



## Owen Sound Police Service Board

2nd Floor Board Room

Wednesday May 27, 2026

### PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

---

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>J. Thomson (Chair), M. Koepke (Vice Chair), C. Merton, M. Dickson, B. O'Leary</b>
<b>Management Present:</b>	<b>Chief C. Ambrose, Deputy Chief D. Bishop, Inspector C. Matheson</b>
<b>Absent with Regrets:</b>	<b>Inspector T. Doherty</b>
<b>Minutes:</b>	<b>K. Wardell</b>

---

#### 1. Call to Order

Chair Thomson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

#### 2. Land Acknowledgment

Chair Thomson gave the land acknowledgment.

#### 3. Approval of the Agenda

Member Merton through the Chair added 16 i) Taxi and Accessibility

**Moved by M. Dickson, seconded by B. O'Leary.**

*"That the agenda dated May 27, 2026 with the addition of 16 i) Taxi and Accessibility ."* **CARRIED.**

#### 4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest arising out of the Minutes and Matters Listed on the Agenda. HEARING NONE

#### 5. Presentations, Deputations, and Public question period.

There were no presentations or deputations or public questions.

## **6. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Public Session held April 22, 2026.**

**Moved by B. O’Leary, seconded by M. Dickson.**

*“That the minutes dated April 22, 2026 be approved.”* **CARRIED**

## **7. Business arising out of the Public Session Minutes of April 22, 2026. HEARING NONE**

### **8. Correspondence received**

- a) Safety for our community

### **9. Chairman’s Report**

Chair Thomson attended a zoom meeting of the OAPSB board on April 30, 2026. It was their first meeting being known officially as PGO (Police Governance of Ontario).

Highlights of that meeting included:

- OAPSB received an unqualified audit or clean audit report from our auditors.
- Assets up \$154,000 from 2024
- Liabilities are up slightly by \$41,000
- Revenues up \$207,000
- Expenses up \$77,400
  
- The Transfer Payment Agreement has been received from the Solicitor General’s office. This agreement will be used to develop training courses and materials for police boards both municipal and O.P.P. and First Nation’s boards across Ontario over the next three years.
  
- An MOU is being developed among the PGO, PAO and OACP for the annual employment conference in February 2027.
  
- The new PGO website is up and running and is much improved over our previous website. Members will need to register on the new website. Unfortunately, the old passwords will not automatically work in the new site. If you want to use the same email and password, you may.

Chair Thomson reported that Chief Ambrose and Deputy Chief Bishop were awarded the Member of Order of Merit of Police Forces and received their appointment letters back on November 15, 2024. On May 14, 2026 a formal investiture ceremony was held at Rideau

Hall where Mike Duheme the Commissionaire of the RCMP and the Honourable Mary Simon the Governor General of Canada presented the medals to Chief Ambrose and Deputy Chief Bishop, after which they attended a luncheon at Rideau Hall held in their honor.

The chair offered his congratulations to both and on the work, they had done to be recognized by this coveted award.

## **10. Governance**

Chair Thomson reported that on April 23, 2026 Ontario's Inspector General of Policing, Ryan Teschner announced the appointment of the Honourable William Hourigan as the external inspector for the province-wide inspection on police integrity and anti-corruption practices.

First announced in February 2026, as a result of Project South, the province wide inspection will examine the adequacy and effectiveness of police services, including the Ontario Provincial Police, and police service boards. The inspections will focus on system-level practices for preventing, detecting, responding to, and fortifying their organizations against corruption, but not on individual conduct.

## **11. Operational Reports**

- a) Criminal Investigations Branch and Drug Enforcement/Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIB), Community Oriented Response & Enforcement Unit (CORE) and Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension Unit (BCWA)
- b) Auxiliary Unit Report
- c) Front Line Patrol and Collision Statistics
- d) Community Services Office
- e) Training

## **12. Administrative Reports**

- a) Records, Courts and Bylaw
- b) OSECC and IT
- c) Human Resources

d) Lost Hours

### **13. Building and Facility Update**

Deputy Chief Bishop reported several facility maintenance and capital items remain under review. Exterior brick deterioration requiring waterproofing and cladding remains outstanding and is not scheduled for completion in 2026. Water leaks identified in the previous reporting period were addressed by City staff and have not reoccurred.

