

**LACOMBE POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 13, 2023**

Attendees: Corey Gish, Chair
Cameron Penstone, Vice-Chair
Sonja Dykslag, Commission Member at Large
Elaine Willette-Larsen, Commission Member at Large
John Soderberg, Commission Member at Large
Cora Hoekstra, City of Lacombe Councillor

Others: Staff Sgt. Bryan Zens, Lacombe Police Service
Diane Piché, Director of Corporate Service

Regrets: Ken Kulak, Public Complaints Director
Tracy McKinnon, Senior Financial Manager
Chief Lorne Blumhagen, Lacombe Police Service
Jennifer Peterson, Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1. Chair Gish called the meeting to order at 8:58 am.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

2.1. Chair Gish read the Land Acknowledgement.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3.1. April 13, 2023, Lacombe Police Commission Agenda was presented for adoption.

(23.23) **MOVED by Elaine Willette-Larsen, Seconded by Cameron Penstone,** to adopt April 13, 2023, regular meeting agenda, adding under information if time permits 9.7 Body Cameras.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1. March 9, 2023, Lacombe Police Commission meeting minutes were presented for adoption.

(23.24) **MOVED by Cora Hoekstra, Seconded by Cameron Penstone,** to adopt the March 9, 2023, minutes as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1. There were no presentations.

6. REPORTS

6.1. *Chief of Police Monthly Reports: March 1, 2023 – April 1, 2023

Staff Sgt Bryan Zens presented Chief Blumhagen's report to the Commission as information. The additional items shared are as follows:

- Professional Standards - one complaint is still on file. Waiting until the criminal matter is resolved.
- Street Checks - new guidelines and training programs are in place. A service directive was circulated to members to review.
- Operationally - during the past month: 335 calls for service, 110 tickets, 19 criminal charges, 109 Police Information Checks, and 11 persons were lodged in LPS cells.
- Trending - last month, are break-in garages and sheds of residents.
- Training - 3 members participated in an Acting Sergeant course (3-day), and 3 members attended training sessions with Child and Family Services.
- Future needs - currently have 3 officers in training.
- The SRO vehicle will be moved into the police fleet for patrol and replaced by a newly sponsored vehicle from Lacombe Ford, an F150. The old SRO vehicle will be useful to the service because it includes the police package needed for a policing vehicle. The F150 is now getting the police decals and policing package added, and it will hopefully be available and ready to go on display for the Trade Show.
- Staff from LPS attended the funeral for the two members of EPS that died in the line of duty in March.
- A discussion occurred regarding the APIS E-Ticketing and issues with the towing bills when APIS suspensions occur or are overturned.
- Questions from Counselor Hoekstra were shared with Staff Sgt. Zens to follow up with the Chief.

6.2. *School Resource Officer Report and Statistics

Constable Wilzer's (SRO) report was presented as information.

6.3. *Budget and Variance Report (Actual vs Budget 2023)

Chair Gish presented the Actual vs Budget 2022 report. Director. Piché confirmed that any surplus would be moving into reserves.

6.4. Public Complaints Director Report

In PCD Kulak's absences, Chair Gish reviewed the extended complaint on file.

6.5. Chair Report

Chair Gish provided her report, which included a meeting with the LPS Chief to review the LPC meeting agenda.

6.6. Vice-Chair Report

Vice-Chair Penstone presented his report for review.

6.7. Council Rep. Report

Councillor Hoekstra presented her report for review.

(23.25) **MOVED by Cora Hoekstra**, Seconded by *John Soderberg*, to accept reports (6.1/6.2/6.3/6.4/6.5/6.6/6.7) as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1. Letter on Police Service Regulation Amendments – Calgary Police Commission

The Commission discussed the concerns outlined in the letter and the direction they would like to take. Commissioner Penstone reported that a letter had been developed and will be sent by Chair Gish to the Calgary Police Commission regarding their letter dated February 2, 2023. In the Lacombe Police Commission letter, it will be reported to the Calgary Police Commission that after reviewing their recommendations, the Lacombe Police Commission agrees with them and, in addition, wants to further emphasize the following:

- The regulations needed to define the difference between a “performance issue” and a “discipline issue” involving a police officer.
- The Lacombe Police Commission supports the creation of an independent police review commission and will ask the province if the changes are properly resourced.
- With provincial appointees, the LPC wants to see the continuance of political independence.
- The regulations should require that all appointees follow local commissions’ codes of conduct and policies and live in the community the commission represents.
- The new regulations should allow local input into provincial appointees to fill gaps in the commission's need for expertise or diversity.
- As an added request, the Lacombe Commission wants to see the Minister’s office develop a framework policy manual for municipalities to follow and localize to their communities.

