

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NELSON

Nelson Police Board MINUTES

Nelson, British Columbia
December 16, 2008

THE TENTH REGULAR MEETING of the Nelson Police Board for the year 2008 was held at the Nelson Police Department Boardroom, 606 Stanley Street, Nelson, BC, on Tuesday, December 16, 2008.

PRESENT: Mayor John Dooley - Chair
Director Barrie Taylor
Director Bryan Smithson
Director Mike McIndoe
Director Leona Ashcroft

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Dan Maluta
Inspector Henry Paivarinta
Board Secretary Brita Wood

REGRETS: Director Maskerine

1. ADOPT AGENDA

Moved by Director Smithson, seconded by Director Ashcroft,
And Resolved:

That the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Director Smithson, seconded by Director Taylor,
And Resolved:

*That the Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Nelson Police Board of
November 25, 2008, be adopted as circulated.*

CARRIED

3. PRESENTATIONS / AUDIENCE WITH BOARD

None

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a. Updated Strategic Plan Presentation to Council – December 15, 2008 – debrief

Director Smithson congratulated those presenting the Strategic Plan update to Council, commenting on the professionalism demonstrated. The questions asked by Council gave the Board the impression that Council is becoming more comfortable with the role of the Police Board and that the role the Board plays makes ours a better police force. Chief Maluta thanked Director McIndoe for his assistance with the presentation.

A gentleman in attendance presented a passionate, articulate letter about the use of Tasers and their use undermining public confidence in the police. This provided an opportunity for the Chief to respond to these concerns immediately, for the benefit of Council and the public via the reporters in attendance.

The Board suggested that it may not be getting educational messages out to the public often enough, and a discussion ensued regarding ideas for increasing communication with the public. Methods of communication included:

- Website monthly news bulletin
- Regular communications in the paper
- Letters to the editor of local newspapers
- Board authored articles in local newspapers
- Using Police Week in May to showcase the Department's initiatives

Mayor Dooley reported that in 2009, the City plans to allocate funds specifically for a communication consultant. This person would advise managers of various departments, including the police, regarding communication strategy.

This item was tabled to the March 2009 meeting, once the budget is established.

b. Report from Police Board Training, December 6, 2008 – Directors Smithson/Taylor

Director Taylor - Director Taylor appreciated attending the Police Board Orientation Training and his interaction with those present, and in particular:

- VPD Chief Jim Chu's presentation provided an interesting perspective. Chief Chu commented that his relationship with the Vancouver Mayor, as Chair of the Board is friendly, but they are not necessarily friends.
- Vancouver Police Board Director Glenn Wong's presentation.

There was a discussion with respect to accommodation at the Board conference, with a view to cost savings. Additionally, the Board Secretary will determine whether a venue evaluation form is available for Director Taylor to provide his feedback.

An idea Director Taylor appreciated hearing from the meeting is that some Departments use strategic targeting to combat crime, rather than simply reacting to it, using the Compstat model. The Chief advised that Nelson PD already engages in proactive pursuit of known prolific offenders, and this has proven to be very valuable in the past.

Director Taylor will submit a formal report on this training session at the January meeting.

Director Smithson – Director Smithson described the speakers at this session as being impressive and motivating. He realized that there is such a thing as a poorly researched question, and was motivated to access information from Police Services Division, the *Police Act* and relevant websites.

Other Boards form standing committees. He thinks the Nelson Board could function effectively without these, although ad hoc committees may be warranted from time to time. Coastal Departments are evolving towards the Compstat model, utilizing a computer program that extracts call information and plots calls on a map. Nelson is a small enough community that the NPD are able to track priority areas without a formal computer program.

Director Smithson realized the value of the Board speaking with one voice, regardless of the individuals' opinions on various topics, supporting the Chief and avoiding undermining decisions, which can be destructive to the well-being of the Board and therefore the Department.

