

Minutes

City of Morden Police Board



Thursday April 23rd, 2020 @ 3:00pm – via Zoom

Present: Rich Harries (Chair), Chief Brad Neduzak, Stephen Ross, Linda Doerksen,
Gord Maddock, Jim Hunt and Brandi Saunders (recorder) guest-Jeff

1.0 Call to Order at 3:00 pm

2.0 Regrets:

Chief Brad Neduzak & Brandi Saunders (recorder) – both were absent due to an active police incident

3.0 Adoption of Agenda:

M: Jim S: Gord, Carried

4.0 Approval of Previous Minutes November 28th, 2019:

M: Stephen S: Linda , Carried.

5.0 Delegations:

Nil

6.0 Executive Reports:

A – Chief's Reports

Brad's monthly reports have been shared previously via email.

7.0 Other New Business

A. COVID 19 Impacts

General discussion on what board members have observed and feedback on the discussions between Chief Neduzak and the Chair.

Question as to what MPS can do to help further encourage social distancing and staying healthy.
The Chair will follow up with Chief Neduzak.

We have had several social media posts and some media releases on Covid-19 as of late. We have basically reiterated what Manitoba Public Health has been issuing for orders; ie. Social distancing, group of 10 or less, reminding of the fines for non-compliance, etc. At the beginning, we did not have any media releases on direction because that is what the Province wanted. There was a lot of confusion at first with the public thinking this was a police matter, and understandably so, when you hear words like “enforcement, fines, jail”, one would naturally believe the police are and should be the contact and communicators of what is happening. However, the government made it very clear that Manitoba Public Health was the lead and police had no authority in the matter, at that time. From the onset of the pandemic, we have and continue to have, weekly teleconference meetings with Manitoba Public Health and Manitoba Emergency Measures. As well, I have weekly meetings with our Southern Emergency Response Committee to ensure that locally, we are all on the same page and know what everyone is doing and up against. As this progressed, police were asked to step in and assist in dealing with calls or inquiries related to non-compliance issues. It was stressed over and over that education and warnings were to be the first step in dealing with any non-compliance matters. Fines were a last resort, but absolutely could be issued if need be. They also wanted a central contact for complaints, that being the Manitoba General Inquiries number, for the public to call so all incidents could be tracked. From there, the police agency of jurisdiction would be emailed with the details for follow up. Obviously the police are still getting calls directly and will deal with them. We submit weekly reports to the Justice Department to track our calls and dealings with any Covid -19 related issues and how they were dealt with. Our officers were instructed to watch for any situations of non-compliance while out on their regular patrols and to challenge and speak with people if they saw something in contradiction to the orders handed down by the Province. Again, the goal being to educate first, warnings second, and then fines if necessary.

Discussion around liability to our employees specific to COVID 19 and personal protective equipment – has this been addressed. The Chair will follow up with Chief Neduzak.

From the very start of this pandemic, I believe we took action very quickly to try and limit the contact with and contamination of our officers. Early on, we initiated a “COVID-19 RESPONSE PROCEDURE” (as attached), to our officers. We also started separating employees within our office, having one Sergeant and one Special Constable move upstairs in separate areas, while the remaining two stayed down. The Sergeants and Special Constables work in offices together in close proximity to one another, so this was a necessary step. Brandi is really the only consistent employee in the office on her regular day shift. Obviously, our office and all City buildings were closed to the public and that eliminated any walk in complaints limiting contact with the public. Our front line officers are fairly separated in their individual work stations and as per the procedures, instructed to ride in separate vehicles and to sterilize the vehicles at the start and completion of their shifts. We have also asked officers to limit all unnecessary vehicle stops/traffic enforcement for now. Obviously there will be situations we cannot avoid, but traffic programs such as the MPI funded checkstops, are on hold for now. There is a regular

rotation of disinfecting of office equipment such as computers, desks, phones, door knobs and light switches by staff. As time went on, we eventually went to a form of platoon system that further addressed dividing our office up and keeping the possibility of cross contamination to a minimum.

We have purchased a supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from local suppliers such as the N95 masks, extra rubber gloves and a couple of masks with respirators in the event we have an active Covid-19 case to deal with. Obviously, everyone is in the same predicament with supply being short. Right now, we are sitting relatively well with our supply of PPE for officers. In our weekly teleconference meetings with the Province, this is a priority and huge concern, with officers running out of PPE. As a result, each agency has submitted their request of extra PPE and the Province is actively working on securing a supply for police. Our officers and staff have been instructed to always ask the public certain questions, before any necessary direct contact is made. These are the same questions that our police dispatchers ask callers before officers are dispatched.

1. *Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms: fever, new or worsening cough, new or worsening shortness of breath.*
2. *Have you travelled anywhere in the last 14 days? If yes, where?*
3. *Have you had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19?*

Things are changing daily and all necessary measures will be taken to ensure our staff stays safe.

If the Chief contracted COVID 19, what is the succession plan? This needs to be investigated further.

Right now, I am following a rotation with one of the Sergeants and the other Sergeant, I have no contact with at all. In the event I contract COVID-19, one of the Sergeants would be placed in charge. I have also been in contact with the Winkler Police, Altona Police and the RCMP and we have mutual aid agreements in place to assist one another if any of our offices should be affected by COVID-19 and require assistance with staffing in any way.

8.0 Financial Report:

A – 2020 YTD update

No update at this time.

Discussion around whether or not there are additional government funds available for COVID related expenses. The Chair will follow up with Chief Neduzak.

Right now, there are no additional government funds available for COVID-19 expenses but things are changing daily.

9.0 Old Business:

A – Update on Police Services Act Review Consultation

No further discussions have taken place.

