



Municipal District of Bonnyville No.87

Policing Committee Minutes

April 8, 2024

Present:

Inspector Charlene Skinner, Public Safety
Cindy Coates, Office Administrator Public Safety
Matt Janz, General Manager of Environmental & Protective Services
Barry Kalinski, Reeve
Councilor Mike Krywiak, Ward 3
John Ilchuk, Chairman
Ned Brand, Member at Large
S/Sgt. Sarah Parke, RCMP Bonnyville
Sgt. Doug McFarland, RCMP Bonnyville
Sgt. Pat Russell, RCMP Cold Lake

Not in Attendance:

Al Hoggan CAO
Luis Gandolfi, Director of Public Safety
S/Sgt. Wes Bensmiller, RCMP Cold Lake

- Chairman Ilchuk brought the meeting to order at 10:00 am

1. Review of Minutes

Chairman Ilchuk had a look at the minutes and didn't find anything wrong. He asked if anyone had anything to add. He noted that a couple of items were tabled from the last meeting and decided we would discuss it at round table.

2. Bonnyville RCMP Report, S/Sgt. Sarah Parke

Stats from month of February.

Youth

- Visited Dr. Brosseau and Ecole Des Beaux Lacs School.
- Visited the Kehewin school and dropped off a youth engagement poster. We're trying to get something going there with them as far as getting a volleyball game set up.
- At the end of the month the HEB principal invited the Members on shift to go assist serving their annual Easter Breakfast. Members made the

rounds to various pancake stations there and chatted with a lot of the middle school kids.

Traffic

- We had 563 files in February and of those 129 were traffic related investigations.
- 38 of those investigations resulted in charges,
- Seven were impaired driving investigations. Four of those resulted in provincial sanctions,
- 34 of them were collisions, 21 of which were in the MD. (There's an attachment with the locations.) Two of the reported collisions involved minor injuries, one of which was in the MD the other was in the town.
- In February General Duty members issued 48 tickets and 65 warnings in the detachment area.
- There were 286 focused patrols during the month of February, with 196 of them in the general rural areas of the MD: 15 in Glendon and 23 to the Kehewin Indian Reserve.

GIS - For the month of February

- Assisted the general duty members with some fairly serious persons crime. They were engaged in various pursuits where they assisted in a covert capacity.
- They assisted Bonneville Members in drafting search warrants for weapons offences, one where an individual was armed and barricaded and charged with discharging A firearm with intent, along with other weapons offences.
- Another weapons call had them drafting a warrant assisting our members with interviews and on that file, 2 individuals were charged with multiple offences including Break and Enter, assault with a weapon and pointing a fire.
- Assisted the Cold Lake General duty members and Police Dog Services in the recovery of a stolen vehicle, two individuals were charged with a variety of offences on that one out of Cold Lake. Both were remanded into custody. On February 20th, GIS assisted the major crime unit with a homicide investigation by drafting a search warrant, attending the autopsy, and conducting interviews that investigation is ongoing.
- At the end of the month, they assisted with another armed robbery investigation where a female had fired a weapon at a male in an apartment building hallway striking him several times, she's been charged with multiple offences, including robbery with a firearm. She was remanded into custody.

Prolific Offender Management

- Earlier in the month, they had a meeting with partners on new processes that are taking place in that program, and it saw two arrests, which stem from the persons crime investigations. One female was arrested three times and released on a variety of charges, and another female was also arrested in relation to weapons offences.

Mental Health

We had 24 mental health related calls in February, 2 of which were from the MD and 10 were in Kehewin. Of the 24 calls it represents only eight clients.

Police Community Relations

- The commander and Ops NCO attended a Kehewin Crisis Team meeting regarding a crisis team that they're setting up, which is going to be really beneficial to the nation when it's up and running, it's still in its infancy stages right now, but they have several band members that have different roles from cultural support response to counseling to Emergency Management and we're very supportive of them creating such a team and we've offered obviously to help them in any way that we can.
- We're still continuing whenever we're in a position to, to attend McDonald's for coffee with a cop that they initiated with us. It was organized by them in an effort to maintain and increase positive public engagement with community members in the RCMP it takes place on Thursdays, around 10:00 AM.
- Later in March, a Corporal and constable duo went out on an off-Highway Vehicle Patrol. One was operating the quad, and the other one was in a side-by-side, it was meant for crime reduction as well as education. They patrolled the Iron Horse Trail checking with any other motors that they saw and had educational discussions with them along the way.

