

## POLICE BOARD MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, December 11, 2019 7:00 p.m.

### WITHOUT PREJUDICE (E&OE)

NOTE: Before I start, this morning I sent the following g-mail to Colleen Draper, the CAO, and Tiffany Fell, the Mayor, of the RM of Springfield at 9:35: *I just checked the RM web site under Springfield Police Board and can find no agenda for tonight's meeting posted. Could you please look into that. Thank you.* The draft of the September meeting Minutes were not posted and the June Minutes were still shown as Draft and Unapproved. While I received no reply, an agenda magically appeared later in the day. The Agenda is the same format as the RM agenda. Under Unfinished Business it lists Chief Position and Policing Model Status which were not on a previous agenda and therefore cannot be Unfinished Business but rather should be under New Business. The Strategic Plan is Unfinished Business as it was on all 4 agendas for 2019 as such. Mr. Breward was assigned the task of preparing a Risk Assessment plan in 2017. The Police Board currently has a Strategic Plan which is posted on the web site under Reports. Thus far, and we are discussing a University of Winnipeg professor, Mr. Breward has not produced anything remotely resembling a Risk Assessment, but instead a wealth of excuses and the promise of future action and to quote him from the first meeting this Police Board had, my intention is not to "throw him under the bus" but merely to reiterate the truth of the matter. THE DURATION OF THIS MEETING WAS APPROXIMATELY 5 MINUTES if you remove all the "ums" and dead time while the Chair tries to figure out proper procedures. Perhaps someone can tell me how the body that oversees our Springfield Police Service can deal with the issues of the day in 5 minutes without ever consulting with those who braved the frigid weather and darkness to attend. Springfield is immediately adjacent to the largest city in Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg, and the newspapers are full of the horror stories facing Chief Danny Smyth. Murders, drug dealers, addicts, overworked members, many of whom are experiencing PTSD from such incidents as the stabbing death of a 3 year old left alone in a house. Am I missing something or is there an invisible wall separating Springfield from this escalating incidence of major crimes? The Chair, former RCMP constable Anne Wowchuk, was featured in an article in the November 7, 2019 issue of the Clipper suggesting that the Springfield Police Service was deficient and that the previous Board had deliberately disregarded a directive from the Provincial Department of Justice which is patently false. WHAT KIND OF CHAMPION OF THE SERVICE IS THAT? The Chair of the previous Board prepared the 2018 Annual Report for the new Chair before the election in October. All that needed to be added was the Minutes of the fourth mandated meeting which was to have been held in December but was not held until January. Oddly enough, there is no mention of an Annual Report on this Agenda and it is due at the end of this year. Mr. Penner brought up an item for a resolution that was not even included on the original agenda and not added either. PEOPLE IN GLASS HOUSES SHOULD NEVER BE THROWING STONES AT PREVIOUS BOARDS AND THEIR CHAIR....it is simply not good policy because it inevitably comes back to bite you. The previous Board was the first Police Board open to the public, as mandated by the 2013 Manitoba Police Boards: Policy and Procedure Manual. Prior to 2014, no such thing had happened. Further the audience was free to question the Board, to provide input, and their commentary was welcomed by the Chair, Heather Erickson, i.e. myself. Now they are open to the public but this Board has prohibited by resolution any input from the very public it is supposed to be representing by removing the Question Period from the agenda. We are not allowed to participate, merely to observe. When the group that attended the meeting started to fire questions at the Police Board as they prepared to go into CLOSED SESSION to discuss Human Resources (??????), Chair Wowchuk assembled her 4 person team and fled the Council Chamber, secreting themselves in a back Board Room, whereupon the audience held its own meeting in the Chamber and the prevailing sentiment of that meeting was that the Chair and this Board have to go, but the Springfield Police Service has to remain and deserves a new competent Board prepared to work for the public good. The new Administrative Assistant volunteer was dispatched to recover their coats and possessions so the Board would not have to face the wrath of those remaining in the Chamber and having their own meeting. Cowardly is the word that comes to mind!!!! One would think that Mr. Penner, who is the son of the owners of the Peppercorn Restaurant in Oakbank that has experienced property crime in the past would be a champion of keeping the Springfield Police Service and even expanding its capabilities but he sits on the Board that has sent a proposal to Council to consider and it is not a far reach to believe the recommendation, based on Ms. Wowchuk's November 7th article, is to disband the SPS. Councillor Williams also owns property on Main St.

**THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT TAKEN FROM THE 2018 SPRINGFIELD POLICE BOARD ANNUAL REPORT UNDER "MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR":** The Board will be finalizing the Strategic Plan, Risk Assessment, Communication Plan and a Self-Evaluation of the Board as well as developing policy and procedures. The Board will also be establishing priorities for the Police Service with community consultation. The implementation of these established priorities will be delegated to the Chief. Regards, Anne Wowchuk Chair of Springfield Police Board **I see the words "community consultation" insofar as establishing priorities. How can one obtain the opinion of the community if those who choose to take an interest cannot even speak at the Police Board meetings? I see the words "finalizing the Strategic Plan and Risk Assessment". The Strategic Plan was already ratified by the previous Board but the mandated Annual Risk Assessment, assigned to the only returning member of the Board, Michael Breward, in 2017 has never materialized. The Communication Plan is virtually unchanged from the original one prepared by Renee Riglin in 2017. Mr. Penner made some slight wording changes. In short, in my opinion NOTHING has been accomplished in a year that was promised by the Chair, Anne Wowchuk. They did create policy, mainly to preclude participation by the public. If that is a positive, then they did accomplish one thing, rule by dictatorship. However that conflicts with the Primary Purpose of their Communication Plan which is "to encourage and foster community engagement in the operations of the Police Board..."**

Chair Wowchuk called the meeting to order and introduced Theresa Bax, the volunteer Administration position. **NOTE: There was a young lady name Jade Bax who sat on the RM of Springfield as Youth Member for a time. Her family live in Oakbank and her father is an RCMP officer in D Division in Winnipeg. I am wondering if this young person is related to Jade. Evidently she responded to the advertisement seeking a volunteer to serve as Administrative Assistant to the Springfield Police Board.** Chair Wowchuk then asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 11, 2019 meeting which as of today were still not posted in draft form on the RM web site and which were not made available to the audience for review. Chair Wowchuk then asked the Board members if they had all read the Police Report and Financial Report sent via e-mail but again, not read into the Minutes of the meeting or available to the public, and then asked for a motion to accept the reports. Chair Wowchuk then proceeded to Unfinished Business, the Chief position, which had not previously been raised at the September meeting.

She stated that Sara Monkman was Acting Chief but she resigned on November 18, 2019. "On November 23rd. the Board has chose Tyler Froese to be the Acting Chief in which he accepted that position. Can I please have a motion...to have a motion that Tyler Froese be Acting Chief." **NOTE: In point of fact, Sgt. Monkman did not have the minimum requirements to be Acting Chief as she has only 3 years of policing experience. This was mentioned in my October 22, 2019 Committee of the Whole notes. Why did it take 5 days after Sgt. Monkman resigned to appoint another acting Chief. There are only 3 members currently in the employ of the Springfield Police Service. Oddly enough, the issue was also addressed in my December 3rd. Council notes when I noticed in the Springfield Police Report that it was prepared by Acting Chief Tyler Froese. I am not all that familiar with rankings but does not a Sergeant outrank a Corporal? Chief Kane unfortunately has left Springfield with a legacy of bad choices with which we have to live, it would appear.** Chair Wowchuk went on to say they would also be looking at posting for the Chief position. The timeline for posting is the end of the year which was added to the motion to post for the position. **NOTE: High time as the Chief left town at the beginning of September. This is now December.** As to the item on the agenda **POLICING MODEL STATUS** Chair Wowchuk said the Board did make a recommendation to Council as of November 8th of this year. **(Coincidentally the day after the edition of the article in the Clipper featuring Ms. Wowchuk's opinions of the SPS were printed.)** We are still awaiting confirmation from Council as to their decision but it looks promising, favourable that they will support the Board's recommendation. Until we get confirmation from the Council, we will not be commenting as to any explanation about it. **NOTE: Judging by the article in the Clipper that featured Chair Wowchuk, I can only surmise that the recommendation the Board has likely made to Council is to remove the Springfield Police Service and replace it with By-law Officers. According to her, the Board is in agreement with her point of view. I THINK THAT WOULD BE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE COUNCIL COULD MAKE. Once Council requests it to be disbanded, we will never again be allowed to have two police services in Springfield. The RCMP is stretched very thin, they know it, we know it, Council knows it, and certainly Ms. Wowchuk should know it as a former RCMP officer. It is only to the benefit of residents to have more of a police presence in the municipality, not less of one. By-law officers cannot provide policing services. They do not carry weapons. They cannot protect the public. And, in point of fact, they may not represent much of a financial saving to the municipality.** As to the Strategic Plan, Chair Wowchuk said that was going to be postponed until the next meeting. Council is going to advise us on how the Strategic Plan looks like. **NOTE: That comes as no great surprise as no one who has evidenced the work product of Michael Breward during his time on the Police Board was actually expecting one would materialize...or is that driving the bus backwards and forwards over said member.** Chair Wowchuk - On to New Business. On November 21st, 2019, all the Police Chairs met with what they call the Community Safety Knowledge Alliance (CSKACanada) to discuss the Canadian Service Act. The CSA was engaged by Manitoba Justice to conduct an independent review of the Police Services Act. The review focuses on how the Police Services Act supports professional transfer and effective policing services in Manitoba. The review will take into account a perspective on the changing context of policing community safety, jurisdictional scans of the provinces, and input from stakeholders. It is a multi disciplinary research team and supported by a senior expert panel. CSA is a non-profit that supports government and others in the development, implementation and evaluation of new approaches to community safety and well being. The CSA was founded by the Government of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police, Saskatchewan Health Quality Council, and Motorola Solutions Canada. Its offices are in Saskatoon and Ottawa. Um the meeting went well and it just kind of gave Police Board Chairs the opportunity of their input in what they see has been going on um in each kind of area of the Police Board's responsibilities um and they will take that information and meet again early in the New Year and their report will be completed in June of 2020. **NOTE: It was not necessary for Chair Wowchuk to give us a history of CSA as even I can Google it and read everything there is to know about the organization.** Councillor Williams mentioned that this group had spoken at the AMM Convention in Brandon. He also mentioned that Council met with the RCMP at the Convention and that the RCMP are planning on a series of Town Hall Meetings and will be scheduling one in Springfield and the RM of Springfield will be advertising the meetings and inviting public to attend. There was a concern in the Capital Region that as Danny Smyth is cracking down on crime in the city, the criminals will be moving out into the rural areas and plying their trade there. The municipalities have to be prepared for that and that is one of the things to be discussed at the Town Halls. Chair Wowchuk - **2020 Meeting Schedule** - March 11, June 10, September 9, and December 9. Greg Penner - Move to purchase a new voice recorder to record Police Board meetings. Approved. Chair Wowchuk - That closes this meeting to the public.

