

MINUTES of the joint meeting of the OAK BAY POLICE BOARD and the OAK BAY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL held in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall, 2167 Oak Bay Avenue, Oak Bay, BC, on Monday, March 21, 2016 at 5:30 pm.

PRESENT:	Police Board Members:	Mary Kelly Brian Rendell Sandra Waddington
	Council:	Hazel Braithwaite Tom Croft Michelle Kirby (Acting Mayor/Chair) Kevin Murdoch Tara Ney
	Staff:	Administrator, Helen Koning Chief Constable Andy Brinton Deputy Chief Constable Kent Thom Laura Lang (Recording Secretary)
ABSENT:	Mayor Councillor	Nils Jensen Eric Zhelka

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOVED and seconded that: The agenda be approved.

CARRIED

1. Introductions, Sandra Waddington

Introductions were conducted around the table for all Police Board, Council and staff members present.

2. Department Overview, Chief Brinton

Chief Brinton gave a Power Point presentation that provided an overview of the Police Department with some points as noted below:

Governance

Oak Bay Police Board

Department Mandate

Organization of the Police Department (various sections, programs and staff)

Strategic Plan

Community Partnerships (Block Watch, Reserve Program, website, community events)

Service Agreements (Dispatch, Forensics, Crime Analysis, Police Dog Service, Keep of Prisoners, Computer Forensics, Serious Crime Investigations, IT Services, Court Liaison and several integrated units within the CRD)

Integration (Domestic Violence Unit, Mobile Youth Services Team, Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Team, Emergency Response Team, Crisis Negotiators, Crowd Management Unit, Integrated Road Safety Unit, Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, Vancouver Island Major Crime Unit)

3. Strategic Directions for Police Department and Police Board, Sandra Waddington & Chief Brinton

Chief Brinton spoke about the current 2013-2017 Strategic Plan and the process involved in creating it. The crime rates in Oak Bay are low and there is a strong sense of safety within the community. There is a high ratio of seniors in the community and a low youth crime rate. The School Liaison is critical in engaging youth and families, while the Community Liaison works more closely with the business community and seniors. There is a strong sense of “no call too small” within the department and that is evident in the service that is provided to the community. The community survey that was done prior to creating the Strategic Plan indicated strong community support for an independent police force.

The strategic priorities of the current plan include continued reduction of crime and enhancement of public safety, integration, community engagement and staff development. Each year initiatives are brought forward that relate to the priorities of the plan. Some carry forward from year to year, and sometimes the priorities change according to current needs. A progress report is provided to the Board and posted to the municipal website quarterly.

At the start of 2017 the process will begin again, starting with community consultation and an environmental scan to develop the next Strategic Plan for 2018-2022. Some feedback that the Board has received and that they will endeavour to improve upon for the next Plan are more of a focus on north Oak Bay/Henderson area, a component for Board-specific initiatives and keeping initiatives concrete & measureable.

There was discussion and a variety of questions regarding the structure of the board, governance, and processes. The Board is responsible for hiring the Chief Constable and the Chief Constable is responsible for hiring all other members and staff. The appraisal process for the Chief Constable and the use of municipal human resource staff by the police department for hiring, personnel and contract issues was also discussed.

The Block Watch Program was discussed. Oak Bay has a large number of Block Watch groups in relation to the size of the municipality. Both Council and the Board feel that the program is very worthwhile and strengthens the sense of community. The Speed Watch program is separate from routine traffic enforcement by members and is currently in the process of being revived. When concerns from the community are received regarding problem traffic and speed zone areas, the signs are mounted on poles by the Public Works Department.

4. Police Board Visibility in the Community and Community Engagement, Mary Kelly

Board member Mary Kelly suggested that the Board have more visibility and presence in the community and welcomed any suggestions from council. Some suggestions put forward by Council were: the Youth & Family Justice Committee, the Y.E.S. Awards, riding in the school bike trains, partaking in some of the BIA events on Oak Bay Avenue. Board member Mary Kelly is open to any further suggestions being emailed to her directly.

5. Budgets – Now and in the Future, Brian Rendell

Police Board member Brian Rendell advises that the Board reviews, discusses and approves the Police provisional budget prior to it being presented to Council. The Board perspective is that of a civilian oversight of the police department and their role is to keep in mind both what the police department does and what the public expects of a balanced, effective and fair police department.

One or more members of the Board used to regularly attend the November Council meeting with the Chief Constable when the provisional budget is being presented. Both the Board and Council feel that this practice should resume.

Policy is also a primary responsibility of the Police Board. All policy changes are reviewed prior to changes being adopted.

6. Future Meetings, Sandra Waddington

Consensus was met with both Board and Council that joint meetings are beneficial and should be an annual occurrence, in either January or February, when setting priorities and directions. There may be two joint meetings held in 2017, at the beginning of the year and closer to the end of the year, due to the development of the Strategic Plan.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED and seconded that: The joint meeting of the Oak Bay Police Board and the Oak Bay Municipal Council be adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Secretary, Oak Bay Police Board

Acting Mayor/Chair