



SPECIAL MEETING

Ottawa Police Services Board

Minutes 53

Tuesday, 15 February 2022, 2:30 PM

Via Zoom

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Board Members:

Chair: Councillor D. Deans

Vice Chair: L.A. (Sandy) Smallwood

Members: B. Johnson, Councillor R. King, Councillor C. Meehan, D. Nirman, R. Swaita

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Chair Deans requested the Board's approval in the addition of the following item:

- 1) Appointment of Special Constables: Carleton University

That the Ottawa Police Services Board confirm the amended agenda of the 15 February 2022 meeting.

CONFIRMED as amended

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. BRIEFING ON ENHANCED INTEGRATED COMMAND CENTRE

Board Chair Diane Deans read a statement regarding a mutually agreed upon separation between the Board and Chief of Police Peter Sloly that had been reached earlier that day. Thanks were provided for his service, and the public was advised that Deputy Chief Steve Bell would be the Interim Chief until further notice, however it was further noted that the Board would be appointing a new Chief soon.

The Service then provided a briefing with regards to their enhanced integrated command centre, made possible with the new resources and tools put in place by the provincial and federal governments. The OPS indicated that the new resources would be critical in their operation moving forward, and they had received significant support from the OPP and RCMP. The integrated command centre (ICC) was led by the OPS and included OPP and RCMP partners. The ICC was developed to enable oversight of planning and experts who continued to arrive to support the OPS. The ICC had integrated a communications team to allow for timely dissemination of information. Interim Chief Bell noted that there was a plan to end the unlawful demonstrations. The support from OPP and RCMP had been increasing, and I/Chief Bell noted that they had arrived at a turning

point.

The Service indicated that prior to enforcing new orders, such as the Emergencies Act, there needed to be a clear understanding. OPS legal was working to understand the tools newly available to the Service.

From a legislative perspective, Interim Chief Bell indicated that he did feel the OPS continued to provide adequate and effective policing. Their partnerships were increasing on a daily basis, and service delivery was improving. The demonstration had shrunk, and the OPS continued to have a focus on the neighbourhoods most impacted by the demonstrators.

The number of demonstrators and vehicles had dissipated since the weekend, down to approximately 360 in the core. There remained a small number of trucks in front of Parliament having been relocated from residential areas as a result of interactions between Mayor Watson and demonstrators. There were 172 criminal investigations underway, 33 charges had been laid, and 18 arrests had been made. Approximately 3,000 tickets had been written. The Service noted that although the community was calling for an increase in enforcement, OPS were not always in a position to ticket or charge due to safety concerns. The OPS were actively collecting evidence and were working with their policing partners to ensure future consequences. Investigation teams were expected to be engaged for months regardless of where an individual resided.

The Service continued to request that Ottawa residents not engage in counter-protests due to safety concerns.

The approach taken by the Service continued to be informed by intelligence information gathered. Every lawful method to remove demonstrators from Ottawa was being deployed. The Service was working with legal authorities to make sure that no additional individuals were allowed into the downtown core.

The Service had requested an additional 1,800 members, and they noted having received an incredible response to their ask. The Service indicated that they had achieved the desired staffing level however would not provide an exact number due to operational concerns. A point of clarity was raised that although the supports were now in place, they did not arrive as soon as requested. The request was made approximately one week prior, and they had not received all 1,800 members.

CAO Dunker noted that they were tracking all costs related to the occupation, and the Service expected invoices from the OPP and the other supporting municipalities. They were not expecting invoices from the RCMP. The Service

continued to work with the federal government on the annual grant line item associated with special events. An approximate \$14.1 million had been spent so far, not including overtime, which worked out to approximately \$785,000 a day.

A question was raised regarding the Service's operational plan, however information on their operations could not be shared in the public forum. There was an integrated approach developed to end the occupation, and when appropriate the Board would be briefed on its execution. The Service noted that they had been advising demonstrators of the jeopardy around their actions. They had retained information on individuals having attended the demonstrations, and they would be penalized in the future. They were actively escalating their communications efforts.

The Service had been in contact with the Windsor commanders who cleared the Ambassador Bridge and had received insights and lessons learned. In addition, they had been actively engaged in discussions about the challenges being faced across Canada.

A question was raised regarding the ineffective policing having been seen in the City, and it was suggested that there were instances in which police could have engaged in enforcement but did not. I/Chief Bell noted that the Service had committed to a review of all actions having brought them to their current situation. The Service had faced resourcing issues, and through the support of the Board and the Mayor, they had since received the necessary resources.

