



## Owen Sound Police Service Board

2nd Floor Board Room

Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### PUBLIC SESSION MEETING

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**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:** A. Byers- OSPA Representative, M. Gloade- Strategic Analyst

**Via Zoom:** H. Zehr Police Service Advisor - Inspectorate of Policing

**Minutes:** K. Wardell

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#### 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. Election of Chair

Chair Thomson turned the meeting over to Kayla Wardell, the board’s Executive Assistant, to conduct the annual election of chair and vice chair for 2026.

Election of Chair (2026 Term):

Nominations for the position of Chair were called from the floor. Brian O’Leary nominated John Thomson. No further nominations were received. Nominations were closed, and John Thomson was acclaimed as Board Chair for the 2026 term.

Election of Vice Chair (2026 Term):

Nominations for the position of Vice Chair were called from the floor. Brian O'Leary nominated Marion Koepke, who accepted the nomination. No further nominations were received. Nominations were closed, and Marion Koepke was acclaimed as Board Vice Chair for the 2026 term.

K. Wardell turned the meeting back over to the Chair Thomson.

#### **4. Approval of the Agenda**

Chair Thomson added the following items to the agenda;

1. Report on Building and Facilities. This could come right after item 15 report from HR Manager. He also requested that this item become a standing item under reports for future meetings.
2. Under Other Items and New Business add item 18 g) for a report on Police Race- and Identity-Based Data

As there were no other additional items Chair Thomson called for the motion to approve the agenda.

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

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

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

#### **6. Presentations, Deputations, and Public question period.**

##### a) Promotion

Chief Ambrose formally acknowledged Sergeant M. Holovaki on his promotion to Sergeant.

##### b) COP Program Recognition

Chief Ambrose and Deputy Chief Bishop recognized the members on behalf of the Board and expressed their sincere appreciation for their dedicated service and commitment to the community during their time being a part of the COP program.

- Caron, Jean Paul
- Lorenz, Jeff

- Genereaux, John
- MacPhatter, Rob
- Scribner, Ralph
- Wardrop, Rick
- Wood, Brian

## **7. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Public Session held December 16, 2025.**

**Moved by M. Dickson, seconded by C. Merton.**

*“That the minutes dated December 16, 2025 be approved.”* **CARRIED**

## **8. Business arising out of the Public Session Minutes of December 16, 2025.**

Chair Thomson reported that the December minutes indicate the mould matter was addressed through the City; however, only the identified areas of concern were assessed, not the entire building, and remedial work has not yet been completed. The minutes will be amended accordingly and posted to the website once finalized.

## **9. Correspondence received**

- a) Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce October to December 2025 Coordinator's Program Report
- b) Letter from SOL GEN MMAH
- c) Letter from Chair Thomson and Chief Ambrose to Ontario Minister of Finance re: 2026 Pre-Budget Consultation Submission

## **10. Chairman's Report**

- Chair Thomson reported on the following;
  - Attended a swearing in and appointment ceremony on December 31, 2025 for three new recruits.
  - On January 16, 2026 Chief Ambrose presented the board's 2026 budget to council. A more detail discussion around the Budget 2026 came up later under new business.

## **11. Governance**

H. Zehr directed the Board to review Memo 8 regarding the IoP's plan to begin publicly releasing Inspector General Decisions along with the corresponding Findings Reports. These Decisions and Findings Reports result from the IoP's investigations into public complaints submitted under the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA). Their publication reflects the IoP's commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.

## **12. December Monthly 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

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

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

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

- a) Lost Hours
- b) 30Forward Initiative

## **16. Building and Facilities Update**

Inspector Doherty provided an update on building and facilities matters, noting several items currently under review, including:

- Parking
- Water filling station
- Interior painting
- Mold remediation
- HVAC
- Door installation for Inspector Matheson's office
- Main floor bathroom renovations

Inspector Doherty will bring a detailed chart to the next meeting outlining each item and the actions being taken.

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

Chief Ambrose reported that they are waiting for final numbers from the city to be able to provide the final yearend financial position for 2025.

