

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PROTECTIVE SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, ON THURSDAY, 2005-FEB-10  
COMMENCING AT 2:00 P.M.

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PRESENT: Councillor Dawn Tyndall, Chair

Members: Councillor Diane Brennan  
Councillor Ron Cantelon  
Councillor Loyd Sherry

Staff:	A.W. Laidlaw	A.C. Kenning
	R. Lambert	K. MacDonald
	R. Munro	M. Dietrich
	B. Clemens	J. Ritchie
	D. Nichols	T. Seward
	K. Burley	K. Buechler

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

This is the initial meeting of the Protective Services Select Committee. The committee was set up to adjudicate the higher service level requests from RCMP police services, fire and emergency services.

2. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS:

- (a) Andy Laidlaw, General Manager of Community Services provided the Protective Services Select Committee with an information report of Higher Service Level Requests.

It was moved and seconded that the report be received. The motion carried unanimously.

S/Sgt. Randy Munro, Operation Support NCO RCMP Nanaimo, and Mike Dietrich, Municipal Manager, gave a brief orientation of the Nanaimo RCMP's higher service level requests. A departmental overview was circulated to the committee members.

S/Sgt. Munro noted the following:

- He would be speaking about the regular member positions and Mike Dietrich will speak about the municipal positions.
- Regular members are assigned to a number of units, such as general duty, uniform patrol, traffic, bike patrol, serious crimes, municipal drug and property crime unit, community policing, forensic and police dog unit, etc.
- Last year's human resource statistics indicated an increase in population and calls for service along with an increase in crime. In order to meet minimum levels of service the RCMP need four additional FTEs (3 general members and one plain clothes).
- At present we are asking for two additional members and this resource will be aligned with strategic initiatives such as the forming of a task force re community concerns (grow-ops,

property crimes and prostitution). If left unchecked this criminal activity can affect the downtown revitalization.

- Our second priority is auto crime, which has increased by over 90% in 2004. The RCMP initiated a short term Auto Theft Task Force on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and in December auto crime went down by 40%. 49 stolen vehicles were recovered with an approximate value of \$342,000. The RCMP is also providing educational initiatives such as education to vehicle owners, Lock or Loose It Program, and checking parking lots at Christmas time for gifts, items of value left in plain view and unlocked vehicles.
- Currently there are 119 known grow-ops in the City and the RCMP has had to change their focus from auto theft to grow-ops. There is also an increased focus in nuisance properties.
- The Restorative Justice Program is a nationally and internationally recognized program community based program. It operates as a partnership between the Nanaimo RCMP and the Nanaimo Region John Howard Society. 70% of current referrals are youth and 92% of the offenders are Nanaimoites. The program requires \$65,000 to operate - \$15,000 from donations/RDN and in the past \$10,000 from the City. The John Howard Society's board has indicated that they can no longer run the program on a charity basis and thus we are approaching this committee for an increase in funding from \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually.
- Other programs are highlighted in the handout.

Councillor Brennan asked if there was a prostitution task force planned? S/Sgt. Munro indicated that the RCMP are looking at a six month pilot program with a member working in consultation with ADAPT. It would require one FTE (a plain-clothes member) for six months and this FTE is included in the two member increase already recommended to Council. After the six month pilot program a report would be sent to Council.

Councillor Tyndall asked staff to provide information at the Committee's next meeting with respect to RCMP member ratio to City population and budget percentage breakdown with respect to facilities, fleet, members (on street, administration, bike unit, etc.)

Mike Dietrich, Municipal Manager for RCMP Nanaimo, provided the following information:

- There is a Provincial Agreement in place that states the City provide office accommodation, furniture and support staff. The City has provided a 40,000 square foot building which was recently upgraded in 2002, a 9,000 square foot community policing office, a 1,000 downtown community station, 44 vehicles, 3 motorcycles, etc. There are 55 permanent municipal employees.
- The RCMP are requesting two additional municipal staff as a higher service level request. One would be a Records Manager, which is currently being filled by a member. If the committee approves this request, the RCMP would then have an additional roadable member. The Records Manager would also provide support for Mike and the division with respect to the other municipal employees. The BC Prime initiative with respect to quality assurance of records will be coming to Nanaimo this year and this creates an emphasis on correct recording/input of data.
- The second position is an additional Financial Clerk. This position would focus on RCMP financial matters, such as ordering of good, bill payment, purchase orders, etc. By having this additional position, the City's interests are maintained.

Councillor Tyndall asked how the infusion of traffic fine funds from the Provincial Government would affect future budgets. Staff noted that the Province has increased funding from traffic fines from 25% to 100% and that Nanaimo received an additional \$700,000 and it has been included in the RCMP's provisional budget.

Ron Lambert, Fire Chief Nanaimo Fire Rescue, circulated an overview of the Fire Department's higher service level requests and provided the following information:

- The Fire Department is made up of composite staff – 79 career fire fighters and 86 paid-on-call members. There is also a chief, two deputy chiefs, an excluded confidential secretary, an Emergency Program Coordinator (Jim Kipp) and an Emergency Social and Personal Disaster person (Audrey Pineau). There are six stations – Station 1 career staff, Stations 2 and 3 are blend of career and paid on call and Stations 4, 5 and 7 are solely paid on call.
- The Department has set an internal incident response time of 6 minutes and we are achieving it 90% of the time. The average response time for structure fires is 10.9 minutes and we are finding it more and more difficult to rely on paid on call volunteers as they are working in the daytime. A staffing station summary was circulated.
- Statistical information with respect to fire investigations and the emergency management program was also provided.
- The 2005 strategic goals are to increase staffing by two fire fighters and two road managers. The road managers would provide assistance with keeping operational guidelines up to date, accountability, and training. They would be on day shift basically and work seven days a week with flexible hours and could move from one station to the next.
- It was noted that the cost for two road managers is approximately the same as for two platoon captains when benefits, vehicle and over time costs are taken into consideration.
- Council has requested a report on fire services and it should be completed by the end of April. It is very hard to compare Nanaimo to other similar sized communities such as Victoria as we are made up of both career and paid on call staff.

Councillor Tyndall thanked staff for their report.

Mr. Laidlaw noted that the timing was important with respect to the Restorative Justice Program. The John Howard Society's year end is March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005 and they already have a shortfall in funding. Their next meeting is scheduled for the end of February. We are also 12% ahead of last year with respect to referrals.

Recommendation: The Protective Services Select Committee recommends that Council approve an increase in funding from \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually for the Restorative Justice program.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation of the Protective Services Select Committee be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

### 3. CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS / OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Toby Seward, Senior Manager Permits, Bylaw and Property Services, asked that he be allowed to present the Committee with a brief verbal update from Bylaw Services. Councillor Tyndall allowed the report to be presented.

Mr. Seward noted that:

- Bylaw Services works closely with both the RCMP and the Fire Department with respect to nuisance properties.
- Bylaw Services has hired a weekend/evening bylaw enforcement staff person. This new position is working out extremely well and is acting as a crossover 'presence' in the downtown, the position also needs to focus on other City locations such as Beban and the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre.
- Bylaw Services would like to continue working together with the Fire Department and the RCMP and would like to determine the best allocation of resources.

- An additional Bylaw Services Officer would cost approximately \$64,000 and does provide support to other departments.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 3:15 p.m. that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the next meeting be March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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DEPUTY MANAGER,  
CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION