

## MINUTES

### OTTAWA-CARLETON REGIONAL POLICE SERVICES BOARD

OTTAWA-CARLETON REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
CHAMPLAIN ROOM, 111 LISGAR STREET

23 SEPTEMBER 1996

5:00 P.M.

#### PRESENT

Acting-Chair: Mr. A. Bouwers

Members: Mr. G. Baskerville, Ms. A. Boudreau, Regional Chair P. Clark, Councillor D. Holmes, Councillor D. Pratt

#### REGRETS

Chair P. Vice

#### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**That the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police Services Board confirm the Minutes of the 22 July 1996 meeting.**

CARRIED

#### INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Volunteer Officers at 1996 Olympic Games

Chief Ford introduced Constables Koreen Kimokowich and Damien Coakeley, two officers who volunteered their time to serve as part of an international "1996 Olympic Games Security Team" in Atlanta this summer. Both paid their own way to be a part of the Team. He stated they will be briefing senior officers at an upcoming meeting on security issues they experienced.

Constable Kimokowich stated it was the experience of a lifetime despite being greeted by some initial difficulties. The experience demonstrated to both of them that police officers from around the world can work together to overcome obstacles. She believed

the interaction and friendships they made were critical to making it a positive experience, and she looked forward to renewing those friendships in Sydney in 2000.

Constable Coakeley explained they were among officers from 57 different countries. He stated that when they arrived, they faced one problem after another with the organization behind the scenes. It was the officers who decided they would make it work, and did.

Constable Kimakowich added the officers from around the world relied on each other to answer questions and solve problems, and within three or four days they had established their own help centre.

b) Absence of Board Chair

Vice Chair A. Bouwers noted Chair P. Vice had a successful operation last week and is now recuperating in the Civic Hospital. Chair Vice hopes to be back for the next meeting.

PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

a) "User Pay" Surcharge for Highway Traffic Act Violations  
- letter from Ms. Victoria Mason dated 5 Sep 96

Ms. V. Mason stated she was told there were not enough police officers to do traffic duty because of a lack of money. She suggested imposing a user fee/surcharge for those who break traffic laws as a means of raising money, with the money to go directly into the police budget. She believed the fines could act as a deterrent, and hoped the Board would support her proposal. (A copy of Ms. Mason's presentation is on file with the Board Secretary.)

Chief Ford stated he read Ms. Mason's letter with interest. He pointed out the Kingston Police were currently exploring some of the things mentioned in her letter which the Ottawa-Carleton Police were monitoring closely because of the budget implications. He stated the Region and the province will be discussing the issue of transferring responsibility for the administration of enforcement ticketing of *Highway Traffic Act* offenses to the municipalities.

Chief Ford noted the Kingston Police were looking at a surcharge rather than a ticket because under the *Highway Traffic Act* there cannot be a surcharge on a ticket. He stated the Kingston Police were also looking at decreasing someone's fine if they attended a highway safety lecture.

Councillor Holmes commented the Region of Peel, the City of Mississauga and the City of Toronto were pursuing the use of red light cameras to try to convince the province that it is a good program. They are asking for monies to be returned to the cities and regions to pay for operation of the system.

Acting Chair Bouwers thanked Ms. Mason for her interest and for drawing this to the Board's attention.

b) Evening Patrol of Parking Lots

- Board Secretary's memorandum and attached letter from Mr. Murray, Murray and Murray Parking Control Services, dated 13 Sep 96

Mr. Murray explained the purpose of his presentation was to seek the Board's recommendation to allow his company to provide a responsive type of towing service for the Police Service. He stated his service would free up police officers so they could spend more time on important tasks.

Mr. Murray reported that last year in 23/24 Division there were 462 tows. He calculated that to be 924 manhours based on an average of two hours per tow at \$35/hour, which works out to \$32,000/year. He believed his company could provide parking control as they already have towing rights in the City of Gloucester as appointed municipal officers. In addition, he is currently pursuing a similar arrangement with the City of Nepean and the City of Ottawa.

