

**LACOMBE POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 9, 2023**

Attendees: Corey Gish, Chair
Cameron Penstone, Vice-Chair
Sonja Dykslag, Commission Member at Large
Ken Kulak, Public Complaints Director
John Soderberg, Commission Member at Large
Cora Hoekstra, City of Lacombe Councillor

Others: Chief Lorne Blumhagen, Lacombe Police Service
Diane Piché, Director of Corporate Service
Tracey McKinnon, Senior Financial Manager
Stg. Josh Smith, Lacombe Police Services
Jennifer Peterson, Secretary

Regrets: Elaine Willette-Larsen, Commission Member at Large

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1. Chair Gish called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

2.1. Chair Gish read the Land Acknowledgement.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3.1. February 9, 2023, Lacombe Police Commission Agenda was presented for adoption.

(23.11) **MOVED by** *Cameron Penstone*, Seconded by *John Soderberg*, to adopt February 9, 2023, regular meeting agenda as amended to add 10.5 Policy Manual Review to 10. Standing Items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1. January 12, 2023, Lacombe Police Commission meeting minutes were presented for adoption.

(23.12) **MOVED by** *John Soderberg*, Seconded by *Cameron Penstone*, to adopt the January 12, 2023, minutes as amended, to correct a grammatical error in 9.2 Review of the 2021-2023 Human Resource Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. PRESENTATIONS

- 5.1. Sergeant Smith shared his experiences with ALERT for the past three years with the Commission. He highlighted some of his experiences from warrant writing, training and being involved in several ALERT operations. He expressed excitement to share his knowledge and training with the Lacombe Police Services members.

6. REPORTS

6.1. *Chief of Police Monthly Reports: January 1, 2023 – February 1, 2023

Chief Blumhagen's report was presented to the Commission as information. The additional items shared are as follows:

- A civil claim has been received that is part of an outstanding complaint.
- A vehicle theft occurred in Lacombe, and with the assistance of On-Star and other agencies, the vehicle was recovered, and an arrest was made.
- The Chief attended a two-day AACP and ALERT meeting. A conversation occurred at the session regarding training costs, and cost savings were identified. The Lacombe Police Services should see a \$20,000 reduction in recruit training.
- Attended a meeting with McEwan University regarding Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE), then discussed with Director Lapointe participating in a practicum study on ATE.
- Participated in a meeting with Kings University on police mental health.
- Due to the delay with the ordered SRO vehicle, the current vehicle will be purchased and put into the LPS fleet, and then an option to lease a truck for the SRO program will be considered.

6.2. *School Resource Officer Report and Statistics

Constable Wilzer's (SRO) report was presented as information. Chief Blumhagen shared that Constable Wilzer was the lead in developing the Cop Cards. The cards, including the recruits and Sergeant Josh Smith, will be ready for the April trade show.

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

Tracey McKinnon, Senior Manager of Finance, presented the Actual vs Budget 2022 report. She highlighted that the 2022 Actual had not been finalized, and once the debenture payments and final transfers are completed, the Lacombe Police will see a surplus of about \$100,000. The Actual vs Budget 2023 report was presented but is not up-to-date, as the focus has been to finalize the 2022 year. The up-to-date report will be ready for the March meeting.

6.4. Public Complaints Director Report

PCD Kulak advised the Commission that a Civil Claim has been received and three new public complaints. Two will have to go through the court system; the other one, Staff Sergeant Zens, to respond. The complaints received through the website have been forwarded to Lacombe Police Services for follow-up.

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, which included a review of the Policy Manual and the Police Act Amendments.

6.7. Council Rep. Report

Councillor Hoekstra's report was present for review; no additional information was added.

(23.13) **MOVED by Cora Hoekstra**, Seconded by *Ken Kulak*, 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. Oath of Office of Reappointment Members

Chief Blumhagen administrated a group Oath of Office. The Commissioners in attendance affirm their commitment to the Lacombe Police Commission. Commissioner Willette-Larsen's oath was administrated at the January meeting.

