

**LACOMBE POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 21, 2021**

Attendees: Corey Gish, Chair
Sonja Dykslag, Commission Member at Large (remote)
Edith McKinlay, Commission Member at Large (remote)
Cameron Penstone, Commission Member at Large (remote)
Elaine Willette-Larsen, Commission Member at Large (remote)
Brad Pears, Public Complaint Director (remote)
Reuben Konnik, City of Lacombe Councillor

Others: Chief Lorne Blumhagen, Lacombe Police Service
Diane Piché, Director, Corporate Services (remote)
Jennifer Peterson, Secretary

Regrets: Judy Lucht, Vice-Chair

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gish called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 October 21, 2021, Agenda was presented for adoption.

(21.60) **MOVED by Elaine Willette-Larsen** to adopt October 21, 2021, agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 September 16,2021 Lacombe Police Commission meeting minutes.

(21.61) **MOVED by Elaine Willette-Larsen** to adopt September 16, 2021, meeting minutes as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. PRESENTATIONS

N/A

5. REPORTS

5.1 *Chief of Police Monthly Reports: September 1 – October 1, 2021

Chief Blumhagen provided the Commission with an overview of activities, statistical information, budget, and human resources. The following items from the above report were highlighted:

- At this time, the 2021 Budget should be at 75% but currently at 68%. The budget is still on target for 2021.
- A public complaint has been received. The matter is with the Public Complaint Director.
- Recommendation for staff and members on Covid vaccinations has been sent out as a Service Directive. Moving forward, the Service Directive will align with the City of Lacombe requirement that all new hires will be required to be vaccinated.
- The Sergeant promotion process is still underway. Concerns about not meeting the 90-day requirements were expressed. Chief Blumhagen advised the members that he would keep them informed as the process moved forward.
- The City Finance Manager updated the 2022 budget with minor changes to benefits and wages.
- Sergeant Brian Zen has been promoted to Staff Sergeant. He will be on probation for six months.
- An unknown person damaged L03 while an Officer was attending Traffic Court. The damage is estimated at \$800.
- Currently waiting on emergency equipment for the vehicle for L07.
- The Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS) console has been upgraded. Range testing will begin shortly with the current CPO contracts.

5.1a *School Resource Officer Report and Statistics

Constable Wilzer (SRO) has completed two days of Threat Assessment training and settling into the role very nicely.

5.2 *Budget Report (Actual vs Budget 2020)

Chief Blumhagen explained that the 2021 Budget to Actual is at 68%. He advised the members that the billing for September Security Clearance has not yet been completed.

5.3 *Public Complaints Director Report

Brad Pears, Public Complaint Director's (PCD), reported that he had received one formal complaint, and a letter has been sent from Chief Blumhagen regarding the matter. Mr. Pears provided a follow-up to a complaint received last month; the information will be provided to Chief Blumhagen to review and decide if a full review should be completed.

5.4 Chair Report

Chair Gish reported on her monthly activities, including the regularly scheduled meeting with the Chief and the attendance to the Council Meeting to present the 2022 Operating Budget for LPS.

5.5 Vice-Chair Report

Nothing was reported at this time.

5.6 Council Rep. Report

Nothing was reported at this time.

(21.62) **MOVED by Councillor Reuben Konnik** to accept reports (5.1/5.2/5.3/5.4/5.5/5.6) as information.

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6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Land Acknowledgement

Commissioner Willette-Larsen requested that the Commission consider starting the monthly Lacombe Commission Meeting with a land acknowledgement. She explained that land acknowledgement is an act of respect and reconciliation, and doing this will demonstrate leadership within Lacombe and the area.

Commissioner Willette-Larsen read a land acknowledgement from the Law Society of Alberta, similar to the Alberta Teacher's Association's version, and recommended that the Commission adopts the wording. Commissioner Dykslag shared the land acknowledgement that Ecole Upper Elementary School uses daily. A discussion occurred on what wording the Commission would use at the beginning of the monthly meeting. It was decided that they would use the land acknowledgement from the Law Society of Alberta and adjust later if needed.

The Lacombe Police Commission Policy Manual will be updated to include a land acknowledgement at the beginning of the monthly meeting.

(21.63) **MOVED by Elaine Willette-Larsen** that the Lacombe Police Commission begin its monthly meeting with a land acknowledgement of the treaty land and its people.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.2 LPC Members Self-Assessment

Commissioner Dykslag shared that seven members had completed the self-assessment survey. She provided an overview of the results, outlining positive results in many categories. Commission members did identify that improvements can be made in the preparation before meetings.

Chair Gish thanked Commissioner Dykslag for her work on the survey. It was well

put together, and her work is greatly appreciated.

6.3 KPI Strategic Plan Consulting

Chief Blumhagen advised the Commission members that he has spoken with the City of Lacombe CAO with Chair Gish's support regarding Brenda Vaughan's contract extension. The extension will allow LPC to use Ms. Vaughan's service to integrate the KPI's into the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan. The funds for the extension will be covered by the City of Lacombe 2021 budget and not by LPS. The Lacombe Police Services 2022 Operation budget has allocated funds for Ms. Vaughan's service.

Discussion occurred as to why the Lacombe Police Services and Lacombe Police Commission have a combined Strategic Plan. Chief Blumhagen shared that it was to ensure that plans aligned. He will confirm with the Province that this method is in compliance.

Chief Blumhagen asked that the Commission consider changing the Human Resource Plan from 2021-2023 to 2022-2024, which would align with the Strategic Plan. The review of the Human Resource Plan will be added to the November meeting for discussion.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Police Act Section 37(2) Policy

Chair Gish provided the members with the recommended changes to the Lacombe Police Commission Policy manual to address the shortcomings in the Police Act section 37(2). A discussion occurred on the reasons why the recommended changes need to occur within the manual. This item will be brought back to the November meeting for final decision.

7.2 Hosting the 2023 AAPG Conference & AGM

A request to host the 2023 AAPG Conference & AGM was presented to the Commission for their input. The Commission hosted the event in 2018. The members decided that they would revisit the request should no one steps forward.

8. INFORMATION

8.1 LPC Budget Process and Timelines

Chief Blumhagen provided an update on the budget process and timelines. The draft budget is presented to the Commission for approval, then the Chair and Chief present it to Council as information. The Finance Manager updates the draft budget with benefit and wage adjustments, after which Council meets to review the City's budget as a whole and accepts or rejects items. Concerns were expressed about the transparency of the process. In the past, the Chair and Chief were invited to the budget retreat to speak on the LPS budget. Councillor Konnik has asked that the Chief attend; he will advise the Chief of the day that Council will be reviewing the Police budget portion.

9. IN-CAMERA

(21.64) **MOVED by Cameron Penstone** to enter In-Camera at 10:38 a.m. (with Jennifer Peterson) to discuss the following:

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9.1 Labour (FOIP Section 24)

9.2 Legal (FOIP Section 17)

(21.65) **MOVED by Elaine Willette-Larsen** to return to Open Meeting at 11:03 a.m.

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10. STANDING ITEMS

Commissioners acknowledged standing items.

10.1 LPC Annual Work Plan Review

10.2 Commission Member Training Report

10.3 The 2022 – 2024 Strategic Plan is to be completed by the end of 2021

10.4 The Next Meeting Confirmation

Commissioners confirmed the next meeting date of November 18, 2021, in the Community Room at Lacombe Police Services.

11. ADJOURNMENT

(21.66) **MOVED by Chair Corey Gish** that the regular meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

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___ Original Signed _____
Chairperson

___ Original Signed _____
Secretary