Director Smithson requested that the Board Secretary arrange to have crime statistics provided by Inspector Paivarinta, posted on the website.

c. Nelson Police Board Annual Report – Director Maskerine

Tabled to the next meeting

d. Revisions to the BC Police Act – review and comments

The Board collaborated and provided comments on the Vancouver Police Board's proposed changes to the *BC Police Act*. The Board Secretary will submit the Nelson Police Board's input to the President of the BC Association of Police Boards.

Moved by Director McIndoe, seconded by Director Smithson,
And Resolved:

That the Business Arising from the Previous Meeting be received.

CARRIED

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. Chief's Report

Because Cst. Scott-Pryke is on leave, no Community Policing Office report is available for this meeting, but all CPO activities will be captured for the next meeting.

Earlier in December the Department participated in the food bank charity event "Cram the Cruiser". A patrol truck parked at Save - On - Foods collected four pickup loads of goods for the food bank.

The Department is recruiting Reserve (part-time volunteer) Constables to participate in a training program in the spring of 2009, to be organized and administered by Cst. Scott-Pryke. The Department has advertised in the Express and the Nelson Daily News, with a less than overwhelming response. Our goal is to train six new Reserves. The Fire Department is experiencing similar difficulties recruiting volunteer fire fighters. The Board suggested recruiting through alternative venues such as:

- Facebook
- MyNelson.com
- City of Nelson website
- Nelson Daily News story on volunteerism
- Site visits to Selkirk College, Insight Electronics, Aquatic Centre to target the demographic directly
- Board members are to conduct a speaking tour to the service clubs,

with the assistance of Cst. Scott-Pryke and a package of information for distribution at these venues. Mayor Dooley requested the Board Secretary provide a list of the City service clubs to the Directors.

Operational Issues

Halloween night was an extremely busy night for the members. The Reserves assisted, as did the Chief and Inspector until 4 am. Additionally four IRSU members assisted. Nelson typically experiences bar hopping and walking on the street openly consuming alcohol as well as numerous house parties. The significant police presence resulted in the prevention of any serious events other than a few arrests for minor infractions. This evening is an example of the City of Nelson receiving good value from the RCMP/NPD integrated IRSU members, since the support of the IRSU team was extremely beneficial on Halloween night. Nelson RCMP Highway patrol members assisted in Castlegar, but both Castlegar and Trail anecdotally reported much less activity.

The NCO Team has met with Kootenay Lake Hospital administration to establish policies for committal of Emotionally Disturbed Persons. As a result of these efforts, police member wait times have been reduced since the hospital has agreed to put EDP's in safe holding rooms at their facility in order to free up the members to take other calls for service.

The Nelson Police Department participated in the December 1, 2008 Inaugural Council Meeting by recognizing four individuals: Cst. Chuck Brind'Amour received his 20 Year Exemplary Service Medal; Cst. Jay Noppe received a gift of recognition for his accomplishments with the North American Motorcycle Officers awards in May 2008; Director Anna Maskerine received a shadow box containing NPD patches for her service on the Police Board; Det. Cst. Paul Burkart was granted a Chief's Commendation for his off-duty seizure of drugs, currency and resulting arrest. The Chief thanked the Board members who attended this meeting.

With respect to the Department's infrastructure, the audio/video updates that accompanied the 9-1-1 upgrade have been completed. To date, the new camera/videotaping system has worked flawlessly. The Chief sent a letter to Kevin Begg, Director of Police Services, and invited his A/V Standards Working Group to visit the site to review the new system. The Chief expects this new system is of such a high calibre, it is hoped it may be used as the model for the Province.

In terms of maintenance of the building, worn carpets were replaced in December 2008, the janitorial contract with the existing provider was renewed (realizing a saving of \$9000 annually over the previous provider of two years ago) and the police exhibit room exhaust fan will be upgraded

in order to dissipate the overwhelming odour of cannabis and hashish when these substances are stored. At the Mayor's suggestion, the Chief will obtain a copy of the recently adopted City of Nelson Climate Action Plan in order to comply with the Plan's recommendations for reducing carbon emissions when completing such upgrades.