Human Resources

- Still have that one corporal position. That's been a long-term vacancy.
- Another corporal position has recently turned into what could be a long-term soft vacancy.
- Another constable position remains long term vacancy. That one's been going on more than two years.
- Another soft vacancy from a member that we're still waiting to sell his house in Ontario.
- Another soft vacancy with another constable who was involved in the shooting in February, but we're hopeful for him to return in the coming weeks.
- We had two constables transfer out in March and April with no identified backfills. We have another constable leaving. With no identified backfill. Staffing has agreed to try to hold him back from his transfer a little bit, but they can't hold him back forever. Not sure if he'll be gone before any of the other positions are filled or not.

- **Questions/Concerns**

Chairman Ilchuk – Noticed that the Justice of Peace let an individual go and two days later he/she steals another vehicle. Does the Justice of the peace and a judge have the same powers.

S/Sgt. Parke – The justice of the peace is just who these individuals are brought before to make the decision before it goes to the judge for the actual criminal offence, just to determine whether they should be remanded in custody or not before they their court date. Sometimes there will be a bail hearing in front of a judge. As well if initially the bail hearing is put off and then it's brought before the

judge. They both have the same abilities. They both review the criteria that's laid before them and the circumstances and make the decision.

Councilor Krywiak – How many officers are you short?
S/Sgt. Parke – Six. Two Corporals and 4 Constables.

3. Cold Lake RCMP Report, Sgt. Patrick Russell

There were 690 occurrences between March 12 – April 08, 2024

GIS

GIS executed 2 search warrants on 2 residences in Cold Lake north related to drug trafficking investigations. We seized 312 grams of coke, 72 grams of meth and approximately \$5400 in Canadian currency, as well as two snowmobiles. Later that day, after the suspect was in custody he didn't return to his hotel room and the cleaners went in and ended up finding about 600 grams of meth, which had since been linked back to him through video surveillance.

Lakeland CRU

- Have been a slow month due to injuries and members being called away. The corporal of the unit is also a firearms instructor as well as a police defensive tactics instructor. She was called away frequently to teach a new taser program which is being replaced across the country.
- Involved in 5 files, including but not limited to covert surveillance, pursuit apprehension, recovery of stolen vehicle and warrant executions.

Detachment Resources

- Two hard vacancies and four soft, four members that are currently off with injuries, including one that's in the CRU.
- Four members at this time have been identified to be transferred out and three of them have their houses on the market to be sold. The fourth is in government housing, so he's going to be transferring out by May.
- We will be getting three new recruits that are coming in. One that just graduated today, one that's due to graduate on May 20th, and then one due on June 17th.
- We've been approved for a four-on-four-off schedule, on a four-watch system. Right now, we run three corporals with seven members each. In the fall we're looking at going to a four-watch system with a corporal and five on every watch. That's designed to provide a better work life balance for Members. This should attract some lateral interest from members with experience because right now we're currently just seeing recruits.

MD of Bonnyville Stats

- Total persons crime is down 15% from this time last year.
- Total property crime is up 27% with an increase in mischief and possession of stolen property.
- Total MVC are up 6%.

- Mental Health calls are the same with 3 calls for service.
- Roadside Alcohol Suspensions are down 50%.