B – Feedback on meeting with the Manitoba Police Commission

Meeting was generally positive, good overview of role and responsibilities of Police Board Members.

10.0 Closing Question Period

Has the Remand Centre intake reduction had any impact on the MPS?

11.0 Next Meeting Date: June 18th, 2020

3:00pm Morden Civic Centre

12.0 In Camera

Was not required.

13.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:31pm

Brandi Saunders (recorder)



MORDEN POLICE SERVICE COVID-19 RESPONSE PROCEDURE

The Morden Police Service along with the City of Morden and Emergency Measures Committee are working with and under the guidance of Healthcare professionals as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves. With that said, the Morden Police Service will be implementing the following procedures in hope that this will slow down the spread of the virus and minimize its impact in our community and office. The following polices are in addition to the City of Morden staff bulletins.

COVID-19 VIRUS

Data suggests that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Symptoms can include *fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and shortness of breath.*

The virus causing COVID-19 is called SARS-CoV-2. It is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person via respiratory droplets among close contacts. Respiratory droplets are produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes and can land in the mouths or noses, or possibly be inhaled into the lungs, of people who are nearby. Close contact may include:

Being within approximately 6 feet of an individual with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time.

Having direct contact with body fluids (such as blood, phlegm, and respiratory droplets) from an individual with COVID-19.

BASIC SELF PROTECTION

If possible, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from each other at all times.

Practice proper hand hygiene. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 70% alcohol.

Disinfect **FREQUENTLY**

Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.

Cough and Sneeze into your bent elbow or tissue.

Have a trained Emergency Medical Service/ Emergency Medical Technician (EMS/EMT) assess and transport anyone you think might have COVID-19 to a healthcare facility.

Ensure only trained personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) have contact with individuals who have or may have COVID-19.

MPS IMMEDIATE RESPONSE (OFFICE)

Effective immediately, the Morden Police Office is now closed to the general public in regards to items such as fingerprinting, criminal record checks and non-emergent matters. Any persons who are required to provide a statement or speak directly to a Police Officer should:

- Be visually inspected for signs of the virus (fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and shortness of breath).
- They should also be asked if they have been tested for COVID-19 or have come into contact with anyone with or tested for COVID-19.
- They should be questioned if they have recently returned from a trip outside the Country or have been around someone who has recently traveled

If any of these are answered with a "YES", then have the subjects disinfect their hands using the provided Hand Sanitizer and provide them with a Mask. Escort them to an interview room and ask them to refrain from touching anything.

Most calls for service can be dealt with by contacting the office using the phone.

Try to avoid using phones other than your own at your workstations. If you have to use another phone, remember to wipe it down after use.

Do not sit at another Members Desk or use their equipment including keyboards, mouse and any other office equipment.

Shared office equipment should be disinfected regularly using the supplied Hand Sanitizers, Wipes, and sprays (ie: hole punch and staplers).

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Every member should have a personal kit with a mask, gloves, etc. and have with them in the vehicle at the beginning of each shift (mask/gloves provided to each member in ziplock bags). When done your shift, remove the kit and keep in a safe place to use next time/shift.

MPS IMMEDIATE RESPONSE (CALLS FOR SERVICE)

Members shall ensure their Police Vehicle is sterilized at the start and end of their shifts using the provided disinfected sprays and wipes.

Shift prep will include ensuring Member has appropriate PPE and access to disinfected wipes, masks, and gloves for infected Subjects.

Members should refrain from conducting 2-man Unit Patrols unless a particular situation/incident dictates.

It has been noted that the virus may still be considered active as an airborne particulate after being in a stale environment for up to 4 hours.

While attending ***non-emergent calls***, Members shall try and maintain a 6-foot interview distance.

Members shall avoid entering homes when not required.

Members should interview Subjects prior to entering a home using the same questions as office visits:

- Be visually inspected for signs of the virus (fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and shortness of breath).
- They should also be asked if they have been tested for COVID-19 or have come into contact with anyone with or tested for COVID-19.
- They should be questioned if they have recently returned from a trip outside the Country or have been around someone who has recently traveled

If the Subject answers "YES" to any of the questions, Members shall don their PPE to deal with the situation.

When a ***Compliant Subject*** is required to be taken into custody, Members shall advise the Subject why he is being placed under arrest and then ask him the screening questions. If the Subject answers "YES" to any of them, please provide the subject with a Mask.

While dealing with ***emergency calls***, Members will place ***Caution and Officer Safety Policies ahead of this virus policy***. This may require Members to enter a home or business unprotected and may end up contacting a Subject who has been confirmed COVID-19 positive. If this is to happen Members will as soon as practical, begin decontamination procedures as follows:

- **Members shall immediately wash their hands/face with soap and water or use the provided hand sanitizers**
- **Clean and disinfect duty belt and gear prior to reuse, using the provided disinfected cleaning sprays or wipes, according to the product label.**

- **Uniforms that have been contaminated with obvious mucous and spittle shall be removed at the office and double bagged before being laundered. Members can request clothing to be brought to the office or may use the provided coveralls. Members will contact the Chief of Police or Designate and advise of contact with known or suspected COVID-19 Subject**
- **Members will complete incident matters with in-custody Subject (release /remand)**
- **Members will then be on mandatory “Self Isolation” and contact Manitoba Health Links and speak with a nurse about your exposure.; toll free 1-888-315-9257 or online at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>**
- **Member will update the Chief of Police or Designate in regards to quarantine recommendations, testing procedures, or return to work options.**

When dealing with emergent calls and time is available, Members are encouraged to dawn their PPE prior to any home entries.