Mr. Murray stated they have reviewed all possible legal liabilities and have spoken to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and a number of individual Regional Councillors, none of whom see any problems with his proposal.

He believed authority rested with the area municipalities in any case, as they govern parking and towing and they are allowed to appoint officers under the *Police Services Act* for parking control. He reiterated he was looking for a recommendation from the Board to allow them to provide parking control on Regional streets. He stated it would not cost the municipality or the Region any money. His company would contract with a towing company and would charge \$35-40 per tow per call for their service fees.

Chief Ford stated the Police Service only provides by-law enforcement in emergency situations when vehicles must be towed for safety reasons, i.e. if someone is blocking a laneway. However, he offered to have the report reviewed by legal to determine whether it falls within the Board's jurisdiction.

Moved by D. Holmes

**That the proposal submitted by Mr. John Murray, Murray & Murray Parking Control Services, be referred to the Chief for review and a legal opinion.**

CARRIED

#### ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. FALSE ALARM REDUCTION POLICY  
- Chief's report dated 17 Sep 96

Inspector Ian Davidson, a member of the Alarm Committee, presented an overview of the policy to the Board. He began by acknowledging some key people who assisted in the development of the policy: Sergeant John Ferguson, Alarm Administrator; Constable Stephen Miles; David White, RMOC Legal Dept., Ron Farrell, General Manager, ADT Alarms; and, Tom McMullin, General Manager, Honeywell Alarms. The latter two, along with eight other executives from the alarm industry, provided invaluable assistance.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- In developing the policy, researchers consulted: with police services throughout Canada; reports prepared by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and the Ontario Association of Chief of Police; and, the Canadian Alarm and Security Association (CANASA).
- The Ottawa-Carleton Police receive over 20,000 alarm calls annually, 93% of which are false. This represents 12.5% of total calls for service and 11,000 person hours, which translates into an expenditure of \$2.35 million a year. There are presently between 40,000 and 50,000 alarm systems in the Region, and installation is expected to increase by 10 - 15% annually.
- Existing policies have maximized their potential. The response to legitimate calls for service is negatively affected with the present situation, and cost recovery is negligible. In addition, response times, efficiency and officer safety are compromised through complacency.
- The policy proposes an annual registration fee for residential and small commercial properties of \$26.00 and a \$52.00 fee for commercial properties over 2,000 sq.ft. Alarms will require verification if the system is unregistered, or has had excessive false alarms.

- After three false alarms, residential and small commercial properties will be required to have a compliance inspection conducted at a cost of \$75.00 for a first report, and \$150.00 for subsequent reports. Similarly, large commercial properties will pay \$150.00 or \$300.00.
- The policy goals include: to reduce the number of false alarm dispatches; to improve police capacity to respond to legitimate calls for service and public needs; to offset alarm response costs and ensure recipients of police response finance a portion of the cost; to educate alarm holders on responsible alarm use; to encourage the alarm industry to improve their practices; and, to improve response efficiency and officer safety. Cost recovery is estimated at \$1.8 million with full compliance.
- It is proposed that the policy be tabled for public circulation and comment, and then return to the Board for consideration at its meeting on 28 October 1996. Following Board approval of the policy and Regional Council approval of the by-law, a six-month lead-in time for public education is proposed, with full implementation scheduled for May 1997.

A copy of the presentation is on file with the Board Secretary.

Ms. A. Boudreau noted she had several questions about the proposed policy and by-law and would like additional information. As she suspected members of the public would also have questions, she suggested the policy come back to the Board for consideration in November rather than in October. She believed this would allow time for staff to properly address concerns.

Councillor Holmes stated concerns have been expressed to her by schools and institutions such as the YM-YWCA. She inquired whether concerns from these groups were being treated similarly to those of private residents.

Inspector Davidson responded the Alarm Committee discussed the issue of which groups should be approached to provide input. They were prepared to accept direction from the Board regarding which of the many different interest groups should be involved. In response to Councillor Holmes' request, he agreed to ensure the school boards and YW-YMCA received copies of the proposal.

