

**Riverdale Municipality Police Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**October 13, 2022**  
**Riverdale Municipal Office Boardroom**

Present: David Creighton - Chair, Board Members Kiarra Peters, Gerry Gourlay and Denis Rondeau, Chief Lon Schwartz, and Riverdale CAO Kat Bridgeman.

Chair Creighton called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.  
Gerry moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Denis. Carried.

Denis moved to accept minutes of the previous meeting that were sent electronically, seconded by Kiarra. Carried.

**New Business:**

- Update on police vehicles status: Chief Schwartz advised that Unit 502 is limping along and only being used when necessary. Unit 501 still not sold, asking \$5,000 OBO but although there have been some people who looked at the vehicle the Municipality has not received any offers.
- VEMA: Kat advised that there has been no update. David volunteered to follow-up to ascertain the status of receiving a replacement vehicle for 502.
- Staffing: Constables (Sohit) Maini and Dennis Rollins are getting attention from other agencies and soon may be accepting permanent positions with other police services. Cst. (Geoff) Thiessen is working full time here but does put in shifts in Cornwallis on his days off. The Chief of Cornwallis PS, Darwin, who has been off duty for medical reasons is expecting to retire soon and it is likely that Geoff may take over as Chief there. Chief Schwartz stated that he is trying to keep six Auxillary Cst's active by asking each of them to complete two or more shifts / month.
- MPI program: To date \$16,000 spent out of \$20,000 total available. These funds pay for wages and equipment.
- Budget: Kat advises that year to date there has been \$417 k spent on the \$470 k budget. Some discussion followed with Kat highlighting briefly some of the line items that are over budget including dispatch, office supplies and vehicle maintenance. The vehicle maintenance was expected. With some adjustment yet to be made there will be approximately \$70 k in budget for the balance of the year.
- David said that we will begin to discuss the 2023 budget at our next meeting.
- Admin support: Dennis spends the majority of his work time (approx. 70%) in the office doing admin work, i.e. CPIC and Court files. The Chief is trying to reduce Dennis' admin workload so he can get back out on patrol and conducting

investigations more hours each shift. There have been two people who have approached the Chief offering to do admin work for the office. Both appear to be

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- very qualified and one is currently doing this type of work for another policing service. There is no opportunity to utilize any current Municipal Admin staff as their current duties keep them very busy. It would be very helpful to have some admin support on a part time basis if we can manage to find funding for that service. Other officers are being trained to do some of the admin work to allow Dennis time off.
- Boot and Uniform options: David described how EMS staff obtain uniform. They use a point system whereby an officer obtains points based on how many hours he/she works. When enough points have been collected they can order replacement uniform pieces. EMS also has a boot allowance of \$200 that can be used once every three years. David will work at how a point system may be utilized by our officers and report back to the board. We expect and insist that officers kit, clothing and equipment meet industry standards, such as steel-shanked boots. Necessary items such as winter parkas, toques and warm gloves are necessary items and must be available for our staff despite how many points have have accumulated. These considerations will be incorporated into any kit and clothing system that we adopt. Most officers already have kit and clothing that meets and exceeds industry standards but they have purchased same using their own money. If our allowances could at least cover recommended standards then officers could still opt for more expensive equipment if they pay the difference.
- Garbage cans at Kirkham's bridge: Sometime ago one of our officers, as a field training initiative developed a plan to find a solution to reduce calls for service to the Kirkham's bridge area. Many calls during summer months received in regards to a mess being left by people using the area for tubing and kayaking. The plan included providing a garbage can and the initiative was successful but now emptying the can falls on the police. Lately there has been household garbage that someone must be hauling there for disposal. Denis asked why this situation is a policing matter as garbage collection is an area that the municipality is in a better position to address. Maybe a dumpster placed there with regular pickup would resolve this issue. David will bring this issue up at Council to ask what the municipality could do on this matter.
- Radar units: Chief Schwartz advises that two new radar units have arrived. The Chief had submitted an application through civil assist forfeiture (Provincial Gov't) and received funding as a result to pay for these radar sets.
- There is one old radar unit that is no longer needed. It is not worth much to sell as it is an older model but still works. Chief Schwartz said that they work closely with the Motor Carrier Enforcement Team (MCE) and they would probably have a use for this unit. Kat advised that the unit is not on the asset list so no problem in disposing of it. The Board Members agreed that we could give it to MCE. We get a lot of training and support from MCE officers so this is a good gesture.
- Firearms and Taser recertification training: Chief stated that this training has been conducted and there are a couple of officers who require some updating but everyone else is fully certified as of Sept 30. Springfield PS provided an instructor

and we only paid for his room and meals in accordance with the agreement made with a partnering PS.

