MINUTES of the open portion of the regular meeting of the OAK BAY POLICE BOARD held by Zoom Video Conference on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Board Members: 
Kevin Murdoch, Chair 
Blair Littler 
Wendy Zink 
Mary Kelly 

Chief Constable 
Ray Bernoties 
Deputy Chief Constable 
Mark Fisher 
Police Board Secretary 
Barbara Sherman 

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED and seconded: To adopt the agenda of the January 26, 2021 regular board meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

MOVED and seconded: That the Minutes from the open portion of the regular meeting of the Oak Bay Police Board, held on November 24, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. STANDING ITEMS:

4.1 Strategic Plan

Ms. Zink presented a draft to the Board of a Terms of Reference for Consulting Services. Chief Bernoties was directed to coordinate with the District representative to have a Request for Tenders go out. Responses can be screened and reviewed in camera.

MOVED and seconded: That the Terms of Reference for Consulting Services is approved and can move forward to the Request for Tender stage.

CARRIED

4.2 Accountability Report

Deputy Chief Fisher presented the November-December 2020 Accountability Report, which showed two new complaints under the Police Act. Both allegations are being investigated by external policy agencies.

MOVED and seconded: That the November-December 2020 Accountability Report be received.

CARRIED
5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

5.1 Overtime Reports
Deputy Chief Fisher presented the Overtime Reports for 4th Quarter of 2020. He gave a brief verbal summary:

- No sick time in October
- Impact of patrol sergeant being on sick leave was felt through November and December
- Training at the fire hall required some overtime being incurred
- Overtime was down compared to 2019
- Salary and overtime for 2020 came in under budget, in part due to vacancies.

Chief Bernoties noted that with the elimination of two positions in 2021, the off-set of overtime by reduced salaries is not anticipated to exist to as large a degree as in the past.

5.2 Chief’s Monthly Report

Building Renovations: Renovations have been completed on the Interview and Breathalyzer Rooms, making better use of the available space. Sgt. Perry, who has received training in trauma-informed interviewing, has re-designed the Interview Room to make it a softer, more inviting space for victims of crime. For 2021, renovations are beginning in the basement to create a more functional meeting/training space. With exterior access already in place, this space is envisioned to be suitable to host meetings with members of the public in attendance.

Covid Update: With a few restrictions in place, the front office remains open to the public during regular office hours without compromising the health and safety of staff. Office staff have been rotating working from home. Very little covid-related enforcement action has been required of police in Oak Bay. Most people appear to be compliant with public health orders.

Electric Vehicle Update: Requests for Tenders have gone out and the closing date is approaching. The goal is to find a vehicle that will be ergonomically suitable for all members, with consideration being given to the various physical sizes and the amount of equipment required.

5.3 Crime Trends and Statistics
Deputy Chief Fisher gave a verbal report on crime trends and statistics. Consistent with other police agencies, calls for service were significantly lower in 2020. Not surprising given the number of people staying at home during the pandemic, residential break and enters were down by half and vehicle collisions were also significantly lower. Thefts from unlocked automobiles is still an issue and mental health calls were up from the year before. More recently, an increase in the number of homeless people in the area has been noted. The Mental Health Team has been very helpful working with police in several situations. A more formal report will be presented to the Board at the February meeting once statistics have been gathered.
6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 Police Board Appointment – Christine Hall

Order in Council received appointing Christine Hall to the Oak Bay Police Board, effective January 22, 2021. The Chair and the Chief Constable have been discussing an orientation for her. It is expected that she will be sworn in prior to the February 23 meeting.

MOVED and seconded: That the Order In Council be received. CARRIED

6.2 For Information Only

A note of thanks was received from a member of the public.

MOVED and seconded: That the note of thanks be received. CARRIED

6.3 BCAPG AGM, March 6 2021

A notice of the Annual General Meeting of the BC Association of Police Governance was received, along with a call for resolutions.

Discussion regarding previous resolutions and the status of the Police Act Review. There had been concern that Boards and Police Chiefs had not had input. A committee had been struck, but has not been restruck since the last provincial election was called.

Also discussed was training for police board members. The Board was impressed by the value that they took from the ICD training; however, that training is no longer offered and has not yet been replaced. The Board considers this to be important and would like to present a resolution to this effect at the BCAPG AGM.

Action: Ms. Zink to draw up a resolution requesting training. The deadline for submissions is February 5 therefore a special meeting will need to be called to have the Board review it prior to submission.

Action: The Chair directed that the item “BCAPG Update” be included as a Standing Item on future agendas.

MOVED and seconded: To receive the correspondence from the BCAPG. CARRIED

6.4 JIBC Recruit Training

Correspondence received from the Justice Institute of BC, requesting a 3-year projection of recruit training. Chief Bernoties confirmed that there are no plans to hire a recruit in the foreseeable future.

MOVED and seconded: To receive the correspondence from the JIBC. CARRIED
ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED and seconded: That the open portion of the meeting be adjourned and that a closed session be convened to discuss personnel issues, which may be deal with in private under the Police Act.

CARRIED

The open portion of the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Certified Correct:

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Secretary, Oak Bay Police Board  Chair, Oak Bay Police Board