Councillor Pratt raised the issue of consumer protection in situations where individuals have signed contracts with alarm companies that have provided faulty equipment. In these situations, the individual is held responsible for the alarm. He inquired whether staff had been able to address this issue in the policy, or if any thought had been given to publishing the names of firms known to have the highest occurrence of false alarms.

Inspector Davidson replied alarm owners are accountable for false alarms. However, he believed the technology allowed alarm companies to determine with some accuracy how the alarm was caused. If it turned out to be the fault of the alarm company, he thought the owner would have some redress. At the same time, he acknowledged there are very few regulations for alarm providers. At some point in the future, the police hoped to address this problem as well. While police do not recommend one alarm company over another, they are presently considering the option of providing a list of efficiencies for different alarm companies, subject to legal advice, so that consumers can make their own decision on which to use. He felt the list would be effective in reducing calls for service.

Sergeant J. Ferguson also advised that CANASA and the Underwriters Laboratory of Canada are working together to develop national standards, which presently do not exist.

Regional Chair Clark expressed concern that at no time should service be withdrawn, and he felt the proposed policy still contained an aspect of that. He agreed with Metro Toronto's approach that alarm owners are receiving a higher level of service from police and should be paying for it. He also agreed owners with more than two or three false alarms should be held responsible. However, he did not believe service should ever be withdrawn.

Inspector Davidson acknowledged this aspect was one of the most controversial, but noted 18 of 24 police services surveyed in Ontario still support some form of suspension, as do most major services across the country. CANASA also supports suspensions, and all three former police services in Ottawa-Carleton have suspended service for the past six years.

Member Baskerville expressed his endorsement for imposing a charge or penalty after a series of false alarms that can be attributed to either owner error or technical failure. He believed people valued things according to how much they pay for them, and imposing a charge would give people a greater respect for the service provided. He supported the proposed policy as presented, with perhaps some changes to the specific wording.

Member Boudreau acknowledged many other police services and industry representatives had been consulted in developing the policy, but she still expressed concern about how alarm owners and the average person would feel. In order to allow more time to solicit public input, she proposed that the policy come back to the Board for consideration in November instead of October.

Moved by A. Boudreau

**That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board receive and table the False Alarm Reduction Policy and the enacting by-law herein enclosed, to be considered at the Board's meeting in November 1996.**

CARRIED as amended

2. PUBLIC COMPLAINTS REPORT (JULY 1996)  
- Chief's report dated 12 Sep 96

**That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

RECEIVED

3. PUBLIC COMPLAINTS REPORT (AUGUST 1996)  
- Chief's report dated 17 Sep 96

**That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

RECEIVED

4. ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE OTTAWA-CARLETON  
REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE ENTERPRISE NETWORK  
- Director General's report dated 23 Sep 96

**That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board authorize expenditures not exceeding \$1,600,000 plus applicable taxes, for the acquisition of communication equipment and micro computer workstations necessary to implement the Ottawa-Carleton Police Service wide area enterprise network.**

CARRIED

5. ACQUISITION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

- Director General's report dated 23 Sep 96

**That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board authorize expenditures not exceeding \$1,800,000 plus applicable taxes, for the acquisition of Information Technology consulting services related to the approved Information Technology capital project for the Ottawa-Carleton Police Service.**

CARRIED

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES/PAY SYSTEM

- Director General's report dated 17 Sep 96

**That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board approve the execution of an agreement with Price-Waterhouse for the provision of consultant services to assist with the implementation of a human resource and payroll system, for an amount not to exceed \$192,000 (including GST).**

CARRIED

7. COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH (CAD) AND RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RMS) REPLACEMENT PROJECT

- Director General's report dated 19 Sep 96

**That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

RECEIVED

8. PHASE II CLOTHING ISSUE: PERMISSION  
FOR PRE-COMMITMENT OF 1997 BUDGET FUNDS

- Director General's report dated 17 Sep 96

**That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board approve the pre-commitment of 1997 budget funds to acquire clothing for phase 2 of the new uniform issue.**

CARRIED



9. REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP: PERSON'S DAY GALA

- Board Secretary's report dated 16 Sep 96 and attached letter from Ms. Gillian Adams dated 12 Sep 96

Acting Chair Bouwers commented that last year the Board donated its tickets to this event back to the organizers to distribute. He inquired whether the Board wished to do so again.