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- Criminal Record Checks: This process is going online and will be up and running on Nov 7. This process will streamline this process and save many hours of admin.
- Automated court records: This too will be online shortly and will be a big time and expense saving as the current process is to photocopy and mail large court files to lawyers offices.
- Manitoba Justice training: Andrew Minor is planning to come out and train new board member, Kiarra as well as meet and provide information with new municipal councillors as well.
- Training opportunities: Interview and Interrogation course and Search Warrant course are available this Fall. Both courses would be beneficial for one or more of our officers. Currently the Chief is the only one who has this level of training but is not possible for him to conduct all major interviews and prepare all search warrants. The Chief pushed the SW course to next year but would try to have someone attend the I & I training.
- Wage review: There is one year remaining on the emergency services Municipal levy. David said that wages are a critical aspect of us maintaining our staffing levels. Recent salary increases in other police service organizations has opened a very wide wage gap between us and others. This discussion will be subject to upcoming budget projections where we hope to offer satisfactory compensation while respecting budget restraints.
- Regional Policing Model: Ongoing discussions are being held with Elton, Whitehead and Cornwallis municipalities to determine if there may be a workable model that would work well for all of us. This wouldn't necessarily mean that those agencies would forego their contract with the RCMP. Possibly we could provide traffic enforcement and other services that the RCMP have challenges in delivering everywhere they have contracts. If we took on that role it could bring some additional funding and resources to our municipality. Another meeting is planned for early November. The new council will be briefed on the direction these meeting take.
- Cornwallis dispatch: Concerns were brought up that Cornwallis PS may be using our dispatch services which may have extra cost implications for us. Chief Schwartz said we have been a close ally with Cornwallis for years. They have one officer on their police service and that officer, Darwin has been on medical leave. Our Cst. Geoff Thiessen has been working there to fill in. Cornwallis is not on the EMS dispatch system and this was an issue when Geoff was working there and became involved in a high speed pursuit. Geoff had difficulty using a cell phone in that situation. Once Geoff determined who the suspect was he terminated the pursuit. The RCMP some days later attended the suspect's residence with charge documents Geoff had provided them. The suspect barricaded himself and shot himself, suffering fatal injuries as a result. Chief Schwartz spoke to dispatch services about this situation and they indicated they would place Cornwallis on the dispatch service under our umbrella but at no cost until details can be worked out. Geoff uses one of our radios

when he works at Cornwallis presently as an officer safety issue. David asked the Chief to ensure that the radio use in Cornwallis is of no cost to us. David said that EMS pay \$1.50 each time the microphone is keyed in the ambulances so Chief Schwartz will follow up if that is the case for us.

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### **Upcoming expenses to anticipate:**

- Chief Schwartz lead the following discussion.
- Exhibit fridge: There is a need to store some biological exhibits in a fridge once seized to keep them for laboratory or other investigation. We currently have an old fridge that is not in secure storage but if it is moved into the secure area then not all officers have access. A second fridge would allow a location to store these exhibits until the exhibit custodian can move them to secure storage. Suggest a new fridge at an approximate cost of \$700.
- Tasers: Due to the model X26 being obsolete we are left with two useable X2 tasers, one is nine years old and the other is two years old. New X2's cost \$3,000 The newest model is a X7 and cost \$7,000 because it requires a charging station but extra X7's would cost \$3,000 and can use the same charger. One new X7 is recommended as that model should remain relevant for many years.
- The Chief said he will investigate the civil forfeiture fund for taser funding.
- Narcan: - Our kits are expired. (Note: Narcan is administered if a person is subject to contact with opioids, or if a person overdoses on opioids.) Police often come in contact with drug users and can become contaminated by highly toxic drugs. Having narcan kits available could be utilized to save the life of police, drug users or anyone contaminated if administered quickly. All Police Officers are required to have narcan available. Kits are \$125 each and we need to buy five. Direction by the Board for the Chief to obtain narcan kits.
- Office computers starting to fail: a list will be supplied to Kat.
- Alcohol Screening Devices (ASD): (used for roadside checks) ASD's are getting old and starting to fail acuray checks. Three units are required and it is suggested that one be purchased each year for the next three years to keep the unit current.
- Body cams: Some of our officers have been using their own and this has resulted in resolving some bogus complaints. These camera's may become mandatory for police so need to be considered in future.
- Remote start: Chief suggested remote starters for new vehicles. David thought that the new vehicles should have that capability built it already. Chief Schwartz will inquire if that is the case.
- Intoximeter (aka breathalyzer): Keeping our intoximeter current is expensive and it currently requires a new card reader that is estimated to cost over \$1,000. Currently there are no officers who are trained to use the unit. The current practice is to transport suspected impaired drivers to Brandon PS who conduct the breath testing for us. Brandon has not be charging us for this service to date. The Chief suggested that we sell it, no idea what value it has. A suggestion was since it was not on the

asset list we could give it to Brandon PS in exchange for them to continue to conduct breath testing for us at no cost.

**Old Business:**

- There was no old business to discuss.

**Round Table:**

- Gerry brought up the solid line on 2nd Ave situation that was discussed in previous meetings. No enforcement was being conducted due to a loophole regarding crossing a solid line to park in a parking lot. Gerry asked if this could be revisited as the situation continues to occur many times daily and should be considered a safety risk. Possibly warning tickets could be issued to offending motorists to bring attention to the safety concern. The Chief suggested that a municipal bylaw to enforce this practice could be drafted and signs posted in the area. The signs would indicate something like parking only to the right. Kiarra mentioned that she received concerns that if crossing the solid line is not allowed then there should be marked crosswalks to allow safe crossing within the block. This was discussed but consensus was that crossing the road (jaywalking) is safer than driving over the solid line. Or, pedestrians could cross at intersections if they didn't want to jaywalk. The Chief had no concerns with pedestrians crossing the road in mid block.

**Adjournment:**

- With no further comments nor business to discuss David moved to adjourn the meeting and Gerry seconded the motion.
- Next meeting is scheduled for December 15 at 4:30 PM at Riverdale Municipal Office.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