Cleaning services continue to meet expectations, and the addition of on-site facilities staff has improved routine maintenance and repair response times. HVAC balancing and recalibration were completed in May, along with the replacement of damaged ceiling tiles and interior painting in select areas of the building.

Several projects remain outstanding, including modifications to the front lobby washroom access controls, elevator security measures, and the main floor staff washroom renovation. The washroom access project is awaiting scheduling by a locksmith, while no start date has been provided for the staff washroom renovation.

Parking lot drainage issues reoccurred during heavy spring rainfall and will require further review. Accessibility (AODA) compliance requirements remain a long-term consideration and will need to be addressed through a future facility assessment, with no capital funding currently allocated.

### **14. Financial Update from the Chief of Police**

Chief Ambrose reported that he reviewed the financials with J. Hawk- Financial Coordinator and K. Allan-Director of Corporate Services. The budget is currently projected to be \$20,000–\$30,000 over budget; however, there are contingencies built into the budget.

### **15. Operating Reports from the Chief of Police**

a) Chief's Activity Reports

### **16. Other Items and New Business**

a) Review of Nuisance By-law No. 2024-026

Chair Thomson reported that this matter had previously been included on the Board's April 2025 agenda, at which time the Board reviewed the applicable bylaw and confirmed its intent to:

- a. safeguard the quality of City communities and neighbourhoods,
- b. protect the safety, health, and well-being of the public; and
- c. ensure the continued enjoyment of public and private property for residents, visitors, and property owners in the City.

There were also discussions around shoppers feeling unsafe downtown and business owners were having to lock their doors during business hours to control those entering their place of business. These issues, continue to persist. He also referenced that some financial institutions in the River District have reduced public access to their ABMs outside of normal banking hours, and in some cases have implemented controlled entry to the branch during business hours.

Chief Ambrose reported that the community is concerned, noting that the service receives daily calls related to visible substance use and disorderly behaviour resulting in increased calls for service in the River District.

Chair Thomson also referenced a motion arising from the Board's April 2025 meeting requesting that City Council convene a meeting with the River District Board, the Chamber of Commerce, downtown business owners, the Owen Sound Police Service, local provincial and federal prosecutors, and the area's Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) to discuss current downtown conditions.

He further noted that, following that meeting, the Neighbourhood Response Team (NRT) was implemented, funded by Health Canada and administered by the County; however, this initiative is no longer active.

The Board discussed ongoing service delivery challenges. Chief Ambrose provided information regarding a bylaw model from Cobourg for consideration and whether similar provisions could be adopted locally. He was to share this bylaw with the city.

The Board reviewed correspondence and broader community feedback indicating that residents, businesses, and visitors continue to feel unsafe in the downtown area, with concerns being further amplified through social media.

Members and Chief Ambrose emphasized that policing alone is not sufficient to address the issues, citing increasing calls for service, resource limitations, and the need for enhanced bylaw enforcement and greater collaboration among the City, County, police service, and community agencies.

Further discussion was held. Coming out of those discussions the board made the following motion.

**Moved by M. Dickson, seconded by B. O’Leary**

*“That in an effort to ensure the continued enjoyment of public and private property for residents, visitor and property owners in the city. The Owen Sound Police Service Board requests the City of Owen Sound Council to take action on concerns raised by the River District, Police Service Board, Council and Municipal residents regarding loitering and other social disorder matters taking place in the City of Owen Sound particularly in the River District.” **CARRIED***

b) Outside Alcohol (BYOB) at Municipal Gatherings

Chief Ambrose reported that he had spoken with the City, and BYOB will not be permitted at municipal gatherings.

c) International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference

Chair Thomson noted that OSPSB Policy 009 regarding the chief attending conferences only applied to national conferences and asked for a motion to approve the Chief’s attendance at this international conference.

