



## Owen Sound Police Service Board

2nd Floor Meeting Room

Wednesday April 23, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

### PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

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**Members Present:** J. Thomson (Chair), B. O’Leary (Vice-Chair), C. Merton, I. Boddy

**Via Zoom:** B. Wilkins,

**Guest:** H. Zehr - Police Services Advisor/Inspector, J. Dingwall

**Management Present:** Chief C. Ambrose, Inspector J. Fluney, Inspector D. Bishop

**Minutes:** K. Wardell

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#### 1. Call to Order

Chair Thomson called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

#### 2. Land Acknowledgment

Chair Thomson read the land acknowledgment.

#### 3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by B. O’Leary, seconded by C. Merton.

*“That the agenda, dated April 23, 2025 be approved.” 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, Deputations or Public questions.

## **6. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Public Session held March 26, 2025.**

**Moved by I. Boddy, seconded by B. Wilkins.**

*“That the minutes dated March 26, 2025 be approved.”* **CARRIED**

## **7. Business arising out of the Public Session Minutes of March 26, 2025. HEARING NONE**

## **8. Correspondence received**

- a) Inspector General Memo #4: Release of the Inspectorate of Policing's Strategic Plan
- b) Response Time - Research and Consultation IoP
- c) Article on New Drug Arrest Policy – Owen Sound Police Services
- d) San Francisco Rethinks Free Handouts
- e) E-mail in Support of New Drug Arrest Policy
- f) E-mail accessibility in our local taxi companies

Chair Thomson reported that item (f) pertains to an email from a local resident with whom he had spoken to the previous week to discuss their concerns. While the author did not single out any specific taxi company, they wished to raise the issue publicly. Chair Thomson also noted that the individual may bring their proposal for expanded mobility service hours to Owen Sound City Council and the County of Grey for further consideration.

- g) Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce Coordinator Report- January- March 2025

J. Dingwall joined the open session meeting at 10:15 a.m. as a member of the public.

## **9. Chairman's Report**

### **OAPSB Board Meeting (April 10, 2025)**

Chair Thomson reported that he attended the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) Board Meeting on April 10, 2025. The following highlights were noted:

- **Membership Update:**  
Membership numbers are currently slightly below budget projections, primarily due to some O.P.P. Detachment Boards not yet convening their initial meetings following recent restructuring.
- **Leadership Transition:**  
Board Chair Pat Weaver announced that this will be his final year in the role. A new Chair and Executive Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June 2025.

**Executive Director Lisa Darling provided the following updates:**

- **Recruitment Campaign:**  
A new recruitment initiative is underway, developed with input from focus groups to inform the overall strategy.
- **Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) with the Ministry – Training Funding:**
  - The current TPA concluded at the end of March 2025.
  - The OAPSB has submitted a request for a new agreement focused on developing a comprehensive training program for police service boards.
- **Advocacy Committee:**  
Plans are in place to restructure the Advocacy Committee, including the development of a new strategic plan and the formation of a new team.
- **Provincial Zone Structure:**  
Recommendations regarding the zone structure are expected to be presented in April, with further discussion planned for the AGM in June.
- **AGM and Spring Conference 2025 - Agenda:**  
A draft agenda has been circulated to those registered for the upcoming conference. Members were encouraged to confirm attendance.
- **Newsletter:**  
The first edition of the OAPSB newsletter has been published. Members who did not receive a copy or email notification can contact K. Wardell to request one.
  - The newsletter includes valuable information about sessions at the upcoming Spring Conference.

## **10. Governance**

Chair Thomson reported he didn't have any specific information for item 10, but did note there was a Critical Point Reporting Policy for approval under new business.

## **11. Reports from Inspector D. Bishop**

- a) Criminal Investigations Branch and Drug Enforcement/Criminal Intelligence Unit
- b) Auxiliary Unit Report
- c) Community Oriented Response & Enforcement Unit
- d) Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension Unit
- e) Police Academy Recap

## **12. Reports from Inspector J. Fluney**

- a) Front Line Patrol and Collision Statistics
- b) Community Services Office
- c) Lost Hours and Training

## **13. Reports from Director of Civilian Services K. Fluney**

D. Bishop reported that in the coming months the Special Constable hours will be increased significantly with the beginning of the homicide trials.

## **14. Report from Director of Corporate Services S. Bell-Matheson and Director of Information Technology Services C. Hill**

As there were no requests for action in the above reports, they will be placed on file with these minutes for information purposes.

## **15. Report from Manager of Human Resources W. Pratt**

Reported during the closed session.

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

Chief Ambrose noted that, with the ratification of the contracts, retroactive payments can now be issued. He emphasized that without accounting for these adjustments, the financial statements would not accurately reflect the current position. At this time, there are no concerns regarding the budget.

