

**Springfield Police Board Meeting  
Wednesday, March 11, 2020  
(from memory)**

The Rule of Thumb for the posting of Audio Files is 2 days following the meeting. The Police Board has selected a student as their Administrative Assistant to be responsible for the Minutes and other support services. To the best of my knowledge, she does not work for the RM of Springfield and therefore would not have access to the municipality's computer system. On March 17 and 18, 2020 the following set of e-mails occurred:

**On Tue, Mar 17, 2020 at 2:53 PM** Heather Erickson <[heatheranderickson@gmail.com](mailto:heatheranderickson@gmail.com)> wrote:

I would respectfully ask that you follow the policy of the RM of Springfield and have the audio file of the above noted meeting posted to the RM web site as it has been more than 48 hours since the meeting.

**On Tue, 17 Mar 2020 at 22:07**, Anne Wowchuk <[annewowchuk@gmail.com](mailto:annewowchuk@gmail.com)> wrote:

Thank you Heather for your email and your comments. As I advised in the last Police Board meeting, our administrator on the Police Board was scheduled to be trained on March 17th with uploading such documents. Due to Covid-19, this training has been cancelled. I would hope and trust that you would understand that the country is dealing with the Covid-19 crisis and people's personal lives and work lives have been affected. As a Police Chair, I am being respectful of these concerns and the present and evolving health care situation this country presently faces. I will assure you that the documents will be uploaded as soon as practical.

Anne Wowchuk  
Chair of Springfield Police Board

**On Tue, Mar 17, 2020 at 11:04 PM** Heather Erickson <[heatheranderickson@gmail.com](mailto:heatheranderickson@gmail.com)> wrote:

I see no reason why your Administrator could not simply put the recorder in an envelope and slide it in the Drop Box at the Administrative Building. Erica who posts the Council meeting Audio Files would have no problem doing the same with the Police Board recording.

**On Wed, 18 Mar 2020 at 21:39**, Anne Wowchuk <[annewowchuk@gmail.com](mailto:annewowchuk@gmail.com)> wrote:

Thank you Heather for your email and suggestion. Considering the global circumstances and the restrictions placed upon individuals during this crisis, as per my previous email, such non-essential documents will be uploaded as soon as practical.

Anne Wowchuk  
Chair of Springfield Police Board

**These notes are prepared from my memory of the events as Chair Wowchuk has made the decision not to have the Audio File posted to the Web Site.**

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE (E&OE)**

**NOTE:** On March 9, 2020 I e-mailed Colleen Draper, the CAO, as follows: "I just searched everywhere on the web site to find where notice is given that the venue is changed and also to find an agenda for the meeting. I can find neither. Under Police Board, there is no agenda or minutes posted for 2020. I would ask that you ensure that in the interest of transparency, the Police Board be directed to rectify this matter." The same day, the CAO responded: "If you "view all notices" on the home page, there is a notice there advising of the location change. I will follow up on an agenda." I followed up with: "As you know, when that access (the one from the Fire Hall on to PTH 206) was granted by the Province on to 206, it was meant only for emergency vehicle use." The CAO's response was: "As I mentioned we wanted to accommodate the RRBC so I don't see that we will have to hold any future meetings for the police board at the fire hall. This is hopefully a one-time thing." and as to the agenda: "I have requested a copy and will post when we receive." On March 10, 2020 at 9:18 I e-mailed the CAO: "I checked this morning and still no agenda and the meeting is tomorrow. Also I noticed there is no minutes posted for the September 2019 meeting. The January 9th 2019 meeting pertains to 2018, and should have been held in December but was delayed due to the delay in appointing a new Police Board." Later in the morning the agenda was posted which means a one day improvement over the last Police Board meeting when it was posted the same day as the meeting after, again, I e-mailed the CAO in this regard. By the way, Council and the Administration have been using the Fire Hall to hold all sorts of meetings, Aggregate Task Force, Agricultural Committee, and many other meetings for several years now. This is not a one-time thing. The first two in particular have citizens from the community and the two industries attending, i.e. the public. Further Council and the Administration regularly use that facility for conducting budget, committee and other types of meetings.

