



Owen Sound Police Service Board

2nd Floor Board Room

Wednesday February 18, 2026

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

Members Present:	J. Thomson (Chair), B. O'Leary C. Merton, M. Koepke (Vice Chair), M. Dickson
Management Present:	Chief C. Ambrose, Deputy Chief D. Bishop, Inspector C. Matheson, and Inspector T. Doherty
Guests:	T. Simmonds- City Manager, M. Gloade- Strategic Analyst, H. Zehr Police Service Advisor - Inspectorate of Policing
Minutes:	K. Wardell

1. Call to Order

Chair Thomson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Chair Thomson gave the land acknowledgment.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Thomson requested that Special Constable Appointment be added to the agenda under other items and new business item 16. h). There are no other amendments to the agenda.

Moved by M. Dickson, seconded by M. Koepke,

"That the agenda with the addition under new business 16. h) Special Constable Appointment, dated February 18, 2026, 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 or deputations or public questions

6. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Public Session held January 28, 2026.

Moved by M. Dickson, seconded by M. Koepke.

"That the minutes dated January 28, 2026 be approved." **CARRIED**

7. Business arising out of the Public Session Minutes of January 28, 2026. HEARING NONE

8. Correspondence received

- a) Inspector General Memo #9: Province-Wide Inspection on Police Integrity and Anti-Corruption Practices

Chair Thomson reported that in the board package there was Inspector General's Memo #9 regarding the initiation of a province-wide inspection on police integrity and anti-corruption.

This inspection was triggered as result of York Regional Police announcing the outcome of Project South which was an investigation into possible organized crime and corruption in TPS.

The investigation identified serious allegations and resulted in the arrest of several current and former members of the Toronto Police Service and has prompted broader concerns about the integrity and public confidence in policing. Chair Thomson also sent the memo to the board's policy writer D. Preston in the event changes are required to our policies.

9. Chairman's Report

Chair Thomson reported that he would be attending an OAPSB meeting via zoom on February 19, 2026 and on March 10, 2025 he would be attending a Zone 5 meeting via zoom.

10. Governance

There were no new governance items tabled for this open session.

11. Inspector Matheson – 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. Inspector T. Doherty- Administrative Reports

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

13. Building and Facility Update from Inspector Doherty

Inspector Doherty advised that a comprehensive report will be presented at the March meeting.

Parking:

- Due to the limited number of parking spots at the station thirty-eight staff license plates will be uploaded to the City's data base to address parking access.

Water Filling Station:

- The refrigerator in the staff room is being replaced with a unit that includes an ice and water dispenser.

Interior Painting:

- Paint colours are in the process of being finalized.

Mold Remediation:

- Remediation is scheduled to take place on February 28, 2026. The scope of work is pending confirmation. Stained ceiling tiles will also be replaced at that time.

HVAC:

- No update at this time.

Door Installation – Inspector Matheson’s Office:

- Installation has been completed.

Main Floor Bathroom Renovations:

- Work is anticipated to be completed in the spring.

Service Level Agreement:

- It was agreed that the board needed to ensure that their service level agreement with the City reflected a policing facility that operates on a 24/7 basis.

The Board requested that the Chair invite the City Manager and the Director of Corporate Services to attend the March 18, 2026 open session to provide information on how operating costs and capital items were allocated to the Police Service. The Board also requested a discussion regarding the next snow removal contract, noting the need for sidewalks to be cleared in a timely manner to the parking lot, as the facility operates 24/7.

14. Financial Update from the Chief of Police

Chief Ambrose reported that the final year-end financial position came in under budget by \$255,776.33. The 3200 Civilians line was over budget due to part-time overtime and retroactive payments, while the 3100 Officers line was under budget. Court costs were over budget as a result of additional armed officer requirements at court facilities. After all year-end adjustments, the final budget increase remains at 5.5%

15. Operating Reports from the Chief of Police

- a) Chief’s Activity Reports

16. Other Items and New Business

- a) Annual Reports
 - i. 2025 Use of Force Annual Report
 - ii. 2025 Property Vault Audit
 - iii. 2025 Asset Disposal Report
 - iv. 2025 Secondary Employment Activities

b) 2026-01 Admin Fee Bylaw 1st and 2nd Reading

Chair Thomson reported that an update to the Admin Fee Bylaw was required in order to include a new fee for BROAD Police Record Checks at \$100.00.