A question was raised regarding OPS members potentially sympathizing with demonstrators and whether that played a role in their posturing. All information the Service was receiving that pointed to complicity of their members was being investigated and would either lead to resolution or culmination of discipline. I/Chief Bell indicated that any member supporting the demonstration had no place in the OPS and would be dealt with accordingly.

A question was raised regarding why roadblocks had not been installed prior to the arrival of any convoys. The Service again noted that they were supportive of a full review being conducted to identify any mistakes made or laws that required updating, however their focus at the time was forward-looking.

A request was made for the specific date when the OPS shifted their view of the ongoing situation from being a protest to that of an illegal occupation, as was the date of when official requests for resourcing supports was first made to the federal and provincial governments. The Service indicated they would report back to the Board with those dates.

A point was raised regarding the decreased trust in public institutions as a result of the handling of the demonstrations. The need to provide the public with a timeline was noted.

A request was made for a Board briefing within 24 to 48 hours, however I/Chief Bell noted that the Board would be briefed when appropriate. The Service could not provide an exact timeline because it was dependent on other factors at play. The Service awaited additional resources, which were being coordinated and arranged through the ICC.

A request was made for a twice-daily update from the Service to the Board. I/Chief Bell indicated that the Board and Service were aligned in wanting to see the demonstrations end as soon as operationally possible, however every meeting attended removes resources from their operations. I/Chief Bell further noted that he supported increased communications with the Board, but twice-daily updates would not be possible. It was suggested that the Board and Service not have any increased number of virtual meetings that take the entire command structure away from their response roles.

A point was raised regarding the Board's oversight role; although all members wanted to fulfill their obligations, there was concern that the public may be given the impression that the Board had more authority than it does. It was clarified that the Board cannot direct OPS operations. Under the *Police Services Act*, the Board was prohibited from doing much of what community members had been calling for them to do. The Board needed to ensure that the Service had the required resources, and that they had a plan. They could not direct operations.

The frustration associated with expecting action and then not seeing it was noted. An example provided was the Coventry Road staging area. The Board indicated that what they and the community wanted to hear was that enforcement was going to be increased and that disruptive behaviour was going to be addressed in a meaningful and expeditious way.

The Service noted sharing in that frustration. The OPS were working with partners to access intelligence information to develop their plan and remove demonstrators from Ottawa streets. I/Chief Bell indicated that the plan was almost finalized. The unprecedented nature of the ongoing demonstrations was pointed to.

A question was raised regarding whether the 13 additional trucks that were relocated to the Parliament region created further complications. The Service explained that those trucks were relocated as part of a compromise between Mayor Watson and demonstrators. The Service would not comment on the

operational impacts.

A rumour had circulated regarding Service members being directed to maintain the peace with demonstrators. The Service indicated that officers were empowered to use all the authorities available to them, and that the only discretion would have related to the need to intervene in a lawful and safe manner. It was noted that there had been instances where members were swarmed by protestors, however direction had never been given to not enforce laws.

A further rumour was referenced, which suggested that operational plans had been presented but had been rejected and that was why resources had not been provided. I/Chief Bell indicated that they had absolute support from their partners to develop and staff a plan.

A question was raised regarding whether vehicles that leave the demonstration would be allowed to return. The Service had previously indicated that they would not be, however the Board had heard otherwise from community members. The Service advised that they were working to shrink the demonstration's footprint on a daily basis, and there were no "in and out" privileges for demonstrators.

A question was raised regarding whether there had been a failure in intelligence gathering. The Service said they had been receiving intelligence on an ongoing basis, and their networks were actively gathering information. There was a need for an alternative and better way of collecting timely intelligence information to inform better responses. The capacity to do so had been developed over the weeks of the demonstration, however the intelligence network had not previously been established.

That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this item for information.

RECEIVED

2. *NEW* APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL CONSTABLES: CARLETON
UNIVERSITY

Chief's report

That the Ottawa Police Services Board approve the appointment of Carleton University employees, Jaymie BALDREE, Mark PRINCE-COX and Alexander YU as Special Constables pursuant to Section 53 of the *Police Services Act*, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the attached Approval of Appointment Form.

CARRIED

IN CAMERA ITEMS

1. Briefing on Intelligence Surrounding Demonstrations

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Regular Meeting - Monday, 28 February 2022, 4:00 PM