**NOTE:** I was the one that brought to the attention of the CAO that both the Police Board Meeting and the RRBC meeting were posted as being held on the same date in the same place and at the same time. The Police Board meeting was the one moved to the Firehall in spite of the fact that it had been the first scheduled for that venue back in January. The Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) is a not-for-profit organization designed to help facilitate a cooperative approach to water management with the Red River Basin which is led by 41 directors and comprised of local, state, provincial, and First Nation government representation, the environmental community, and at-large members that maintains offices in Moorhead, MN, and Winnipeg, MB. They hold conferences once a year on both sides of the border and the North Chapter, of which Springfield is a part, holds its AGM in different municipalities every year. Considering Springfield was hosting it this year, one would have expected the majority of Council would have attended the AGM of the RRBC. Councillor Williams would not have been able as he is the Councillor that sits on the Police Board although he was not required to be present to have a quorum but how can one explain why Mayor Fell, Councillor Wilson, and Deputy Mayor Ralke were at the Police Board Meeting? Mayor Fell and Deputy Mayor Ralke were

the ones that attended the RRBC Convention in Fargo in January 2020 at considerable expense. Four of a Council of 6 attended this Police Board meeting rather than the RRBC AGM of which we are a member. Mayor Fell was one of the first people there and yet was seated in a chair far removed from the chair and table set ups which made her appear to be guarding the proceedings. When asked by a member of the audience to join the rest of the attendees, she refused. Her only contribution was to provide information to Councillor Williams as regards his scheduling when Chair Wowchuk was trying to rearrange future Police Board meetings.

**NOTE:** While waiting for the meeting to start (As usual Michael Breward was the last to arrive and disappeared for a time shortly after he had removed his parka and Mountie hat), I questioned that the Police Board report on the March 3, 2020 Council Meeting stated that the Springfield Police Service "opened up applications for the Auxiliary" because Angela Temple is no longer a member of the Auxiliary due to time commitment. Angela Temple was the Provincial Representative on the previous Police Board and should have remained on the Board for another number of years as she replaced Brian Hunt who had been on the Board for several years prior. However, she resigned from the Board on the day of the Municipal Election, I believe it was October 24, 2018. She then applied for the Auxiliary but evidently there was issues with time commitment and she no longer holds that position. SPS is now recruiting for a replacement. By the way, Brian Hunt was in attendance at this Police Board meeting as a member of the audience.

**CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - Chair Anne Wowchuk** - Before the approval of the Agenda, Chair Wowchuk tried to justify why it was not posted until the day before the meeting by blaming the neglect on her recording secretary which in large measure speaks to her own lack of character and unwillingness to accept responsibility for her inadequacies. **NOTE: I believe what is more likely is that Chair Wowchuk was not properly prepared for the upcoming meeting and had not as yet formulated an agenda. When I was Chair of the Board, I used to contact the members well in advance to see if they had any issues they wished placed on the agenda. Hearing none, I would then the Friday before the meeting, prepare an agenda and e-mail it to the Administration for posting on the web site.**

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**4.1 Strategic Plan - Michael Breward** - Mr. Breward re-worded the existing Strategic Plan and presented it section by section which took quite a bit of time. The Police Board Strategic Plan has been on the web site since 2016 and no major changes were made to it. **NOTE: What would, in my opinion, have been more relevant is if he had arrived with a Risk Assessment as mandated by the Manitoba Police Board Policy and Procedure Manual and assigned to him in 2016 working in conjunction with the Police Chief by the then Board.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

**5.1 Policy for Meetings - Chair Wowchuk** has once again arbitrarily changed the procedure for Police Board meetings as evidenced that she asked for approval from the Board members. It is even more restrictive than the last set.

**5.2 Message from the Chair - Anne - Chair Wowchuk** - Gave a brief pre-prepared speech about 2019 being a transition year.

**5.3 Correspondence - Chair Wowchuk** - Mentioned one letter had been received from C.O.P.P. about replacing the Police Chief but did not read it to the Board and audience. She has had this letter since BEFORE the previous Police Board meeting December 11, 2019.

**5.4 Annual Report - Anne - Chair Wowchuk** - Said it was prepared but again not yet ready to be sent to the Police Commission because the Recording Secretary, Theresa, (and here she laughs) is having formatting difficulties. **NOTE: Again I feel she is somewhat downloading her responsibilities as Chair on a volunteer recording secretary. It is incumbent on the Chair to ensure that her "staff" receive the necessary support to perform effectively. If I am not mistaken, Theresa is a student. This is a busy time of year for students. Perhaps more consideration as to the selection of a Recording Secretary should have been given. The Springfield Police Department has an office person who is also, I believe, a volunteer, and I am sure might have served either as Recording Secretary as she has access to the RM of Springfield computer system or as a support to Theresa. Further Mr. Peter Williams is the Councillor that sits on the Police Board and he could have arranged for someone in the administrative support staff of the RM of Springfield to train and assist the Administrative Assistant, Theresa, long before this meeting.**

#### 6. Adjournment