

**LACOMBE POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 11, 2023**

Attendees: Corey Gish, Chair
Cameron Penstone, Vice-Chair
Elaine Willette-Larsen, Commission Member at Large
Ken Kulak, Public Complaints Director
John Soderberg, Commission Member at Large
Steve Christie, Provincial Appointed Commission Member
Cora Hoekstra, City of Lacombe Councillor

Others: Chief Lorne Blumhagen, Lacombe Police Service
Tracey McKinnon, Senior Financial Manager
Jennifer Peterson, Secretary

Regrets: Sonja Dykslag, Commission Member at Large
Diane Piché, Director of Corporate Service

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1. Chair Gish called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

2.1. Chair Gish read the Land Acknowledgement.

3. COMMISSIONER OATH OF OFFICE – PROVINCIAL COMMISSION APPOINTEE

3.1. Chief Blumhagen formally swore in Provincial Commission appointee Steve Christie. A copy of the Ministerial Order appointing Steve Christie as the provincial appointee to the Lacombe Police Commission Members on April 24, 2023, was provided to the Commission.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4.1. May 11, 2023, Lacombe Police Commission Agenda was presented for adoption.

(23.29) **MOVED by Elaine Willette-Larsen**, to adopt May 11, 2023, agenda as amended by including Old Business 8.6 Response letter to the Calgary Police Commission and Information 10.2 Email – Formal Appointment of Provincial Commission Member.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5.1. April 13, 2023, Lacombe Police Commission meeting minutes were presented for adoption.

(23.30) **MOVED by Cameron Penstone** to adopt the April 13, 2023, minutes as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1. There were no presentations.

7. REPORTS

7.1. *Chief of Police Monthly Reports: April 1, 2023 – May 1, 2023

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

- CPO agencies met for the annual meeting. Brazeau County, Ponoka County and the County of Lamont have joined the CPO monitoring services. There will be 13 agencies, with ongoing discussions with another agency.
- Budget items- Ms. McKinnon provided a budget timeline. Any capital budget items over 10 000 need to be identified by July and submitted.
- Pricing out the body-worn cameras. Looking at the option to contract vs purchasing. Leasing for the year has a potential cost of \$45,000. The police tasers will need to be updated soon. A possible contract service for a year is about \$10 000. The current body armour is suitable for daily use but has been identified as a shortfall in a severe incident. They will need to look to update to hard body armour.
- Met with Human Resources to discuss payroll concerns.
- After the election, the department will know how much funds have been allocated for body armour upgrades.
- Our members attended a police funeral for the RCMP member killed in the line of duty. Members on shift are compensated for attending; members not on shift their wages are not reimbursed. All travel expenses are covered.
- Met with Health IM staff to implement a program with the local hospital.
- Members have attended training sessions. Great strides are being made in getting back into training. The training budget is in line.
- Travel costs are up due to instructor-level training needing to be updated. No standardized instructor training within the province. Pennsylvania offers all the activity in one area.
- A call was put out to the province to see who could facilitate the instructor firearm training. The City of Lethbridge has agreed to assist in the instructor training recertification.
- The RCMP are not open to letting municipal police attend their training. If an outside organization has registered, they would be bumped to allow for an RCMP member needing the training.
- Sgt. Smith is going to Ottawa for a Senior Administrator course. The Lacombe Police Service is made aware of training within our area and the county.
- Members are being sent to instructor training to allow for a level of training in-house. Recertification training needs to be done by external agencies. LPCS senior members are sent to assist in recruit training, allowing them to keep their skills level up.
- The report is back from MacEwan University on the recommendation for the ETI program regarding intersection safety and speed on the green. The recommendations will be on hold until the moratorium is lifted.
- Attended AACP planning meeting to prepare for a discussion with the Premier on supporting police officers, the perceptions of police service, and the increase in police deaths. Met with Premier Smith and Minister Ellis to deliver the message. It was very well received during the Premier meeting.

- Attended the ALERT presentation. There were some takeaways. ALERT has a lot of working work going on.
- The Chief was voted in as Chair of the National Intelligent Committee for two more years.
- Flags are lowered for fallen members. LPS recognizes any fallen member as part of our family. The Lacombe Police Services has a policy identifying when flags should be lowered.
- The VSU proposed changes are still outstanding.

7.2. *School Resource Officer Report and Statistics

Constable Wilzer's (SRO) report was presented as information. Kudos to the SRO officer on her report and how relative to the Commission. The SRO report cannot be made public in its current form. The report would need to be vetted before it could be released.

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

Ms. McKinnon presented the year-to-date Actual vs Budget report. Due to timing, the information presented is a month behind. Currently, revenue is under budget. The 911 grant has been received. Expenses are higher. Again, this is a timing thing. The salary variance is under budget. It is too early in the year to predict a surplus. An explanation of the items in general material was identified as the purchase of Glock pistols and ammunition.