7.2. Policy Manual Review

The Commissioners discussed the reviews to be completed on the policy for 2023. The Commissioners will ask Ms. Peterson to implement all changes noted, and with respect to 2.11(8), please leave it as is.

(23.26) **MOVED by Cora Hoekstra**, Seconded by *Sonya Dykslag*, moved to make the changes as noted in the correspondence to Jennifer Peterson, Secretary.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.3. Organizational Review of Administrative Support (May 2012)

The Commissioners discussed completing this review to offer information regarding the growth and development of the service since 2012. A question was raised as to what the review will provide moving forward. The commission feels that a report that provides feedback on directions moving forward would be of value, and a report that just says, “Good job,” you made the changes suggested in 2012 is not as valuable. They would rather have a robust review and would be willing to discuss the associated costs. Chair Gish will share the commissioner’s viewpoints on this topic with the Chief.

7.4. 2023 Community Survey

The Commissioners discussed the survey that was shared in “test” mode. It was felt that the survey was ready to go with the changes noted by the Commissioners. Chair Gish will provide Ms. Peterson with the changes.

7.5. Trade Show Attendance April 21 & 22

The Commissioners discussed the trade show and have signed up for times to serve at the tradeshow and interact with the community. The iPad will be provided for commission members to direct citizens to complete the community survey when visiting the booth at the trade show.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Community Watch

Staff Stg. Zens reported that Cst Walker indicated that the Community Watch and the Neighborhood Watch Chapters dissolved last year as there was no interest from the public to continue this chapter.

8.2. Lacombe Police Commission and Council Informal Supper Meeting

The Commission has been invited to an informal dinner meeting with council members and asked to propose date options. The commission will propose June 8 or June 15, 2023, as possible dates.

8.3. Notice of AAPG Annual General Meeting – Call for Nominations & Resolutions

Lacombe Police Commission will not be making a nomination or resolution this year They will table the contemplation of submitting a resolution asking the province to create a Policy Manual Framework that commissions could use as a template when working on their local policy manuals.

9. INFORMATION

9.1. Financial Reserves Council Policy

This is a replacement policy for the previous reserve policy. The proposal is to categorize the reserves as per Table A in the proposed policy, but within the categorized list, we would still see the Lacombe Police Service’s actual reserve amounts. In addition, an optimal balance reserve amount will be provided for the various reserve areas. The Commission had a question about what happens if you are “over” or “under” the optimal reserve balance amount.

9.2. Race Self-Identification on AB Drivers Licenses Results

AAPG sent out the survey to all AAPG members, they had 53 responses.

9.3. Town Hall dates for Public Safety Ministry

The Commission is unaware of the content of this item and, if needed, will revisit it.

9.4. RFP to Host 2024 AAPG Conference & AGM

Lacombe Police Commission’s offer to host in 2024 was turned down, but we were asked to consider hosting in 2027. It was determined that we could not consider this as many of the current Commission members may not be on this committee, and we feel that it is unfair to commit to hosting without knowing the commission membership.

9.5. 2023 AAPG Conference & AGM Program

The Commissioners discussed who would be attending and having a dinner meeting on Thursday evening at 7:00 pm.

9.6. ALERT Information Session

The ALERT information session is planned for April 28, 2023, from 1:30 to 4:00 pm in Lacombe.

9.7. Body-Worn Cameras

LPS is reaching out to other services to determine costs, implementation, training, storage of data etc. The province has mandated body-worn cameras, but the province still needs to present costs, security, storage, and infrastructure support. Whether the province will fund the requirement or whether each service must cover the costs is unknown.

10. STANDING ITEMS

Commissioners acknowledged standing items.

10.1. LPC Annual Work Plan Review

10.2. Review of Chief’s Salary and Benefits

This item is in place as per the Chief’s contract for the 2023 year.

10.3. The Next Meeting Confirmation

Commissioners confirmed the next meeting date to be May 11, 2023, in the Community Room at Lacombe Police Services.

11. IN-CAMERA

(23.27) **MOVED by Elaine Willette-Larsen, Seconded by Sonya Dykslag,** to enter In-Camera at 11:05 am to discuss the following:

- Legal (FOIP Section 17)
- Labor (FOIP Section 24)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(23.28) **MOVED by Elaine Willette-Larsen, Seconded by Sonya Dykslag,** to return to Open Meeting at 11:20 am.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. ADJOURNMENT

DECLARED by Chair Gish that the regular meeting is adjourned at 11:20 am.

____ Original Signed ____
Chairperson

_____ Original Signed _____
Secretary