

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BRANDON POLICE BOARD HELD ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

PRESENT: Board Members: Deb Arpin, Chair
 Mayor Jeff Fawcett (exited at 12:50 p.m.)
 Councillor Shawn Berry
 Councillor Barry Cullen
 City Manager Ron Bowles
 Doug Gerrard
 Paige Jaenen
 Marycia Kruk
 Adetayo Subair
 Shannon Brichon

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

ABSENT: Nil

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

NOTE: Prior to the adoption of the agenda the following motion was carried unanimously:

Fawcett-Cullen

That the Brandon Police Board immediately move in-camera to discuss a personnel issue. CARRIED

The public and administration left the room and were called back in at 12:45 p.m. to begin the public session of the meeting.

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, February 23, 2024 be adopted. CARRIED.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Gerrard-Berry

That the minutes of the public session of the Brandon Police Board meeting held on Friday, December 8, 2023 be adopted. CARRIED.

3. REPORT FROM THE ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE

The Board considered a report from Acting Chief Randy Lewis dated February 24, 2024 where Acting Chief Lewis provided a general overview of the activities within the Brandon Police Service since the December 8, 2023 meeting as well as the current statistics.

Highlights of Acting Chief Lewis' report include:

The Community Level

- BPS Expansion Biweekly Meetings
- Indigenous Advisory Committee Meetings
- School of Justice Advisory Committee Meeting
- Crimestoppers Luncheon
- Kairos Blanket Exercise
- Chiefs of Police Meeting with Premier Kinew

The Provincial Level

- Manitoba Retail Security Task Force Monthly Meetings
- Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police Spring Conference Planning Meeting

National Level

- National ICE Meeting

Statistics

The Acting Chief noted that methamphetamine continued to be a concern with members successful in removing approximately 1614.43 grams from the streets in 2023 and 116.29 grams to date in 2024. Acting Chief Lewis advised that a total of 4 possession charges were laid so far in 2024 and that number remained unchanged from 2023 while trafficking charges decreased to 2 (-50% from 2023).

Acting Chief Lewis reviewed the calls for service noting that the total number of calls for service received in 2024 so far was 4,749, which included 29 by-law related calls and 168 calls for animal control. He confirmed that the average number of calls per sworn officer was 48 and provided the following data:

2023	Calls for Service	Calls Per Sworn Officer (96)
January	2,787	30
February	2,537	27
March	2,876	31
April	3,102	33
May	3,384	36
June	3,296	34
July	3,407	35
August	3,627	38
September	3,357	35
October	3,061	32
November	2,758	29
December	2,586	27
Total	36,788	387

2024	Calls for Service	Calls Per Sworn Officer (96)
January	3,332	34
February	1,427	15
Total	4,759	49

Acting Chief Lewis spoke about the Ride-A-Long Program, which provides individuals with an interest in law enforcement an opportunity to shadow an officer during their shift and experience first-hand the types of calls officers attend and how they are handled. There were thirty-eight (38) ride-a-longs in 2023 with 18 being students from the Public Safety Course at ACC. The total number to date in 2024 has been eleven (11) with eight (8) of those being students from the Public Safety Course at Assiniboine Community College.

Acting Chief Lewis advised that non-sworn members continued to process files with 633 Criminal Records Checks processed to this date in 2023 and 643 thus far in 2024.

Acting Chief Lewis advised that the finalized 2023 Crime Stats were now available and had been shared with the Board as part of their agenda packages. He noted that there had been a significant increase in the number of homicides with a record setting 6 in 2023; however, arrests had been made in all these tragic incidents. Acting Chief Lewis also spoke about the increase in Youth Criminal Justice Act offences noting that same were mainly due to several individuals charged in numerous multiple offences. He noted that it was encouraging to see many different other crimes trending in the right direction.

a) Waiver of Fingerprint Fees for Residential School Survivors

Acting Chief Lewis referred to his presentation to the Board at the December 2023 meeting with respect to the waiver of fees for fingerprints for Residential School Survivors to reclaim their birth names and obtain official documents. He explained that a change to the City of Brandon Fee Schedule was required to be approved by City Council for the waiver of such fees and confirmed that this item would be presented to City Council for their consideration at a meeting in the near future.

4. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

a. 2023 Budget Update

Acting Chief Lewis provided the Board with an update on the 2023 budget and noted that the current projection was a surplus of \$333,157 for 2023 from the Council approved budget amount of \$16,939,454.

5. FINANCIAL UPDATE – 2024 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Acting Chief Lewis updated the Board on the 2024 City of Brandon Budget Deliberations advising that City Council had approved the BPS Budget for 2024 at \$19,350,748, an overall increase from the original request. He noted that changes included an increase to funding to add four (4) additional cadets for Downtown Security, an increase to parking ticket revenue and reduction in the impound fee revenue compared to the original submission by the Board.

