VICTORIA & ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD
Public Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2021 at 5:00pm
Zoom & Livestream: VicPD YouTube

PRESENT

Mayor Helps, Chair	P. Schachter	Insp. Hamilton
Mayor Desjardins	Chief Cst. Manak	Insp. King
D. Crowder	DC Watson	S. Hurcombe
S. Dhillon	DC Laidman	D. Perry
M. Hayes	Insp. C. Brown	
C. Huber	Insp. M. Brown	

Recording Secretary: Collette Thomson

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

a.   **Adoption of the Public Agenda of June 22,2021**

21-56   **MOTION:** *To approve the Public agenda of June 22, 2021 as presented and include the 2020 VicPD Annual Report.* **MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED**

2. PRESENTATION

a.   **CREST**
Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications Inc. was formed in 2001 and became operational in 2003. They provide and maintain emergency communications equipment and infrastructure for more than 50 first responder and public service agencies throughout the Capital Region. This includes fire departments, police departments and ambulance services. Over 7.5 million calls per year go through the system (one call every four seconds). In 2020, CREST completed a $24.5 million technology upgrade to a P25 North American standard of public safety excellence.

Gord Horth, General Manager, provided the following update:

- Key features of the P25 system include increased coverage, improved audio clarity and security, noise-cancelling technology to reduce background sounds, and an expanded range of accessories including the ability to add new features in the future through software upgrades.
- While CREST and E-Comm can back one another up in the event of emergencies, they were created to be standalone entities.
- CREST continues to encourage municipalities to require new dense developments to install in building amplification solutions

3. STANDING ITEMS

a.   **Adoption of the Minutes of the Public meeting of May 18, 2021**

         21-57   **MOTION:** *To approve the Public Minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting as presented.* **MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED**

b.   **Chief Constable Monthly Update & Activity Report**
Refer to the report provided – for information.
- Operational updates were provided on significant calls and files of note
- VicPD is assisting with the transition of individuals from parks to temporary housing
- Relaxing of the PHO restrictions has resulted in an increase in calls for service as the downtown core opens up for business again
- Preliminary discussions have occurred with the Esquimalt CAO and City Manager regarding the 2022 police budget
- VicPD COVID restart plan is underway to allow staff and operations to begin to return to normal
- Indigenous VicPD officers are creating an internal engagement group to act as an advisory and outreach body

c.   **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Engagement Update**
Refer to the report provided – for information.

d.   **Committee Reports**
Refer to the report provided – for information.

         21-58   **MOTION:** *That the Board approve the amended 2022 Police Board submission to the operating budget with a reduction in Travel by $5,000 and an increase to Professional Services by $5,000.* **MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED**

e.   **Board Co-Chair Updates**
- In reference to #6 of the 2021-2022 Board Strategic Priorities, an Organizational Culture subcommittee has been struck to bring recommendations to the Board to enact these items
- The Integrated Police Units Regional Governance (IPURG) discussions continue to move forward and the Mayors recently received the draft terms of reference

f.   **BC Association of Police Boards Director's Update**
BCAPB conference & AGM planning is beginning for 2022 in Nelson.

g.   **Board Member Engagement Update**
- Board member Schachter shared his latest Board remuneration with four community agencies
- Board member Dhillon recently attended the virtual Welcoming City Community Forum

h.   **2021-2022 Board Strategic Priorities**
Refer to the document provided – for information. A quarterly update will be provided by committee chairs in September.

i.   **Framework Agreement**
     Chief Manak met with the City Manager and Esquimalt CAO to review the Community Safety Report Card metrics; no changes were required.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a.   **210301 Letter to COV Council from Congress of Aboriginals People**
     Refer to the letter provided.   Chief Manak referred to the suggested motion and cautioned that the COV cannot direct VicPD to take certain action. Suggested wording revisions were recommended.

b.   **VicPD Transformation Report - Call Management**
     Refer to the report provided – for information. In 2019, VicPD authored the *Transformation Report* in response to ongoing issues and budget concerns. This report identified 14 specific challenges facing the department as well as corresponding possible response strategies. The issue of call management was addressed in Challenge #3: *VicPD is experiencing an increased call load due to the fact that organizations responsible for specific calls (i.e. bylaw-related calls, animal conservation, etc.) do not have sufficient staff.*

     The response strategy for this challenge included reviewing and reducing the number of calls requiring police attendance. By identifying a number of Calls for Service (CFS) types that VicPD would discontinue responding to or developing an enhanced response to, the impact on police resources would be minimized. Other organizations are primarily responsible for the noted CFS types, but these calls have been downloaded to VicPD because of lack of staff or insufficient service hours.

     After extensive consultation with the VicPD Senior Management Team, a decision was made as to what calls VicPD would continue and discontinue responding to as per the accompanying chart. VicPD will always attend any call where the public is at risk.

     ACTION:
     - VicPD to provide a biannual call management review report to determine the effect this response strategy has had.

c.   **2020 Police Stop Audit Report**
     Refer to the report provided which is a result of the Provincial Policing Standards introduced in January 2020, and in-line with VicPD policy. Highlights include:

     - VicPD does not and has not conducted random street checks ("carding")
     - VicPD introduced and Operational Directive to comply with the new standards on January 21, 2020. This was replaced by board-approved department policy on February 25, 2020.
     - VicPD exceeds standards in that every Police Stop entry that is entered into the Street Check module within the PRIME system is reviewed and any corrective action with documentation is corrected as needed.
     - There has been some difficulty with the transition to the new standards. The issues were identified through a mid-year review, and addition training and review processes were put into place. While improvements resulted, we are still working with officers on an individual basis where issues are identified in the documentation process.

- At year-end 2020, only 15 correct Police Stop entries were within the PRIME system. The overall numbers do not permit any statistically significant inferences, but do not suggest any obvious disproportionality at this time.
- VicPD is continuously assessing how to improve the process and reduce errors.
- The issue of Police Stops will be reviewed again in the 2021 training cycle.

Board member Schachter highlighted the following concerns based on his interpretation of the report:

- the audit only captured a small fraction of street checks conducted
- there was incomplete reporting of street checks by members
- the PRIME-BC template was not properly filled out making the reason for some stops unclear
- the "high crime area" justification for stops may inappropriately target poorer, racialized and Indigenous communities
- data accuracy related to race and ethnicity remains a significant issue

21-59   **MOTION:** *To refer the matter of the 2020 Police Stop Audit Report to the Governance Committee for further review.* **MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED**

d.   **Human Resources Report**
Refer to the document provided – for information.

5. CORRESPONDENCE *(for information only)*

a.   **VicPD Commendations**

Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

_____
Mayor Helps
Lead Co-Chair

_____
Collette Thomson
Recording Secretary

_____
Date

_____
Date