**Moved by M. Koepke, and seconded by B. O’Leary.**

*“That the OSPSB approves Chief Ambrose to attend the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference.” **CARRIED***

a) Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics

Chief Ambrose reported that The Owen Sound Police Service will host the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) in support of Special Olympics Ontario on June 10, 2026. The event will involve participation from OSPS members, local Special Olympics athletes, and partner police services from Saugeen Shores, Hanover, West Grey, and the Ontario Provincial Police.

b) CSPA Aggregate Disciplinary Report

Deputy Chief Bishop reported on the CSPA Aggregate Disciplinary Report, which will be added to the board website.

c) Zone 5 Meeting – October 8, 2026

**Moved by M. Koepke and seconded by M. Dickson.**

*“That the OSPSB approve hosting the Zone 5 Meeting on October 8, 2026 at the Sydenham Campus.” **CARRIED***

d) Taxi Broker Licence Application - Platinum Taxi

Chair Thomson report that this report is to advise the board that under the requirements of the Owen Sound Transportation Bylaw, Chief Ambrose has approved a taxi license for Platinum Taxi.

e) Ontario Police Fitness Award (OPFA) Incentives

Chief Ambrose reported that The OPFA Fitness Pin Program is a provincial initiative promoting ongoing physical fitness among police officers and civilian members. Research supports the benefits of regular fitness, including improved wellness, reduced absenteeism, and enhanced operational performance.

In February 2026, OSPS trained an internal staff member as a certified OPFA appraiser, enabling in-house administration of the Fitness Pin test up to four times per year. Participation at OSPS has historically been low; however, the program supports organizational priorities related to member wellness, recruitment, retention, and sustainability. Additional incentives to encourage participation are under consideration.

f) Taxi and Accessibility

Member Merton added to the agenda accessibility and taxi services. Chief Ambrose advised that K. Fluney- Director of Civilian Services conducts AODA reviews with service providers on a biannual basis. It was noted that taxi services can accommodate foldable wheelchairs and walkers; however, individuals must be able to transfer into the vehicle independently.

## **17. Motion to move into Closed and Confidential Closed Session**

**Moved by M. Dickson and seconded Brian O’Leary.**

*“That the board move into closed session and upon termination of the closed session the board move into confidential closed session. These meetings are to review and discuss matters that fall under Section 44 item (2) of the Community Safety and Police Act and Section 25 item b) of the OSPSB General Policy 003- Board Governance to consider:*

- a. Educational or training sessions.*
- b. A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the board;*

- c. *personal matters about an identifiable individual, including members of the police service or any other employees of the board;*
- d. *labour relations or employee negotiations;”* **CARRIED**

## **18. Reporting out of Closed Session**

In accordance with Section 44 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 and Section 25 item b) of the OSPSB General Policy 003- Board Governance to consider: the Owen Sound Police Service Board met in a closed session following the public meeting to discuss items pertaining to:

- a. Approval of minutes of the Closed Session of the Owen Sound Police Service Board meeting held on April 22, 2026; and
- b. Matters regarding Board Training

No decisions were made during the meeting and no direction was provided

The Chair confirmed that no other matters were discussed.

## **19. Reporting out of Confidential Closed Session**

In accordance with Section 44 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 and Section 25 item b) of the OSPSB General Policy 003- Board Governance to consider: the Owen Sound Police Service Board met in a confidential closed session following the closed meeting to discuss items pertaining to:

- a. Approval of minutes of the Closed Session of the Owen Sound Police Service Board meeting held on April 22, 2026; and
- b. Matters related to Staffing and labour relations
- c. Matters related to SIU investigations

No decisions were made during the meeting and no direction was provided

## **20. Termination of the Public Meeting**

Having completed all of the business items listed on the agenda Chair Thomson terminated the open meeting at 12:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting: June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**DRAFT**