fluid. He re-iterated, no commitments are made to officers until six months prior to transition.

Councillor Stephenson noted feedback from the residents of Rideau Township has been very positive. People feel they are going to get a good level of service from the OCRPS. He congratulated staff on the excellence of their communication strategy.

Chair Vice thanked Mayor Brooks and members of Rideau Council for their hospitality, noting the Township has been policed well by the OPP but the OCRPS hope to do as well or better, because of the closer proximity of services.

Mayor Brooks thanked the Board and the Police Service for coming out to the community. He stated the Police are always welcome in Rideau Township and people are always anxious to cooperate and be of service.

3. OTTAWA-CARLETON POLICE SERVICES BOARD POLICY FOR
ALLOCATION OF DISCRETIONARY FUNDS
- Board Secretary's report dated 5 May 98

Councillor Legendre questioned the request from the Police Association for \$10,000. Ms. W. Fedec, Board Secretary, explained the request was received for the first time this year and is for the sponsorship of the Canadian Police Association's 50th Anniversary Conference being hosted by the Ottawa-Carleton Association. She suggested if the Board would like more information, the Association should be invited to attend the next Board

meeting to present their case. She noted the request indicates these conferences traditionally receive sponsorship from the local Board.

Member Baskerville wanted to hear the Association's view as to why the Board should provide this money. Chair Vice was also reluctant to support the request, but believed the Board should approve those groups that have been supported in the past.

Councillor Legendre found it strange that the Board funds the Police and Fire Games. He did not believe such events should be sponsored with public funds nor did he see it as fostering better police/community interaction. Chair Vice understood the councillor's viewpoint, but noted the Board has supported this event in the past.

Member Boudreau expressed her support of the first four requests, namely: the Ottawa Crime Stoppers, Ottawa-Carleton Police Youth Centre Fundraiser, Canada Safety Council, and Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. She recommended providing \$1,000 to Crime Stoppers. She recalled member Buckingham's comments from the last meeting with respect to the Peace and Environment Resource Centre (PERC), and believed this type of project fit in very well with, and could be funded from, the Police Service's communications budget. Chair Vice recalled he was very impressed with the delegation and thought their project would be a good value for the money. He wanted assurances that if the Board did not provide the funding, Mr. Pepper would do so from within the Corporate Communications budget.

Councillor Legendre believed the PERC request fit in well with the proposed Board policy and that it is the kind of project the Board should be funding.

Member Baskerville also supported the first four requests and agreed with the suggestion to provide \$1,000 to Crime Stoppers. He believed the Board should fund PERC's request, noting Mr. Pepper could use the money elsewhere in his budget. With respect to the policy, he believed the Board should approve Option 3 - the Establishment of a Discretionary Funds Policy.

Member Buckingham was reluctant to approve anything beyond what has been supported in the past, until there is a clear policy in place. In reference to the request from PERC, she indicated she would expect the communications section to partner with such organizations, therefore she was reluctant to approve the funding. She stated she does not want to encourage people to keep coming to the Board for money. She also questioned the funding for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

Supt. Cuthbert explained the Special Olympics involves very gifted and challenged people. Law enforcement has been supporting this cause for 12 years and has raised over \$6M through pledges and special events. He indicated the money goes towards t-shirts, drinks and buses for the athletes. He stated a kick-off was held on May 5th and the Police

Service presented athletes with t-shirts and pins. Deputy Chief Mackie added the event is a means of community awareness and serves as a link between the police and the athletes.

In reference to the PERC request, Vice Chair Kreling believed it was well suited to the policy and wondered if it was an amount Mr. Pepper would consider spending. Mr. Pepper indicated it is also a good fit with the communication strategy in that some of the things included in their proposal, such as design and production of materials, the police will have to do as part of their own work. The cost of the PERC project would therefore be even less. He agreed to support their request from the communications budget and to work with them.

Moved by A. Boudreau

That the Board approve \$1,000 to Ottawa Crime Stoppers, \$1,200 to the Ottawa-Carleton Police Youth Centre Fundraiser, \$1,000 to the Canada Safety Council, and \$1,000 to the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, for a total of \$4,200.

CARRIED

Member Buckingham did not believe the Board should be paying for tickets to fund-raising events or sponsoring Police Service members to participate in various activities. Though she appreciated that officers give of their time, she maintained such things should not be sustained through public funds. She did not believe the Board should be giving out grants except as a direct partnership in the delivery of a service.

Chair Vice assured member Buckingham that board members very rarely use the tickets purchased for fund-raising events. They are usually given back to the organizations, to distribute to youths or others who would not otherwise have an opportunity to attend these events.

Member Baskerville noted these events enable the Board to provide support and to maintain a presence in the community. He appreciated member Buckingham's concerns but believed it is important for the Board to maintain a presence at these events. He believed the category should be kept in the policy and that requests should be evaluated on an individual basis.

Member Baskerville suggested replacing the "Conclusion" section of the draft policy with wording that would require an annual report to summarize all requests received during the year and list those approved. He felt this would allow the Board to effectively review its policy.

Councillor Legendre noted the wording under the "Board/Police Service Relations" section of the draft policy refers to the goal of "promoting collegiality in policing". He felt

this should be done by the Police Association rather than the Board. Chair Vice noted the Association will often give preference to funding those events but does not commit to doing so. Member Baskerville added these events also serve to enhance the image of the OCRPS.

Member Boudreau suggested removing the words “promoting collegiality in policing and”. She supported the idea of promoting the image of the Police Service but agreed with Councillor Legendre’s comments about promoting collegiality being more the responsibility of the Association than the Board.

Moved by A. Boudreau

That the words “promoting collegiality in policing and” be removed from page 3 of the draft policy.

CARRIED

Vice Chair Kreling noted the RMOC sponsored a function at last year’s FCM conference. Similarly, he believed there was a lot of reciprocal support between policing and municipalities and that it is beneficial to a community as a whole to attract functions to the area. He believed the Board should review such requests annually to decide what it will support.

Member Buckingham agreed it has historically been the practice for municipalities to provide sponsorship for such events but believed registrations should perhaps be a bit higher to cover all costs instead of relying on public funding. She maintained times have changed and suggested maybe it is time such practices ceased.

Moved by G. Baskerville

That the “Conclusion” section of the draft policy be replaced with the following:

The Board Secretary shall prepare and submit an annual report to the Board that will summarize for the completed fiscal year all requests for grants and those approved by the Board. This report shall be submitted to coincide with the annual Police budget review.

At this time the Board will review the policy to ensure that the funding priorities and criteria remain reasonable and reflective of the Board’s own priorities.

CARRIED

Moved by G. Baskerville

That the Board approve Option 3 - Establishment of a “Discretionary Fund” Policy, as amended.

CARRIED
(E. Buckingham dissented)

OTHER BUSINESS

Inspector Beechey stated the OPP will have a float in the Flotilla on Sunday, 17 May 1998 and there is room for a Board member on it. He asked anyone interested to contact him.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

W. Fedec
Secretary

P. Vice
Chair