Moved by D. Holmes

**That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board approve a donation of \$1,500 to sponsor the Seventh Annual Person's Day Gala, to be held on 22 October 1996 in Ottawa, and that the Board's tickets be returned to organizers to distribute.**

CARRIED as amended

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION (NOTICE PREVIOUSLY GIVEN)

10. OTTAWA-CARLETON POLICE SERVICES BOARD  
PROCEDURE BY-LAW: AMENDMENTS AND RE-ENACTMENT  
- Board Secretary's report dated 6 Aug 96

Ms. Shirley Wagschal expressed her objections to the proposed amendment to change the time limit on public delegations from ten to five minutes (a copy of her presentation is on file). She did not believe the Board should be throwing further obstacles before individuals who may wish to make it aware of certain matters or problems of concern to the Board and the Police Service.

She believed the amendment may cause some people to use the media as a means of airing their concerns instead of being allowed to address the Board, and felt it would deprive the public of the right to be heard. She stated an individual needs the full 10 minutes if they really have something to say.

Regional Chair Clark believed five minutes should be adequate for people to make their main points. He noted that even with five minute presentations, the Board can ask for clarification on any point and people would be given additional time in which to elaborate or respond to questions.

Mr. Baskerville congratulated Ms. Wagschal on her concise presentation and for also submitting her comments in writing prior to the meeting. He stated submissions are very helpful as Board members can read the material before the meeting and hence save time.

He encouraged submissions accompanied by a concise presentation as the most effective and efficient use of time.

Councillor Holmes referenced Section 13(5) of the proposed *Procedure By-law* which states, “no Member shall speak more than once to the same question or motion without leave of the Board.”. She suggested similar wording be used to amend Section 28(2), indicating that presentations shall be restricted to five minutes, unless granted an extension by the Board. This would provide flexibility should the Board wish to hear presentations of more than five minutes’ duration.

Moved by D. Holmes

**That the proposed Section 28(2) be further amended to include a statement indicating that presentations shall be restricted to five minutes, except with leave of the Board.**

CARRIED

Moved by D. Holmes

**That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board:**

- 1. Re-enact a revised Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board *Procedural By-law* as amended by the following and as herein submitted:**
  - a) That Sections 10 (1) and 11 (3) be amended by replacing “...not less than three days before the time appointed for the commencement of such meeting” with “...not less than two days before the time appointed for the commencement of such meeting”;**
  - b) That Section 28 (2) be amended to indicate that “Delegations shall be restricted to presentations of five minutes” except with leave of the Board”.**
- 2. Repeal *Procedural By-law No. 1 of 1995* and the amending *By-law No. 1.5 of 1995*.**

CARRIED as amended

11. REGULAR REPORT FROM THE CHIEF AND OPP INSPECTOR

- verbal update from Chief B. Ford and Inspector V. Burns

OPP Inspector V. Burns had nothing to report.

Chief of Police B. Ford reported on the following incidents:

- Since the last Board meeting, the Region has recorded its eighth homicide. On 23 July 1996, the body of John Brow was discovered in his apartment; he had been shot through the head. Investigation is ongoing but it is believed his murder was drug-related.
- The Region's ninth homicide occurred on 23 August 1996 when a 23-month girl was killed in an apartment on Baseline Road. A 19 year old male has been charged.
- The tenth homicide involved a 68 year old female victim. The victim's son has been charged.
- An attempted murder occurred on Ramsay Crescent when a female victim tried to escape through the 11th floor window to an adjacent balcony, and fell. One person is in custody and the victim is in critical condition in hospital under 24-hour police guard.
- Another attempted murder occurred on the weekend in which the victim was beaten and set on fire. Two men have been charged in connection with the incident.
- A province-wide Seat Belt Campaign will take place between 5 - 18 October, 1996.
- As mentioned last month, an Ottawa-Carleton Police officer, Eric Martinet, was honoured by the Canadian Police Association for his role in stopping a bank robbery in progress while off-duty. The Chief was proud to be in attendance at a ceremony in Windsor on 20 September 1996 honouring officers from across the country, including Constable Martinet.
- A free Bike Registration Program was launched on 5 September 1996. The goal is to register each of the approximately 600,000 bicycles in the Region. Chief Ford noted over 5,000 bikes are stolen every year and the program will assist Police in identifying recovered bikes.