Annual Report

- **Calls for Service**
 - In 2023 there were 11,606 calls for service which was up from 2022.
- **Location of Calls**
 - 65% came from the City of Cold Lake.
 - 21% were for the MD of Bonnyville and
 - 13% is Cold Lake First Nations and Elizabeth Metis Settlement.
- **Top City of Cold Lake Files by Workload.**
 - Mischief 15.5%
 - Assault 5.01%, Disturb the peace 4.72%.
 - Mental Health Act 4.69%.
- **Top Rural Files by Workload**
 - Mischief 10.33%
 - Mental health act 6.01%
 - Possession of stolen property 5.92%. (Something to note about the possession of stolen property category is that this is only there as a heading because the thieves were caught.)
- **Criminal Code Offences – City of Cold Lake**
 - There was an increase of 17%.
 - Persons crime is up by 18%.
 - Property crimes are up by 24%.
 - Criminal code other is down by 11%. (example breach of conditions)
- **Criminal Code Offences - MD of Bonnyville, CLFN & EMS**
 - There has been a decrease in persons crime of 11%.
 - Property crimes are up by 10%.
 - There was a 29% decrease in criminal code other.
- **Property Crime in the City of Cold Lake**
 - Total property crimes has increased by 24%.
 - Break & Enter's are up 15%.
 - Theft of Motor vehicles are up 17%.
 - Theft under \$5,00 are up 2%.
- **Property Crime in the MD of Bonnyville, CLFN, and EMS**
 - Total property crime is up by 10%.
 - Break & Enter's are up 17%.
 - Theft of motor vehicles is up by 54%.
 - Theft under \$5,000 had decreased by 34%.

- **Clearance Rates**
 - On persons crimes is generally good because for the most part the person knows who committed the offence.
 - Property crimes are a little bit more difficult to do which is why you see a lower clearance rate.
 - Criminal code other files are also easy to clear as well because you know the person if you are charging them with breach of.
- **General Investigation Section**
 - In 2023 we had 66 charges laid through GIS culminating in 20 years of jail time. There were 30 drug purchases made covertly with drug dealers leading to criminal charges.
- **Police Dog Service**
 - Chase/Harp the police service dogs have been involved in 186 files, they have a total of 55 captures and have been deployed for 553 hours.
- **Provincial Detachment Metrics** (For detachments with 10,000 – 20,000 population - 14 Detachments)
 - Criminal Code/Member 123 Vs Provincial Average 79
 - Criminal Code/1000 223 Vs Provincial Average 71
 - Crime Severity Index 288 Vs Provincial Average 98
- **Municipal Detachment Metrics** (Detachments with 10,000 – 20,000 population - 10 Detachments)
 - Criminal Code/Member 215 Vs Provincial Average 94
 - Criminal Code/1000 256 Vs Provincial Average 116
 - Crime Severity Index 233 Vs Provincial Average 118

Questions/Comments

Reeve Kalinski – Why would you want to come here? If you get paid the same, then you get three times the work, it doesn't make sense.

Sgt. Russell - Exactly. There are two things to kind of alleviate this. We give Members more time to work on the files. So, switching to a different schedule is going to provide an overlap of staff for the last hour of their shift where they can catch up from the day. The other option is bringing in more police officers, expanding into the attachment.

Reeve Kalinski – Your numbers are skewed because you have less members or if you have all your Members, would it be the same percentages?

Sgt. Russell – It would be the same. The problem is filling the positions. There is always going to be a vacancy rate.

S/Sgt. Parke – These metrics are used to determine where and when the province allocates new positions.

Reeve Kalinski – Does everybody have this information?

S/Sgt. Parke – Yes it comes from the province.

Chairman Ilchuk – Do you have any data to reflect how many of the files are prolific offenders.

S/Sgt. Park – We wouldn't have a metric to measure that. But we know that a small percentage of the people are committing a large percentage of the crimes.

Sgt. Russell - The real spotlight now, thanks to Toronto, is the theft of vehicles that are going overseas, so there's a real policy shift and a negative view of the public, we need to do something about theft of vehicles and how to prevent them. The last talk, at the federal level, they were looking at more serious punishments for theft of vehicle offences which could have an impact on us because that is one of the bulk issues we have to deal with out here is the theft of vehicles. I don't know what the federal government is going to do in terms of putting forward mandatory minimums or increasing sentencing for guy stealing vehicles.

Annual Report Cont.

- **Annual Performance Plan**
 1. Crime Reduction
 - Curfew and speed checks.
 - Warrant Roundups
 - Identification of prolific offenders.
 - Offender Management - Right now we are working with probation to identify who are high prolific offenders are, who are currently in custody. We want to set up a process where we get advanced notification of these guys being released and what the conditions are so that we can be ready for them.
 - Targeted prevention, suppression, and apprehension - We want to know when these guys are getting out so that we can have the plan in place to target them to ensure that as soon as they breach the conditions, they're in custody before we get the theft of vehicle file.
 2. Community engagement.
 - Public crime forums. I'm not sure what that's going to look like, yet we have to Establish the Community crime committees.
 - Proactive patrols
 - School visits and youth engagements.
 - Indigenous community partnerships
 - Community enforcement partnerships
 3. Drugs
 - Investigating and preparing for prosecution of offenders.
 - Implementing modernized investigative techniques.
 - Joint Forces Projects. – Bringing in eastern Alberta district CRU.
 - Community Awareness Campaigns.