6. EDUCATION SESSION – POLYGRAPHS – CST. PAM KLASSEN

Cst. Pam Klassen provided a powerpoint presentation on the Brandon Police Service Polygraph Unit. Cst. Klassen noted that this is the first time that BPS has had their own polygraph unit, previously either the RCMP or the Winnipeg Police Service provided polygraph services for Brandon. She explained that a polygraph instrument detects deception based on a person's physiology such as breathing rate, movement of blood in the body or sweat gland activity. She noted that the total time for a polygraph examination was 2 – 3 hours; however, this included the pre and post interviews and the test itself only lasted about 15 – 20 minutes. Cst. Klassen also advised that the test was completely voluntary, participants were not under arrest and were free to walk out at any time.

Cst. Klassen spoke about the types of investigations that can use a polygraph which included any criminal investigation in which a suspect is being accused of a physical act that he/she is denying with the absence of sufficient evidence, assault on a child who was unable to speak for themselves was used as an example. She advised that polygraphs were also used by employers, including Brandon Police Service, when hiring new personnel.

Cst. Klassen spoke about the training required to become an accredited Polygraphist. She confirmed that accreditation included a minimum of 10 weeks (400 Hours) of in-person training, inclusive of studies of ethics and standards, scientific testing, physiology, psychology, techniques, instrument operation, test data analysis and reporting. Accreditation also included 80 hours of practical applications (mock examinations) and Polygraphists were required to be re-evaluated every 4 years at the minimum.

In conclusion, she noted that although the polygraph test results were not admissible in court, everything said in the room prior to and after the examination may be admissible. She also reiterated that polygraphs were used as a last resort, a full investigation, inclusive of interviews with the suspect by the Detectives, was always required, and alternatively, if the suspect passed the polygraph, they can be removed from the suspect pool. Cst. Klassen reviewed the statistics and advised that the test used in criminal testing is American Polygraph Association validated and has an accuracy of approximately 90% either way.

7. DIGITAL EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE

Inspector Marc Alain provided the Board with an update on the Digital Evidence Management System. He reminded the Board that this was a Provincial initiative that was expected to become standard across the Province of Manitoba police agencies. He advised that the tender had gone out and the Province was in negotiations with the successful bidder, he noted that he was not able to say the name until those negotiations were completed. Inspector Alain confirmed that once the agreement was reached the pilot project which included Brandon Police Service, Winnipeg Police Service, Manitoba First Nations and Manitoba Prosecution Services. He noted that the purpose of the system was to collect all evidence digitally and be ready to send it out to prosecution services or other institutions as needed. He stated that he expected the pilot project would wrap up in June with the first agencies fully coming on board in the Fall.

8. UPDATE ON THE DETENTION CENTRE BUILD

Acting Deputy Chief Greg Hebert provided an update on the Detention Centre Build and advised that they were approximately four weeks from moving into the cells. He advised that once the cells were occupied the work would continue on the other parts of the building and finally, the landscaping would be completed once the frost was out of the ground.

9. UPDATE ON THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT & THE 2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

Acting Chief Lewis reported that both documents were nearing completion and would be forwarded to the Board for comments/questions prior to being submitted to the Manitoba Police Commission by the March 31, 2024 deadline.

10. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

April 19, 2024

11. 2024 CAPG CONFERENCE

The Chair advised that the annual CAPG Conference was to be held August 8 – 11, 2024 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She invited anyone interested in attending to contact the Board Secretary, Debbie Nelson, as soon as possible. She noted that there were two spots available for Board members and should more than two people show interest, the Board would decide who the two attendees should be.

12. BPS STAFF RECOGNITIONS AND NOTABLE EVENTS

- a. Acting Chief Lewis advised that RCMP Members from Winnipeg travelled to Brandon to present members of the Brandon Police Service with their Officer in Charge of Major Crime Services Certificate of Appreciation for their assistance with Project Daccord. He thanked all BPS staff involved whose hard work assisted with solving the murder of James Giesbrecht.

- b. Acting Chief Lewis spoke about the January 25, 2024 traffic stop where Officers seized 9.1 KG of Fentanyl with a street value of over \$1.1 Million and thanked those involved for doing a great job of getting that out of the hands of criminals. He also reported that charges had been laid in the 6th homicide in Brandon in 2023, with charges now having been laid in all 6 homicides in 2023.

Acting Chief Lewis shared that a Celebration of Life would be held March 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Grand Salon of the Victoria Inn honouring Constable Lucien Ethier. He reminded the Board that Const. Ethier passed from a medical event on February 5, 2024. He noted that Const. Ethier had been with the Brandon Police Service in various capacities for 12 years and had come to BPS from the Dakota Objibway Police Service where he had spent a number of years in various capacities. He stated that Lucien was a dedicated officer and would be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of working with him.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Berry-Jaenen

That the Public Session of the Police Board meeting be adjourned. (1:15 p.m.).
CARRIED

Debbie Nelson

Debbie Nelson, Secretary