

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BRANDON POLICE BOARD HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

PRESENT: Board Members: Deb Arpin, Chair
 Councillor Shawn Berry
 Councillor Barry Cullen
 Mayor Jeff Fawcett
 City Manager Ron Bowles
 Marycia Kruk
 Adetayo Subair
 Shannon Brichon
 Doug Gerrard

Staff: Chief of Police Randy Lewis
 Debbie Nelson, Legislative Services

ABSENT: Paige Jaenen

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

1. ADOPTION OF PUBLIC SESSION AGENDA

Cullen-Brichon

That the Agenda for the Public Session meeting of the Brandon Police Board to be held on Friday, June 14, 2024 be adopted. CARRIED.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Brichon-Berry

That the minutes of the public session of the Brandon Police Board meeting held on Friday, February 23, 2024 be adopted. CARRIED.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Berry-Subair

That the minutes of the public session of the Brandon Police Board meeting held on Monday, April 22, 2024 be adopted. CARRIED.

4. REPORT FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

The Board considered a report from Chief Randy Lewis dated June 14, 2024 where Chief Lewis provided a general overview of the activities within the Brandon Police Service since the April 22, 2024 meeting as well as the current statistics.

Highlights of Chief Lewis' report include:

The Community Level

- BPS Expansion Biweekly Meetings

- Indigenous Advisory Committee Meetings
- Life's Journey Open House Event
- CNIB Get on Board Event
- Downtown Camping Strategy Meeting
- ACC Public Safety Final Inspection Ceremony

The Provincial Level

- Air Incident Presentation by RCMP
- Manitoba Criminal Intelligence Centre Virtual Meeting
- Premier Wab Kinew's Public Safety Summit
- Brandon Police Service hosted the Manitoba Association of Chiefs' of Police Spring meeting (1st time in MACP history)

The National Level

- Nothing to report

Chief Lewis spoke about "Project Blockade" a joint effort between the Brandon Police Service, the RCMP and the Winnipeg Police Service conducted on June 7 & 8, 2024. He explained that the investigation was aimed at street level as well as online sexual exploitation and that 21 adult males were arrested for obtaining sexual services for consideration or communicating in a place for that purposes. Chief Lewis confirmed that the arrests were made on streets in the Downtown area as well as local hotels, and further, 9 vehicles were also seized during the operation. He noted that this was the third such operation conducted in the Downtown area in 3 years and that each time approximately 20 arrests were made.

Chief Lewis provided a brief update on the Community Cadet Program advising that six new Cadets had begun their training and would be sworn in as Community Safety Officers on June 28, 2024 and continue with their field training throughout the summer months. He noted that the additional six had brought the complement up to nine; however, one had since resigned so the group was now short two people so another advertisement had been sent out this week.

Statistics

The Chief noted that Methamphetamine continued to be a concern with members successful in removing approximately 100,265.54 grams to date in 2024. He noted that each gram of Methamphetamine equals 10 doses of the drug, hence well over 1 Million doses had been removed from the streets.

Chief Lewis reviewed the calls for service noting that the total number of calls for service received as of May 31, 2024 was 15,555, which represented a 5.92% increase over 2023 and a 4.03% increase over the 10-year average. He confirmed that calls for service are higher than they've been in the past 10 years with property calls for service increasing at a higher rate than usual and court order calls for service (warrants, curfews, breaches) also increasing.

2024	Calls for Service	Calls Per Sworn Officer (96)
January	3,332	34
February	2,738	38
March	2,851	30
April	3,224	33
Total	12,145	135

Chief Lewis advised that non-sworn members continued to process files and support the Brandon Police Service with 2,123 Criminal Records Checks processed up to May 31, 2024 compared to 2,083 to this time in 2023.

Notable Files

Chief Lewis advised that on April 23, 2024 a BPS Officer pulled over a semi tractor-trailer containing 25 pallets (approximately 7.8 million cigarettes) of illegal cigarettes valued at approximately \$4 Million. He confirmed that an adult male from Winnipeg was arrested and charged with selling/transporting tobacco products as well as possessing more than 25 units of unstamped tobacco.

Chief Lewis also spoke about the seizure of 100 KG of Methamphetamine valued at over \$800,000 by BPS members where an adult male from Brampton, Ontario was arrested and charged with Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking Methamphetamine.

Chief Lewis reported that on June 7th & 8th, 2024 the Brandon Police Service, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Winnipeg Police Service Counter Exploitation Units united and entered into a Joint Forces Operation named Project Blockade. He explained that the investigation focused on street level as well as online sexual exploitation. Chief Lewis confirmed that police arrested 21 adult males for obtaining sexual services for consideration, or communicating in any place for that purpose. The arrests took place in the downtown streets as well as in local hotels within the City of Brandon. Chief Lewis also noted that 9 vehicles were seized during these arrests. He stated that this was the third such operation in three years and all had netted similar results.

5. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Chief Lewis provided the Board with an update on the Brandon Police Service budget. He noted that there was a projected surplus of \$518,000 for 2024. He explained that the surplus was comprised of a \$504,000 surplus in the Police Operating costing centre and a \$14,000 surplus in the Police Vehicles costing centre. Chief Lewis noted that the forecasted surplus also included additional revenues of \$120,000 resulting primarily from additional Provincial Funding for the Missing Person Coordinator position and an increase to the budgeted parking ticket revenue and compliance ticket revenue. Chief Lewis advised that unbudgeted expenses such as the Police Chief recruitment costs, and costs associated with the increased downtown office space for the growing Cadet Program offset some of these savings.

6. UPDATE ON THE DETENTION CENTRE BUILD

Acting Deputy Chief Greg Hebert provided a verbal update on the Detention Centre build, noting that the sally port was near completion, the offices were complete and furnished and they expected to be occupying the offices by the end of next week. He also noted that the cells were complete except for the sliding doors, the laundry room was complete and dependent on the completion of inspections, it was anticipated that the detention unit would be occupied by the end of July.

7. BRANDON POLICE SERVICE STAFF SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Chief Randy Lewis provided the Board with an update on the recent retirements from the Brandon Police Service including himself (officially retired April 30, 2024 as Acting Chief but staying on as Chief until a replacement has been found); Karen Vincent, Cst. Bruce Ewanyshyn; and Cst. Chris James. Chief Lewis also reminded the Board of the upcoming Graduation Ceremony for the Cadets as well as two upcoming Promotion Ceremonies.

8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

September 20, 2024

9. ADJOURNMENT

Subair-Kruk

That the Public Session of the Police Board meeting be adjourned. (12:40 p.m.).
CARRIED

Debbie Nelson

Debbie Nelson, Secretary