## 17. Operating Reports from the Chief of Police

### a) Chief's Activity Reports

As there were no requests for action in the above report, they will be placed on file with these minutes for information purposes.

## 18. Other Items and New Business

### a) Critical Point Reporting – Policy Approval

Chair Thomson provided context regarding this item, noting that on March 20, 2025, the Inspectorate of Policing (IoP) issued General Memo and Advisory Bulletin #3, which pertains to the requirement for municipal police services to establish a board policy on Critical Point Reporting.

In response, Dave Preston was contacted and has prepared the draft policy attached for the Board's consideration. The draft policy has been reviewed by Chief Ambrose, who has expressed his support for its adoption.

**Moved by B. Wilkins, seconded by B. O'Leary.**

*"That the policy OSPSB GP-023 Critical Point Reporting be approved."* **CARRIED**

### b) Introduction of Hyper AI for non-emergency call handling

To be moved to May's OSPSB meeting.

### c) City Nuisance By-law

Chair Thomson reported that he had added this item to the agenda for information and a better understanding of this City Bylaw that was enacted 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.

He also reported that at our last meeting the board had briefly discussed that it is no longer becoming acceptable for shoppers to feel unsafe downtown. He noted that at one time it might have been said shoppers were feeling uncomfortable downtown, but now it is becoming a feeling of being unsafe. He also noted that feeling of unsafe could also be

extended to business owners having to lock their doors during the day to control those entering their place of business for non-business related purposes.

Chair Thomson went on to say that at our February meeting there was report on the boards business plan and CS3 stated that *“Starting in January 2025, OSPS will be implementing changes in how individuals with problematic substance use disorders are dealt with in public areas”*. The community is concerned and the Chief of Police is receiving daily calls because of “the visibility of substance abuse within the city and the disorderly behaviour and public use of substances has increased significantly in the last number of years.

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police position has changed and it no longer supports the decriminalization of drug possession in small amounts unless there is the proper support put in place for people who use drugs.

Chief Ambrose’s plan moving forward is to enforce the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, for possession charges for public drug use. Vancouver has just passed a bylaw making it illegal to consume drugs in public areas and parks.

The e-mail received today in correspondence on “Drug use downtown” speaks directly to the problem being experienced downtown Owen Sound.

Chair Thomson posed the question to the board, “should a more coordinated effort to have City bylaw staff start enforcing the Nuisance Bylaw, reviewed here today?” As it stands and the police service is dealing with substance use disorders and bylaw issues or a combination of the two?”

The Board discussed ongoing concerns regarding the limited effectiveness of current community programs and the challenges posed by a compliance-focused approach to bylaw enforcement. Chief Ambrose emphasized the need for a strategic shift toward proactive enforcement, noting his ongoing engagement with the River District and participation in the Small and Mid’s conference to advance this direction. He stressed the importance of Bylaw Services aligning with this approach to produce meaningful results.

Inspector Bishop supported this position, highlighting the need for a stronger legal framework to enable effective enforcement, particularly concerning drug possession. He noted efforts to engage the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC) in reclaiming enforcement authority and the importance of community impact statements from downtown businesses to support this initiative. Inspector Bishop will be meeting with the River District to advance this work.

Mayor Boddy advised that a formal service review of Bylaw Services is scheduled for September 11, 2025, which will explore a shift from compliance to proactive enforcement. In the interim, bylaw operations will remain unchanged.

Chief Ambrose further acknowledged that the police service will continue to take action and deliver results, enforcing applicable bylaws, the Criminal Code, and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. Additionally, the service will pursue any available grant funding to support enforcement and community safety initiatives.

**Moved by I. Boddy, seconded by C. Merton.**

*“That the Owen Sound Police Services Board (OSPSB) write a letter requesting City Council to convene a meeting with the River District Board, the Chamber of Commerce, and all downtown business owners to discuss current business conditions in downtown Owen Sound. Invitations should also be extended to representatives from the Owen Sound Police Service, local provincial and federal prosecutors, and the area’s Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP).”* **CARRIED**

d) Owen Sound Q1 2025 Collision Statistics

Chair Thomson acknowledged Mayor Boddy’s receipt of the Municipal Government Stewardship Award from the Canadian Nuclear Isotope Council (CNIC) from the Canadian Nuclear Association. The award recognizes the excellence of an elected official who has emerged as a leader in promoting regional isotope production, workforce and talent development, and partnerships to strengthen the regional supply chain. Congratulations Ian!

Chair Thomson also acknowledged that this would be Inspector Fluney’s last meeting as he is retiring on April 25, 2025 after 30 plus years of service to the Owen Sound Police Service. The Chair thanked him for his service and wished him well in his retirement.

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

Having completed all of the business items listed on the agenda Chair Thomson terminated the closed meeting at 11:50 a.m.

**Next Meeting: May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**