7.2. Lacombe Police Commission Members' Self-Assessment Goal Setting

The Commissioners discussed the survey results and setting goals based on the results. Upon review, it was agreed that the survey results were strong. They will continue looking for ways to encourage an open line of communication with members, whether a lunch meeting or an invite to the public commission meeting. A follow-up with the members that participated in the survey last year is to occur to allow them to comment on the process.

The Community Survey occurs every three to five years; the last survey was done in 2019. Chair Gish and Chief Blumhagen will review the 2019 questions and amend them if needed. The survey will be available at this year's trade show.

7.3. 2023 AAPG Conference & AGM June 2 & 3, Confirm Attendance

Chari Gish shared with the Commission that the AAPG has received three RFP applications to host the 2024 AAPG Conference and has not heard yet who has been selected.

Six commission members have confirmed availability for the 2023 AAPG Conference & AGM. Ms. Peterson will look after the registration and hotel rooms and follow up with Commissioner Willette-Larsen on her availability.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. ALERT – ICE (Integrated Child Exploitation) Investigative Unit

Chief Blumhagen advised the Commission that he had been approached by ALERT regarding a secondment of an LPC member for a three-year term to the ICE Investigative Unit. He shared the many benefits LPS will gain from having a member seconded to them. He has also confirmed that there will be regular mental health check-ins and programs for the member during their time with them and after the secondment has concluded. Chief Blumhagen requested the Commission provide direction on whether the seconded position could be backfilled or filled from the current authorized strength.

The discussion on this item has been tabled to In-Camera.

- 8.2. APIS (Alberta Administrative Driving Sanction Program) – Towing Bills, Cost Recovery
Chief Blumhagen advised the Commission that Police Services are seeing fees associated with a 30-day seized vehicle returned to the municipality when the sanction is overturned. This flaw in the program has been brought back to the province for discussion.

The Commissioners discussed several ways this expense could be mitigated in the in-term. Ms. McKinnon has added the item as a discussion during the 2024 operating budget planning.

- 8.3. Letter on Police Service Regulation Amendments – Calgary Police Commission
This item has been tabled to the March 9, 2023, meeting.

9. INFORMATION

- 9.1. Lacombe Express Article – SRO Program
The article was provided to the Commission as information.
- 9.2. ALERT Media Release – Project Radar
The article was provided to the Commission as information.
- 9.3. Police Tech Conference and Expo
The convention and expo will be held in Toronto, ON.

10. STANDING ITEMS

Commissioners acknowledged standing items.

- 10.1. Policy Manual Review
A complete overview of the manual is to be completed by the committee. The PCD changes in the Police Act Amendment will be addressed in the amendments.
- 10.2. LPC Annual Work Plan Review
A Photo of the Commission members will be added to Standing Items until completed.
- 10.3. Chief's Self-Assessment
Commission Dykslag will send Chief Blumhagen the self-assessment survey to complete.
- 10.4. Completion of LPS/LPC Annual Report
The draft report is scheduled to be completed by the end of February. The document's formatting will align with the 2023 – 2025 Strategic Plan.
- 10.5. The Next Meeting Confirmation
Commissioners confirmed the next meeting date to be March 9, 2023, in the Community Room at Lacombe Police Services.

11. IN-CAMERA

(23.14) **MOVED** by *Cameron Penstone*, Seconded by *John Soderberg*, to enter In-Camera at 11:06 am to discuss the following:

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- 11.1. Labour (*FOIP Section 24*)
11.2. Legal (*FOIP Section 17*)

(23.15) **MOVED by** *Cameron Penstone*, Seconded by *Cora Hoekstra*, to return to Open Meeting at 11:47 am.

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(23.16) **MOVED by** *Sonya Dykslag*, Seconded by *Ken Kulak*, to authorize Chief Blumhagen one surplus to authorized staffing strength to backfill a seconded position to the ALERT ICE unit.

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12. ADJOURNMENT

DECLARED by *Chair Gish* that the regular meeting is adjourned at 11:50 am.

____ Original Signed ____
Chairperson

____ Original Signed _____
Secretary