- The Ottawa-Carleton Police Diving Squad organized "Project Aware" to help clean up the Ottawa River. It was very successful; approximately 90 divers from the area registered for the event which also raised money for charity. Five old vehicles were removed from the River, as well as many bicycle frames, and even some explosives.
- The Alzheimer Society has asked the Ottawa-Carleton Police to participate in the "Alzheimer's Coffee Break", which will take place in October. Capital Foods, which runs the cafeteria, has agreed to donate funds raised on that day to the Society.

In response to a question from Councillor Pratt, Chief Ford stated last year at this time, there were approximately double the number of homicides in the Region.

**That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

RECEIVED

12. RESPONSE TO INQUIRY:  
IMPROVEMENT TO TELEPHONE SYSTEM  
- Chief's report dated 17 July 1996

**That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

RECEIVED

OTHER BUSINESS

13. Report on Meeting of the Large Police Services Boards

Regional Chair Clark stated he attended a meeting of the Large Police Services Boards earlier in the day. He reported on several issues discussed at the meeting.

A presentation on Proceeds of Crime was made by Mr. Chris Walker from Solicitor General Canada. He stated the three units established by the Solicitor General in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver have proven successful. The Minister recently announced 10 new integrated Proceeds of Crime units would be added, including one in Ottawa. He stated there was a strong feeling that it would be desirable for municipal police services to provide some manpower to the effort. Chair Clark believed we already had two people involved, whose wages are paid by the federal government.

The Regional Chair also described how the Proceeds of Crime revenue-sharing system works. There is presently not much incentive for municipal services to get involved. He offered to prepare something for the next meeting whereby the Board could ask Ontario Solicitor General Bob Runciman to consider some recognition of local efforts through sharing proceeds. He believed this would help offset the Province's withdrawal of unconditional grants and encourage local involvement.

He also noted the RCMP offers two levels of courses on Proceeds of Crime, which we may wish to consider for officers keen to pursue this area.

Another topic of discussion raised at the meeting was Metro Toronto's response to Justice Archie Campbell's report on the Bernardo Investigation. The report expressed concern about miscommunication and lack of follow-up on forensic testing, among other things. In its response, the Metro Toronto Police Services Board expressed disappointment that its operational staff had not kept it informed of problems with delays in receiving forensic results. Chair Clark expressed the hope that any operational issues of concern would be brought to the Board's attention.

The third issue discussed at the meeting were proposed changes to the *Police Services Act*. The provincial government announced during the first week in August that it would be proceeding with changes. Areas of interest include charging tuition fees to recruits without the ability to collect the \$4,000 fee from police services boards. The province is also discussing the possibility of a province-wide standard uniform which would look very much like the new Ottawa-Carleton Police uniforms. These issues may be re-surfacing shortly.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for those present to report on the status of collective bargaining in their respective jurisdictions.

Regional Chair Clark noted another issue raised was that of the transfer of provincial highways to the regional level, and what the costs of policing them would be. He wondered if the Chief had had a chance to review this yet, and stated it would be useful for the Board to receive some information on it.

Regional Chair Clark stated he would provide the Chief with copies of the presentations made at the meeting.

Councillor Pratt commented with regard to Proceeds of Crime that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has also been working on the issue for some time. He strongly endorsed the Chair's idea of a motion addressing the matter, and he believed he had some information which he could share with the Regional Chair.

IN CAMERA

**That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board move In Camera to discuss a personnel matter, in accordance with Section 35(4)(b) of the *Police Services Act*.**

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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W. Fedec  
Secretary

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A. Bouwers  
Acting Chair