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



MEETING PREVIEW: Guelph Police Services Board for September 19, ...

The Guelph Police Services Board will get together again for the first time since July and in the process they will be the first to dive into their 2025 budget renewal process. If numbers aren't...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/09/18/meeting-preview-guelph-police-services-board-for-...>

We seem to be running behind our times at police headquarters. Stand by.

Okay, we seem to have a connection...

Vice-Chair Armstrong calls the meeting to order.

Regrets from Chair McSherry and Cllr Allt.

Declarations of Conflict or Pecuniary Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act?

None.

Two resolutions out of closed: \$500 for the annual police services golf tournament and \$500 for a presentation on trafficking and IPV on Oct. 7. Both approved.

Consent Agenda approved.

PART 1 - CONSENT

Items on the Consent Agenda can be approved in one motion. Decision
Prior to the motion being voted on, a member of the Board
may request that an item be moved to the Discussion Agenda.

7.1	Human Resources Report – Member Appointments	Decision
7.2	Guelph Police Service Promotions	Information
7.3	June 2024 Financial Variance Report	Information
7.4	Board Correspondence Report	Information

Next, Chief's Monthly Report. Chief Cobey starts with acknowledging Sergeant Andrew McLachlan's promotion. Also, introduces Shaun Hewitt, the new finance manager.

Cobey offers downtown update now. He says proactive policing is also about protecting the safety of that shared space. Insp. Goody adds that the team believes in the mission to support DT. On open drug use, he says there's been 18 active investigations relating to suppliers.

Results:

- 35 people arrested
- 65 serious charges laid
- Drugs and currency seized as well as guns and replica guns.

Goody says the proactive patrols continue, answering 100s of calls with IMPACT worker. 804 positive community contacts achieved (meaning meetings and community events), 266 in DT alone.

Directed patrols. Meaning that the police focus patrols on areas that the public have raised concern about. 1,178 across the city, 935 DT. 60% of community engagement is downtown.

Goody says that if you witness a crime or need emergency assistance, call. Police response DT is under 3 minutes.

Mayor Guthrie asks if those results would be achievable w/o budget allocation for DT resources. Cobey says "absolutely not." Guthrie asks if police will be looking for more resources. Cobey says yes referring to the KPMG report, more invest has had data-driven impact.

Guthrie asks about today's police media release: Guthrie says this shows that there are ongoing investigations behind the scenes, and the police are doing things. Some matters are ongoing. <https://www.guelphpolice.ca/en/three-arrests-in-fentanyl-trafficking-investigation.aspx>

Cobey notes that the >3 min response time DT is big change. Within a couple of days of starting this investigation, they seized stuff and made arrests. He adds that this is why it's important to say something if you see something.

Guthrie thanks Cobey and his team, and calls the stats "staggering." Shows the good work police are doing both proactively and reactively, but also staggering b/c it shows there's a growing problem. Guthrie says next to advocate to deal with non-criminal issues DT.

Next, Guelph Police Service Strategic Plan. Cobey says that this will set the stage for the next several years and build on the work already done. They've added the new category investigative excellence, which means expanding resources for trafficking, fraud and cyber crime...

....especially cyber crime that targets seniors. Cobey says that they need to start investing in those resources, and also following up on council motion to focus more on IPV. Cobey says that the board should expect more reporting about that.

This is also aligned with the accelerating growth that the police are dealing with and there will be more discussion about that next month with the operational budget for '25. Looking at expanding proactive patrols, and getting after noise and traffic.

Cobey: 5 years ago Guelph fell to 19th in crime severity, but now we're back in the top 10 and the goal is to get back to #1. We've come a long way, so there's a lot to be proud of, but we can't become complacent.

Cobey says community policing is foundational, partnerships with Immigrant Services, Citizen's academy and other initiatives. Wants to be most trusted, effective and innovative police service in the county. Still in a position with ebb and flow of competing priorities tho.

Community Wellness. Cobey says they will be building a dedicated plan to support the community and better serve their needs. How can GPS help bring the community together?

Cobey says the greatest asset is trust of citizens and employees. On road safety, everyone wants them but it unfortunately takes last place in priority list. Hoping to change that. Downtown commitment will continue.

Will continue look at body worn cams, automated license plate readers, drones and other tech and how they can be best incorporated. Also, will keep building IMPACT work with CMHA. Guelph citizens deserve and should expect metrics to show that ROI, Cobey adds.

Cobey says that's high-level, and it's aligned with the service enhancement plan through KPMG.

Motion to approve the strategic plan passes unanimously.

Next, 2025 Capital Budget Confirmation. This is an information report today, and it will come back for approval next month. Cobey notes this is a continuation of the multiyear budget, all changes funded through capital reserve.

Cobey notes 2 material changes: Mandated equipment acquisitions that have to happen by April for new community policing act. New body armour, plus equipment for tactical and canine units. Got to get this gear according to provincial regs. Training is happening this fall.

The other change is an "chiller", a piece of HVAC equipment that needs to be replaced. In the next 10 years, there will have to be conversations about new training requirements including a space adjustment study. That starts in 2026.

Correction, this is an approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Guelph Police Services Board confirms the 2024-2027 Capital Budget as approved on October 19, 2023, including amended amounts of \$6,584,600 for 2024, \$3,745,100 for 2025, \$4,434,300 for 2026 and \$6,547,100 for 2027 for the approved budget years;

FURTHER THAT the Guelph Police Services Board confirms the 2028-2033 capital forecast including amended amounts of \$5,140,800 in 2028, \$4,508,100 in 2029, \$5,762,200 in 2030, \$4,056,700 in 2031, \$4,909,300 in 2032, and \$7,481,400 in 2033 for information and planning purposes;

AND THAT the Board forward this information to the City of Guelph for their information and planning purposes.

Guthrie asks about timing. Cobey says next month is presentation of operating budget, and then approval in November. Guthrie asks if it's not better to refer and approve operating and capital together. Hewitt says intent was to identify possible ops impact, but can do both.

Guthrie moves to refer capital budget to the discussion of the 2025 operating budget.
Guthrie says "this is a tough year" so it makes sense to give council all info all at once.

The referral is approved.

No further business, so that's this meeting adjourned!



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