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

“That leave be granted to introduce Bylaw number 2026-01 Admin Fee Bylaw and the same be hereby be deemed to have been read a first and second time”
CARRIED

c) Review OSPSB GP-009 Financial Management

At our January meeting member O’Leary requested that GP-009 Financial Management be placed on the agenda for review.

Member O’Leary sought clarification regarding a meeting per diem for board members attending conferences, conventions, seminars, training sessions, workshops and meetings related to their duties with the Board. The current policy does not cover a daily meeting per diem and a review of previous policies would indicate a daily meeting per diem was never provide. OSPSB GP-009 Financial Management policy identifies eligible expenses that are covered and expenses that are not eligible for reimbursement

A previous version of this policy known as OSPSB – Admin 018 Reimbursement of Expenses was issued in October 2013. This policy did provide for a meal per diem that was aligned with the civilian collective bargaining agreement. Admin 018 was rescinded. A recent update to GP-009 Financial Management contains text that references a meal per diem that was not removed and needs to be updated.

It was also acknowledged that expenses related to a spouse/companion accompanying a board member referred to in Schedule “B” were covered and was at odds with the contents of Section 7c) iii. which indicated they were not. Corrections will be made to Schedule “B” and presented to the board meeting on March 18, 2026. No other changes were to be made.

d) Review OSPSB GP-003 Board Governance

Review will be added to our March agenda.

e) Review of OSPSB GPS-023 Records Retention, Storage and Destruction

Chair Thomson reported that the header and footer need to be changed, and the name of the policy should be changed to OSPSB GP-025.

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

“That policy OSPSB GP-025 with the amended changes, be approved.” CARRIED

f) Bitcoin ATM Machines- Information Report

Inspector Matheson reported Bitcoin ATMs are physical kiosks that allow users to buy or sell cryptocurrency using cash or debit cards. While legal in Ontario and regulated as money services businesses under FINTRAC, they have been increasingly used in fraud schemes, including scams impersonating government officials, investment frauds, and tech support scams. In Owen Sound, reported financial losses involving Bitcoin ATMs have varied annually since 2020, with the most significant loss being \$100,000 in 2021. Current machines are located at five convenience stores across the city. Law enforcement continues to monitor these machines due to their speed, anonymity, and irreversible transactions, which make them attractive to scammers.

g) 2023-2026 Operations Plan – Progress Update #6 - Year Three

M. Gloade reported that the OSPS 2023–2026 Operations Plan, approved in March 2023, includes 14 goals and 50 actions with assigned accountability and semi-annual progress reporting. As of the end of year three, 35 actions (70%) are completed, 14 are in progress, and one has not yet started. Many completed actions are now embedded into regular operations, including increased community visibility, enhanced collaboration with mental health and social service partners, improved victim services, member wellness initiatives, recruitment and retention efforts, and organizational efficiencies. Actions still in progress include repeat-offender enforcement initiatives, internal communication improvements, and a comprehensive service delivery model review planned to begin in 2026. Despite workload and budget challenges, steady progress continues with Board support.

h) Special Constable Appointment

Deputy Chief Bishop reported that Special Constable Cranny is due for reappointment. It was noted that, moving forward, reappointments will be included in a quarterly report as they become due.

17. Motion to move into Closed and Confidential Closed Session

Moved by M. Koepke and seconded by B. 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. Litigation or potential litigation affecting the board, including matters before administrative tribunals;*
- c. 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;*
- d. personal matters about an identifiable individual, including members of the police service or any other employees of the board;*
- e. labour relations or employee negotiations;” **CARRIED***

Chair Thomson advised that for those watching the meeting live on YouTube, the livestream would reconnect upon the Board’s return to open session to report out of the Closed and Confidential Closed Sessions. Members of the public wishing to view the remainder of the open session may watch the livestream later on the Owen Sound Police Services Board’s YouTube channel. The video recording of the meeting will also be posted on the Board’s webpage following the meeting.

18. Reporting out of Closed Session

In accordance with Section 44 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, 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 January 28th, 2026; and
- b. Matters regarding Board Training

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

19. Reporting out of Confidential Closed Session

In accordance with Section 44 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, the Owen Sound Police Service Board met in a confidential closed session following the closed session meeting to discuss items pertaining to:

a. Minutes of the Confidential Closed Session of the Owen Sound Police Service Board Regular Council meeting held on January 28, 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 12:33 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 18th, 2026