The Lacombe Police Services have a very healthy reserve. A discussion occurred regarding the process with the new Reserve Police. Funds can be moved from Operational to Capital reserves to cover unexpected expenses. The City of Lacombe does have provisions within its resources should unexpected expenses arise as a one-time expenditure. Concerns were expressed that the Commission wants to avoid seeing the Police budget decrease due to the reserve balance. Chief Blumhagen outlined the budget process and advised the Commission that he has completed the 10-year project for Capital expenses.

7.4. Public Complaints Director Report

PCD Kulak's reported that there were no new complaints. There is still one ongoing complaint.

7.5. Chair Report

Chair Gish provided her report, including a meeting with the LPS Chief to review the LPC meeting agenda, and attended the ALERT Session and tradeshow.

7.6. Vice-Chair Report

Vice-Chair Penstone presented his report for review.

7.7. Council Rep. Report

Councillor Hoekstra presented her report for review.

(23.31) **MOVED by Steve** to accept reports (6.1/6.2/6.3/6.4/6.5/6.6/6.7) as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1. Community Satisfactory Survey/Tradeshow Review

Chair Gish thanked everyone for their time at the tradeshow. Positive comments and renewed energy for the event were received, and the attendance was great. The booth was in a great location, a community hub. It was a great location to talk with the community about

community items. It is still up and running, but only a small part of the program is operating, would like to see it expand again.

The Community Satisfactory survey is very long. Concerns were expressed about having residents complete it in a timely manner during the trade show. Will need to look at shortening it for the next time. A suggestion was made to set up a station for residents to sit down and complete the survey.

8.2. Service Agreement with City/Lacombe Police Service (LPS)

A formal Service Agreement between the City and LPS will provide a standard understanding between the City and Police Commission. A meeting has been set up for May 15 with Director Piché and the Police Chief to start the work on the agreement. LPC is currently listed as an external agency and should be listed as a department within the City. They follow a lot of City Policies. A supper with Council and LPS has been scheduled for June 8th. There will be lots of open discussion at that time.

This item is to remain as Old Business until completed.

8.3. City of Lacombe Bylaw 78

Bylaw 78 will be reviewed and updated to align with the updated Police Act. The Commission has asked to be part of the review. Councillor Hoekstra will inform the Council of the request and the Commission of the direction. It was recommended that the Provincial Appointment be part of the review discussion. The Police Act will supersede bylaws and policies. The Commission is waiting for direction from the Minister on moving forward with the Police Act amendments.

This item is to remain as Old Business until completed.

8.4. Organizational Review Engagement

The Commissioners discussed the reasons for having an organization review completed at this time. It was decided it was not useful at this time.

8.5. AAPG Thursday Night

Dinner reservations will be made for 7 pm Thursday night. Commissioner Christie to confirm his attendance at the AAPG Conference and AGM

8.6. Letter to Calgary Police Commission

The Chair is finalizing and sending the response to the letter received in February regarding the Police Act changes.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Lacombe Victim Services 30th Annual BBQ – June 23, 2023

An invite will be sent out to the commission members. There will be planned activities for the day. The final details are being worked out. If commission members have activity ideas to share with Chief Blumhagen.

10. INFORMATION

10.1. Letter – Nomination Information for Commissioning of Chiefs of Police

This letter does not pertain to the Commission currently.

10.2. Email Provincial Appointee Commission Member

The email received advising the Commission of the appointment of Steve Christie was presented to the members as information.

11. STANDING ITEMS

Commissioners acknowledged standing items.

11.1. LPC Annual Work Plan Review

11.1.1. Binders are to be handed in June for updating. Chair Gish, Vice-Chair Penstone, Commissioner Dykslag, Kulak, Christie and Councillor Hoekstra have requested to receive the updated binder electronically. Commission Willette-Larsen, Soderberg and Chief Blumhagen would like theirs to remain hard copy.

11.2. Annual Review of LPS Human Resource Plan – on-going

11.3. Preparation of Annual Provisional Budget

11.4. The Next Meeting Confirmation

Commissioners confirmed the next meeting date to be August 10, 2023, in the Community Room at Lacombe Police Services.

12. IN-CAMERA

(23.3) **MOVED** by *Cora Hoekstra* to enter In-Camera at 10:50 am to discuss the following:

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(23.33) **MOVED** by *Elaine Willette-Larsen*, to return to Open Meeting at 11:34 am.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13. ADJOURNMENT

DECLARED by *Chair Gish* that the regular meeting is adjourned at 11:35 am.

____ Original Signed _____
Chairperson

____ Original Signed _____
Secretary