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Coming at 2:30 pm, it's this month's Guelph Police Services Board meeting. Here's what is on this agenda:



MEETING PREVIEW: Guelph Police Services Board for June 20, 2024

The time is here again for the monthly Guelph Police Services Board meeting and the agenda this June is focused on yearly reports. Having said, perhaps the biggest report is missing from the agenda...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/06/19/meeting-preview-guelph-police-services-board-for-...>

We seem to be delayed. Perhaps the closed session ran over? Tech issues?



Okay, we're on. Chair McSherry has called the meeting to order. (And there's sound!)

No Declarations of Conflict or Pecuniary Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

Closed resolution: Staff directed to provide \$750 from the community account to Victim Services. That's approved.

First item! A presentation from Investigative Support – Internet Child Exploitation Unit by D/Cst. Hugh Currie. Chief Cobey notes that Currie has played a significant role in fighting cyber crime both locally and provincially.

Currie begins by talking about Project Aquatic, where 34 children were rescued, over 60 charges were laid and hundreds of devices were seized. They also just finished a luring investigation.

Currie says internet safety is key, it's not going away, and the best remedy is education. He says that most children under the age of 12 will be targeted online at some point, usually someone posing as a friend.

Currie has two roles: fighting child exploitation and fighting cyber intrusion at businesses. He notes that he's also in the wellness business to help victims and families get through the tough times. Most investigations, they see family for 3 hours, but he does check-ins.

Cobey notes council's leadership role in attacking IPV, and asks about impact of the crimes Currie investigates. He says it's very prevalent, and it's happening outside of view of parents. Lack of resource, edu, and support makes it tough to always be there.

He says he gets emails from parents all the time about what to do, and he tries to advise them, both one-on-one and in groups and talks. Resources? Front line officers know what to do, and if they don't they call Currie.

He adds that parents should understand what apps their kids are using and how the apps they work, and be proactive. Don't post personal info like address and phone #, avoid check-ins (tho he does check-in at Starbucks for the points), and update passwords.

Biggest tip: People who post pictures while they're on vacation. Now you've told a criminal that you're not at home. Also, know that what ever you post online will be there forever. Check before you post.

McSherry thanks Currie on behalf of the board and notes that they're grateful for his work. Cobey intros Melanie Clark to talk about council Qs on trafficking. What does it look like here in Guelph?

Clark says she appreciates the attention trafficking is getting, and thanks board and council for ongoing support. She notes there's a level of IPV in trafficking and it's prevalent in community b/c of proximity to 401 corridor.

She recently attended a conference where a Crown attorney noted that all the cases she was discussing, benchmark cases, touched Guelph in some way. Clark says she spent half her career in SVU and has seen the growth, but also seen growth in awareness.

Guelph Police has dedicated human trafficking unit, which works with IPV unit, they look for the red flags, but b/c it's so complex they can't be as effective as they'd like without more resources. She notes that trafficking is also underreported.

Cobey asks if someone is a parent or a victim that's being impacted by trafficking, what's some good advice? Clark says there are obvious red flags they note b/c of training, so it's a matter of education: teachers, hotel staff, kids, everybody really.

Mayor Guthrie asks Clark about connections to GWWIC. Clark says they work closely with community partners, but they're all having the same capacity issues.

Cllr Allt asks about "extremely underreported", why? Clark says it's b/c a victim can be lured, coerced, threatened, their family is threatened. They may be in a hotel room alone but they're being controlled by fear, or drugs, or through food even. Culture of dependence.

Half the time, a victim might not know where they are or who to report to, they're not sure about their own fate or whether the police will believe them. And if they do come forward, they're traumatised and that's tough to manage through the court system.

McSherry thanks Clark for the update.

Next, this month's consent agenda, which is approved.

PART 1 - CONSENT		
<i>Items on the Consent Agenda can be approved in one motion.</i>		Decision
<i>Prior to the motion being voted on, a member of the Board may request that an item be moved to the Discussion Agenda.</i>		
7.1	Board Correspondence Report	Information
7.2	Member Appointments	Decision
7.3	2025 Budget Calendar	Information
7.4	Promotions	Information

Next, Human Resources Annual Report for 2023. Cobey throws it to Kelley McKeown in Police HR. She says there were 42 people at the Service who had 10-35 year milestones, 4 police were recognised with exemplary service last year too.

50 hours were spent at recruiting events in 2023, got 143 applications from new peeps and 11 requests for transfers. Number of apps were lower last year, but they were still able to fill all vacancies including 9 new recruits and 1 transfer.

Diversity, equity and inclusion is has been a big area of focus when recruiting, and GPS has co-ordinated through various community partners and agencies to expand that understanding. Also been doing outreach with new Canadian community to help them understand policing.

They're worked to reduce paper work and streamlined processes for reporting injuries and updated health and safety training. The attrition rate was 4.6 per cent, half to retirements, 2 were transfers, and others were making a career chance. Strat continues for future vacancies.

Vice-Chair Armstrong asks about attrition rate compares. McKeown says she's not sure but she can get that data.

Moving on to the 2023 Annual Report. Cobey highlights the work of the many people involved in creating the report, and notes the new Police Services Act mandates that they have the report available to public on June 30.

Members of the board have seen the report, but it was not shared in the agenda. Cobey says it will be coming in the days to come. Stay tuned.

Cobey says 2023 saw the greatest number of positive proactive engagements with community, whether that environmental design for security or the annual family fun day at headquarters. It's important for community to meet members.

He also notes the downtown supplemental staff initiative, which provided the data to increase resources, which have now been put into effect. Also lead to the inclusion of IMPACT worker downtown.

There were 84k+ calls in 2023, which is about 10k more calls than 10 years ago. He notes that as calls went up, so did proactive engagement. Response times went up 5 seconds in 2023, but it's still a minute faster than 2020.

Big increase in the number of vehicles without valid plates in 2023. Cobey notes that this because of changes to stick rules, and also the addition of automated plate readers. Improvements in B&E, theft and mischief (?) calls last year. Making progress.

"When we invest we see results," Cobey adds.

Deputy Chief Gill adds that there's been a slight decrease in crimes against person, but notes that there were an unprecedented number of homicides in Guelph last year, some domestic, some linked to "drug culture."

Homicide calls are resource intensive, Gill notes, there's the actual costs, but there's also the human cost on families, people's feeling of safety. There's also a cost on members, b/c it's a call to action and they're not resourced for that # of homicides.

Gill says they're proud of the members and their comporment, they had successful outcomes for many of them, but it comes at a cost. He hopeful for the future with the support of the board and the plan going forward.

Cobey says that you will note in the annual report that it's comprehensive, and will include the annual use of force in the interest of transparency and access.

No Qs from the board. McSherry thanks Cobey and the team for the report.

Next, Chief's report:

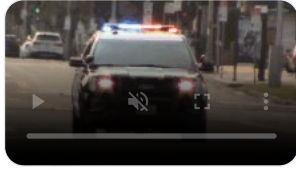
-Reminder: There's a buy and sell zone outside the police HQ for people buying and selling online to meet up. McSherry asks if blenders are excluded from the zone, a friendly jab at Mayor Guthrie.

-If you'd like the police to come to a community event, you can make that request easily through the website too.

New business? Nope.

Next meeting is July 18.

That's all from the police board this month.



@threadreaderapp unroll please!

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