

Riverdale Municipality Police Board  
Special Meeting  
August 17, 2023  
Riverdale Municipal Office Boardroom

Present: David Creighton - Chair, Board Members Gerry Gourlay and Denis Rondeau, Chief Lon Schwartz.

Guests: none, but three public observers sat in for part of the meeting.

Chair Creighton called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

Denis Rondeau moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Gerry Gourlay. **Carried**

Gerry Gourlay moved to accept minutes of the previous meeting that were distributed electronically, seconded by Denis Rondeau. **Carried**

**New Business:**

- Review of Budget: Copies of the budget report were distributed and reviewed with a discussion. Overall it appears as though the total budget is on track and is lower than last year to date. Specific concerns were Dispatch Service costs and office expenses. The dispatch line item is 10% over the total budget for the year at this point but Lon advised that the figure shown is billed once per year and represents the entire year costs. This item is a fixed cost so we will need to adjust the 2024 budget to better reflect the actual cost for this service. In regards to the office expense Lon believes that fingerprint equipment is shown here rather than under capital expense.

**Motion:** Denis Rondeau - Gerry Gourlay That the budget report be accepted as presented. **Carried**

- Staffing Update: Chief Schwartz advises that regular officer numbers remain at full strength and we have a couple of A/Cst's that are leaving and one person that is having background checks completed for an A/Cst. position. Our Department usually maintains 5 or 6 six A/Cst's and we have five presently. They provide a valuable service for our regular officers.
- Expansion opportunity update: nothing to update on this topic other than than Chief Schwartz says a lot of positive comments from Province and Fed's (RCMP Supt).
- Policing Update in the Banner: Chief submitted another police update report to the Banner that list all the activities that officers have been involved with during the past month. The committee is impressed with this initiative that keeps our community updated on policing activities and response.
- Community Meeting: further to our plan to have a community consultative meeting this Fall. We will plan it for the Behlen Lounge at the Community Centre and look at the week of Oct 16. Gerry will inquire as to availability of the Hall that week.

- Mythbusters Idea: Chief Schwartz will publish comments he has heard or recent public discussions and provide a police perspective.
- Drug Screening Device: Chief Schwartz reports that a new piece of equipment is being made available to police in the province. The oral fluid drug screener can be used by police to detect the presence of some drugs in oral fluid, including THC (the active drug ingredient in marijuana). The current method of detecting impairment by a drug is through close observation and evaluation by a specially trained officer. The unit cost \$11,000 and we would need to pay that initially but we would get reimbursed by the Province. We will await more info on this equipment before making a recommendation to purchase one.
- Concerns from ratepayers: a letter was sent to council with various concerns. The letter was distributed to the Police Board for review and the contents were discussed. It was decided that David will invite the author to our next meeting for further discussion and to clarify his concerns.
- Further discussion followed regarding word of mouth concerns received by Board Members. Some golfers had concerns about the check stop outside the golf course after men's golf night recently. The Chief explained that their office had received "numerous" complaints of drinking and driving at the golf course. The police conducted a check stop and screened drivers for impairment. Lon said there were two IRP's (Immediate Roadside Suspension) as a result of roadside screening failures. He added that this summer, during patrols throughout the area the officers have nine IRP infractions and one impaired driving charge which he suggested was high for a community of our size.
- Another concern was from a person who happened along a vehicle rollover North of Rivers in Oakview RM. Our officers responded because of its close proximity to assist until the RCMP could attend. The concern was that one of our officers was too aggressive in conversation with the individual. The Chief was aware of this situation and will seek out and video that may be available from emergency vehicles dash cameras.
- Facebook comments were noted by Board Members and the Chief from a mother concerned about the type of language (violence) used by teenagers at the elementary school playground. The police officers will monitor the area and have in the past stopped and spoke to and visited with kids playing basketball there. Apparently this same behaviour may be occurring at the skate park so that area will be monitored as well. There are kids and young adults at the playground and skate park well after dark (9:30 PM - 2 AM) with no noticeable police presence. Police will monitor these areas.
- Unit 503: Good news to report that the Chief has picked up the used Tahoe vehicle from the RCMP. This is of no cost to us but we will need to get the police equipment for it. Chief Schwartz advised that he has a lead on getting good used equipment that will meet our needs for this vehicle. Despite being a used vehicle it has relatively low mileage and is in good shape. We can expect to get a couple of years or more of use from it.