**June 12, 2019 Minutes:** 5.1 Staffing Procedure Policy Resolution: 2019-01 LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Springfield Police Board appointed by the Rural Municipality of Springfield Council for the term October 2018 to October 2022 hereby delegates Chief Mark Kane to appoint eligible persons to serve as police officers in the police service as per Section 23(1) of the Police Services Act of Manitoba. Chief Kane must comply with the Staffing and Recruitment Policy and Procedures. **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR STAFFING S.P.S. NOW? IT WAS NOT ON THIS AGENDA!**

Darryl Speer - Did the Board approve the article that appeared in the Clipper on November 7, 2019? Did you as a Board approve the communication in the Clipper on November 7, 2019? Chair Wowchuk - If you have any questions, you can e-mail me. Vince Bennici - This is a public meeting. We can ask questions. Chair Wowchuk - Last meeting we passed a motion saying there is no Q and A. If you have any questions, you can e-mail your questions. **The public can come to the meeting but it doesn't give them the right to voice their opinions.** Heather Erickson (former Chair of the Police Board) - It is a shame that the Police Board for Springfield does not invite commentary from the public, the people that they supposedly serve. Darryl Speer - As I talk on your Communication Plan, *encourages and fosters community engagement* is part of it. Vince Bennici - You can ask the question but they won't respond. Heather Erickson - You can e-mail them and they won't respond. Brian Wilkinson - I just thought it would be nice to go over the fact that we can't hear a damn word you are saying there when you are talking what are your plans. We don't hear anything out here. Without those speakers, we can't hear you talking. Nothing. Heather Erickson - Shame on you! **THREE MEMBERS OF C.O.P.P. attended the meeting. They have completely lost confidence in the Chair of the Board and in fact, in the Board itself. They are receiving no support from the Board and no support from either police service and they have identified serious crimes occurring, particularly in the Industrial Park, but have no one to whom to report to address the problem.**

**I WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND TO MY READERS THAT IF THEY HAVE ALSO LOST CONFIDENCE IN THIS POLICE BOARD, THEY TAKE THE TIME TO E-MAIL COUNCIL AND RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD BE DISSOLVED, THE POSITIONS ADVERTISED TO THE PUBLIC, AND A NEW BOARD SELECTED FROM THE APPLICANTS. I WOULD FURTHER SUGGEST THAT IF YOU SUPPORT KEEPING OUR SPRINGFIELD POLICE SERVICE AS AN ADJUNCT TO THE R.C.M.P., PLEASE VOICE THAT OPINION AS WELL. ONLY A LARGE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC OPINION CAN CHANGE THE ATTITUDES OF YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS. PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES AND E-MAIL YOUR FEELINGS TO THE C.A.O. AND COUNCIL.**