Questions/Comments

Chairman Ilchuk – Where do the vagrants get the money to buy alcohol?
Sgt. Russell – They are dumpster diving; they pull bottles out of the dumpsters and bring them to the bottle depot for money. Then go back to the liquor store to buy alcohol.

4. Public Safety Report, Inspector Charlene Skinner

We had 35 case files, 10 commercial vehicle inspections, one of those trucks was put out of service temporarily until it was repaired.

Tickets

- 223 tickets and warnings (Breakdown attached to report)

Community Events

- We attended a community event at Kinosoo Ridge where we were capturing the speeds of people coming down the hill.

Joint Force Operations

- We did a joint force operation with Bonnyville, RCMP and Glendon. We focused on seat belts from the calendar. We had two seat belt tickets, one expired registration, and one unsafe vehicle which was removed from the road.

Assistance Rendered

- Assisted Internal MD Departments - We had a sign down on one of our back roads. It was a stop sign ahead. It was in the Cold Lake Area, the one coming out of 424. I reported it to the Public Works Department so that they could replace it.
- We had a request from the Planning and Development for charges to be laid under the land use bylaw.

Animal Control

- 1 Aggressive dog
- 9 dogs running at large.
- 1 nuisance dog

Commercial Vehicles

- We had a few commercial vehicle complaints in the Beaver Dam area. We've been getting trucks going down roads that they don't have permission to be on, destroying the roads. They're also running a four way stop there as well. We did some patrols out there, but we could not see any vehicles. The project that they were working on is now done, so I don't think it's going on anymore, but we're keeping an eye on it just in case they start up again.

Crime Prevention

- Somebody is burning wire in the Bear trap Lake area. We didn't see anyone. when we went there. According to citizens there was wood, and

diesel fuel left there. It was passed on to Conservation as well. But we hit it up whenever we're around there.

- In LaCorey a resident reported a suspicious vehicle, hauling a trailer on his property. A patrol was conducted but nothing was found.
- The complainant lives off Highway 55, so he sees lots of activity in that area.
- A suspicious person who was hauling wire on a bicycle up in the Area.

Other Information

- Towed a vehicle for being unsafe.
- Two files for fail to stop for a peace officer.
- 8 traffic safety act files for speeding vehicles throughout the MD
- A peace officer from the City of Cold Lake came for a ride along to see what is being done differently between the two agencies.

5. Round Table

Chairman Ilchuk – Asked General Manger Janz to start the round table with the 2 items that were tabled from last month's meeting.

General Manger Janz – Asked for the minutes from the last meeting so that he could be reminded of the items.

Ned Brand – Gave a recap of one of the tabled items regarding the committee sending a representative to the next AGM to bring up the concerns of crime, and the court system.

General Manager Janz – In the Terms of Reference this committee is an advisory committee. The Reeve and council bring back the information to the council. The committee does not speak for itself.

Reeve Kalinski – Spoke with two ministers online and one in person in Edmonton about the problems we are having but they just keep making promises. I know that the Mayor of Bonnyville and the City of Cold Lake have also spoke about this.

Chairman Ilchuk – Asked if it were possible to ask the MLA to attend one of the committee meetings?

Reeve Kalinski – We can invite him to our next meeting, and we will let both detachments know in advance.

Chariman Ilchuk – I believe the other tabled item was the School Resource Officer funding.

Inspector Skinner – To my understanding a letter went out to both the Town of Bonnyville and the City of Cold Lake as well as to the school boards. Stating that we would not be continuing the School Resource Officer Program unless we get help with the funding. There have been no responses that I'm aware of.

General Manager Janz – Any of the rehiring is on pause until we find another resource for either through the city of Cold Lake, the Town of Bonnyville or any of the school divisions.

6. Next Meeting

May 13, 2024 (May change if we can get the MLA to attend)

7. Adjourned at 11:13 am