Chief Maluta has been working with Noreen Clayton, Emergency Coordinator for RDCK on emergency evacuation planning. The Chief has allocated assembly points and evacuation routes based on the 8 strategic zones making up the City. He will bring the document to the January 2009 Board meeting and review with the Directors the mechanics of the plan.

The next big project for the Department will be fine-tuning the budget in January, including By-Law, 9-1-1 and Victim Services.

Director Ashcroft indicated she prefers the Chief's report to be verbal at the meeting rather than in written format included with the Agenda package. The other Directors agreed that unless an issue requires advanced notice or preparation on their parts, a verbal report is adequate. Chief Maluta suggested that his report in the written format is a more effective method of comprehensive reporting for the benefit of City Council, since they receive a copy of his detailed written report.

b. Inspector's Report

Nothing to report.

c. Financial Reports

Financial Reports to November 30, 2008

The Police Board budget is on track at approximately 8% remaining to the end of 2008 with significant revenues yet to come. Chief Maluta expects to be significantly under-budget because of two members off on WCB.

Moved by Director Taylor, seconded by Director Smithson,
And Resolved:

That the Department Reports be received.

CARRIED

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Nothing to report.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION

- a. Thank you to Peter Hartridge from St. Joseph School
- b. Thank you from Diane Riel, KLH
- c. Letter to Sgt. Severyn re Cst. Hoy from Dana Barter

Moved by Director Smithson, seconded by Director McIndoe,
And Resolved:

That the Correspondence and Information be received.

CARRIED

8. NEW BUSINESS/LATE ITEMS

- a. **Police Station Directional Signs – Director Ashcroft**
Director Ashcroft requested that Nelson Police Department directional signs be erected at all entrances to the City.

Moved by Director Ashcroft, seconded by Director Smithson,
And Resolved:

That the Nelson Police Department approach Public Works to install directional signs to the Nelson Police Department at all entrances to the City.

CARRIED

The Board Secretary was asked to write to the RDCK requesting that the sign at the City Transfer station be changed to read “Nelson Police Department” rather than “RCMP” will be called in the event of abusive language used toward employees.

- b. **Whistleblower Policy – Director Smithson**
Director Smithson confirmed that a Whistleblower Policy is covered by Section 65.1 in the *Police Act* and therefore drafting a Department policy is redundant. The Chief advised that the Police Association has educated the members on this provision in the *Police Act*. The Board directed the Chief to confirm this provision with the Sergeants at the next NCO meeting for them to relay to their platoons.
- c. **Number of Police Board Directors – Director Smithson**
The Board discussed the merits of increasing the number of Board Directors versus just replacing Director Maskerine when she leaves and keeping the number the same.

Moved by Director Smithson, seconded by Director Ashcroft,
And Resolved:

That the composition of the Board remain at 5 members plus the Mayor.

CARRIED

The Board Secretary was asked to contact Bob Cole from Police Services Division to initiate advertising for the Board position.

d. Draft 2009 Police Board Meeting Schedule

Moved by Director Smithson, seconded by Director Taylor,
And Resolved:

That the 2009 Police Board Meeting Schedule be adopted with amendments.

CARRIED

e. Cst. Turner's Swearing In – Wed. Jan 7, 2009 @ 9:00 am

Chief Maluta invited the Police Board Directors to attend the swearing in of the Department's new Constable at the Court House. Mayor Dooley expressed his regrets because he is in Cranbrook that day. The Board Secretary was requested to remind Board Members of this event and date.

f. 2009 BCAPB Conference & AGM – Feb 20, 21, 22, 2009

The Board Secretary was requested to research accommodation rates for this Conference in Vancouver. In order to save travel costs, the Board discussed the option of car pooling.

9. ADJOURNMENT/CONFIRM DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Moved by Director Smithson, and seconded by Director Ashcroft,
And Resolved:

That the Tenth Regular Meeting of 2008 of the Nelson Police Board be adjourned, and the next meeting be held on January 20, 2009 beginning at 3:00 pm.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

B. Wood
Secretary

[Signature]
Chair

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 20, 2009
Time: 3pm - Nelson Police Department Board Room**