- In-camera session:

**Motion:** Gerry - Denis that we now proceed to an in camera discussion. **Carried**

**Motion:** Denis - Gerry that we now return to our special meeting. **Carried**

- The Police Board recommends Heather Lamb to be considered for the Provincial Appointee for our Police Board.

- Questions from council:

1. If patrolling in another municipality, where does the ticket statistics get placed to? The Chief stated that when tickets are issued the wording is "in or near \_\_\_\_\_ municipality." If the location is near our Municipality is gets put to ours otherwise it will go as a stat to the municipality where the stat occurred.

2. MPI program, is it still viable for us? The Chief responded that this program allows our officers to get further experience and training. It also pays each of our officers a few thousand dollars to enhance the wage we pay them (\$20,000

available for us to claim each year). The program has provided valuable equipment for free such as the licence plater reader, however doesn't allow for fuel / vehicle costs. To combat this aspect our officers regularly ride with other police services such as RCMP or CN Police. We will review this program at year end.

3. Fuel Costs: 501 has used significantly more fuel than 502, is that due to 502 being offline for awhile? Yes, 502 was unavailable for a few months.

4. Salaries are higher than previous year at this time, is that due to wages being shown from MPI program? The budget update that we have today shows that wages are at approx \$182 k YTD this year and \$216 k YTD last year. This indicates that we are \$34 k below last year to date. The council must have been looking at incorrect data.

5. Any suggestions for an appointment from council for new member of the police board? Discussion held and the Board and Council will be asked to find a person willing to sit in this capacity.

- New Vehicle Update: David said that procurement could take 18 months to acquire a new police vehicle so we should start the process soon. This topic will be tabled until the next meeting to discuss that process.
- Roundtable: Chief Schwartz advises that in-car camera's have arrived but need to hire an installer. The units are brand new and still in the box. Winnipeg Police will calibrate our radar units. Police building needs some plumbing repairs, Kat is looking into the problem. Local crime trends include illicit tobacco and sex offences against underage girls. A block parent program is being considered for our community. The train display at Millennium Park continues to be problematic with damage and apparent drug use. A suggestion was to ask for it to be fenced in but we should seek input from Donna Morken as she may have some ideas. Youth strategy needs input from the community - looking for stakeholders to brainstorm ideas. Noteworthy enforcement comments are that our officers had a cocaine seizure of a street value over \$9,000. Also a pedophile was arrested. Positive ticket campaign going over well.

- Roundtable (con't): MAS and IRP's need to be explained via a media release (Mandatory Alcohol Screening - Provisions that allow police to screen every driver on the road with the Alcohol Screening Device (ASD) to ensure that the driver is sober and IRP is Immediate Roadside Prohibition which is a summary process to address impaired drivers that have not been charged previously or are not grossly impaired. The drivers license is seized for 90 days and the vehicle is impounded. MPI addresses each case to determine when the subject gets their license back. People who get an IRP do not get charged under the Criminal Code and do not need to go to court. Subsequent offences get dealt with via Criminal Code charges though). Roadside screening stats are high so we will continue to monitor motorists. Traffic ticket enforcement is returning significant funds to the Mun.

David advises that the EMO budget being revisited for backup power for police station. He also announced that the municipality now owns the four lots adjacent to the Mun Office (formally Shelley's Mom's Restaurant).

- Chair Creighton noting no further business nor discussion asked for a motion to adjourn. Denis made that motion at 7:45 PM.

Originals signed and dated by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerry Gourlay, minute taker

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Chair David Creighton

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Date \_\_\_\_\_