

MINUTES of the open portion of the regular meeting of the OAK BAY POLICE BOARD held in the Committee Room, Oak Bay Municipal Hall, 2167 Oak Bay Avenue, Oak Bay, B.C., on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	Board Members:	Mayor Christopher Causton, Chairman Dawn House Jo-Anne Kern James Murtagh Jerry Woytack
	Chief Constable:	Ron Gaudet
	Deputy Chief Constable:	Kent Thom
	Secretary:	William Cochrane

The Chairman called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Mr. Woytack

Seconded by Ms. Kern, That the minutes of the open portion of the regular meeting of the Oak Bay Police Board held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, be adopted.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

Patrol Vehicle Options

With the five year capital plan making provision for vehicle purchases in 2009, the Chief Constable reported on the preliminary results of the Board-mandated research into alternatives to the traditional large, gasoline-fueled patrol cars manufactured in North America. He said that the Board would receive a more complete report at a subsequent meeting.

Vehicle Engine Idling Policy

The Deputy Chief Constable circulated a list summarizing the many vehicle-mounted electronic devices that drew power from the main battery if the engine was not running. At present, there was no way to provide adequate power to run all of the required devices for any length of time without leaving the engine running. The obvious consequence of the rapid battery discharge with the engine not running would be an inability to restart, but potential data loss from the mobile computer terminal was also an issue. As an interim step, Deputy Chief Thom said that at least one other Canadian police department was in the process of testing a low voltage disconnect system, which would automatically power down all electronic devices, without data loss, when the battery voltage dropped to a point just above the minimum level required to restart the engine. This system would reduce but not eliminate engine idling, as the engine would have to be restarted to power up all the devices and recharge the battery to the level where the engine could be shut off again.

McLean Homicide Trial

The Chief Constable reported that one of the persons involved with the 2004 McLean homicide had been convicted on a break and enter charge in connection with that crime. Although, he noted, some overtime costs had been incurred because the case had been tried in Duncan, the Crown Prosecutor's office had covered the various disbursements attributable to the out-of-town location.

Park/Lee Murder/Suicide Inquest

The Chief Constable said that the inquest into the 2007 murder/suicide at a residence on King George Terrace had been adjourned pending the resolution of a question pertaining to the compellability of Crown Prosecutors as witnesses.

Chief Gaudet noted that the first week of the inquest had focused on the police response to the various 9-1-1 calls. He said that the print media reporting of this component of the proceedings had seemed rather selective, focusing primarily on those few aspects which on the surface might have appeared to support a pre-existing opinion on the structure of policing in Greater Victoria. In particular, Chief Gaudet observed, the comments from one Victoria Police Department officer about a what he had perceived as an absence of command at the site were not representative of other testimony. Rather, they seemed to reflect a lack of knowledge about the coordination of the response which, in turn, stemmed from a failure to monitor the Saanich radio frequency. The latter would have been the normal protocol for a Victoria Police response into Oak Bay.

Chief Gaudet also said that he saw nothing coming out of the inquest that argued in favour of a single centralized dispatch, which, he remarked, would eliminate the important feature of redundancy inherent in the current system.

Strategic Planning Process -- Resident Survey

The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that some residents who had not been included in the random survey sample had expressed interest in filling out and submitting the forms. Although it went without saying that self-selected participants could not be included in the sample from which statistically significant inferences about the population at large were to be drawn, the Board debated at length the merits of accepting such responses outside of the scientific survey exercise, i.e., as normal individual level public feedback.

Ultimately, the Board confirmed that the use of the survey form itself should be restricted to its intended purpose, and that individual comments outside of the random sample should be taken in a different format, just as they would have been in the absence of the survey initiative. Feedback of that nature could be in the form of a letter; potentially it could also be by way of an anonymous suggestion form on the Police Department website.

The Chairman having observed that one resident who wished to use the survey form to provide his input had written a letter to that effect published in the Oak Bay News, the Chief Constable undertook to contact that person conveying the Board's position and explaining the alternative methods of expressing views on the police service.

Taser Policy

The Board noted that there were government-sponsored investigations underway at both the federal and provincial levels that were expected to lead to more comprehensive rules regarding Taser use by police agencies. The Chief Constable noted that current departmental policy was to use a Taser only where more lethal force would have had to have been used in the absence of this alternative. It was not used where the situation had not escalated to that point; i.e., it was not used as a pre-emptive measure. As a consequence, Taser use was very infrequent within the Department.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Financial Report (April 2008)

Responding to a question from the Board, the Chief Constable explained that high building maintenance costs early in the year reflected ongoing plumbing problems that seemed to have originated with the replacement of the concrete apron in front of the fire truck garage bays last year.

Overtime Report (April 2008)

There was no discussion on the Overtime Report for April 2008.

Community Services Report (April 2008)

From their own observations as well as comments contained within the Community Services Report, Board members noted that the incidence of graffiti throughout the Municipality seemed to be at a high point in the cycle at this time.

MOVED by Mr. Murtagh

Seconded by Ms. Kern, That the Department Reports for April 2008 be received.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED by Ms. Kern

Seconded by Mr. Murtagh, That the open portion of the meeting be adjourned and that a closed session be convened to discuss matters which may be dealt with in private under the *Police Act*.

CARRIED

The open portion of the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Secretary, Oak Bay Police Board

Chairman, Oak Bay Police Board