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

### a) Chief's Activity Reports

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

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

### a) Annual Reports

- i. 2025 Public Complaints Annual Report
- ii. 2025 SIU Annual Report

### b) Fee Bylaw

Chair Thomson reported that the fee bylaw is being sent to D. Preston for review, and the addition of the BROAD fee. It will be added to the Board's February meeting for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

### c) MHA Wait Times 2025

Chief Ambrose reported that the OSPS, through its Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT), continues to respond to mental health-related calls with the goal of improving access to crisis care and reducing unnecessary hospital apprehensions. The MCRT now includes a plainclothes officer and two CMHA Crisis Workers and works closely with health partners to support individuals in crisis. While hospital transfers under the Mental Health Act (MHA) can still result in police wait times, police-hospital protocol implemented in 2020 and reinforced through ongoing collaboration with Brightshores Health System has led to measurable improvements. In 2025, MHA occurrences declined by 13% compared to 2024, average hospital wait times remained under the two-hour protocol threshold, and total monthly police wait time decreased by approximately 29% since 2023, demonstrating improved and more efficient transfers of care while maintaining public and patient safety.

d) Budget 2026

- Chair Thomson reported that Chief Ambrose presented the board's, 2026 budget to council on January 16, 2026.
- Chief Ambrose's presentation was included in today's board package. Slides three and four give an excellent synopsis of the challenges facing the service in 2026.
- Included in the board package was a copy of Carol Merton's motion requesting city council support the OSPS budget request of 7.23 percent and incorporate within the Strong Mayor's Budget to ensure adequate and effective police services for community safety. This motion was defeated by council.
- Chair Thomson reported there were a couple of comments made near the end of the meeting he would like to address.
  - The first comment was that the cost of Owen Sound's police service per capita was the highest in Ontario. He could not find any vetted data to support that claim and most calculations show we are somewhere in the middle range.
  - The OAPSB, together with AMO, PAO and the OACP, are in the process of forming a joint working group to explore costs per capita more formally. The intent is to look at a consistent method of reporting costs and better ways to understand, explain the cost of policing, including how it can be communicated to boards, councils, and the public,
  - Ministry staff have also expressed an interest in being involved to assist with this work. Updates from this working group will be provided to the board as they become available.

e) March Meeting Date

Chair Thomson requested the March 25, 2025 meeting date be move up to March 18, 2026. Members in attendance agreed to move the March meeting date. The website will be updated to reflect the new date.

f) 2025 Opioid Situation Report

Chief Ambrose reported the 2025 Opioid Situation Reports for Grey Bruce indicate a significant reduction in opioid-related harm compared to previous years; however, the data shows that the majority of reported overdoses occurred in Owen Sound, highlighting the continued local impact. In 2025, suspected opioid-related overdoses declined by 61% and fatalities decreased by 77% from 2024, with no opioid-related deaths reported during the October–December 2025 period. Harm-reduction efforts remain critical, with over 4,500 naloxone kits distributed and more than 2,000 individuals trained in their use across the region in 2025; naloxone was used in most reported overdoses and was highly effective in reversing them. Fentanyl continues to be the most commonly reported substance.

#### g) Race and Identity

M. Gloade reported that there is an increasing demand for disaggregated race- and identity-based data to better understand and address systemic inequities within the criminal justice system. Ontario’s Anti-Racism Act, 2017 provides the legislative authority and standards for the collection, analysis, and reporting of such data, including mandatory race-based data collection in police Use of Force reporting. Since 2020, all Ontario police services have been required to submit Use of Force Reports that capture officers’ perceived race of individuals involved. A 2025 Ministry of the Solicitor General analysis of 2024 data identified disparities in firearm use across perceived race groups, particularly in incidents where individuals were perceived as unarmed, while noting that these findings do not in themselves establish bias and may be influenced by unexamined contextual factors. Provincial and national initiatives led by Statistics Canada, the CACP, and the OACP continue to expand and refine race- and identity-based data collection to improve transparency and accountability. The Owen Sound Police Service will present its 2025 Use of Force report to the Board and remains committed to ongoing collaboration, legislative compliance, and community-informed approaches to addressing racial inequities.

#### h) Policy Review

As per request from B. O’Leary, Chair Thomson reported that Policy OSPSB GP-009 Financial Management will be added to the February agenda for review by the board.

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

Moved by M. Dickson and seconded by C. Merton

*“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***

## **21. 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 December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025; and
- b. Educational or training sessions.
- c. Litigation or potential litigation affecting the board, including matters before administrative tribunals;
- d. 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;

No direction was provided.

## **22. 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 December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and
- b. Matters related to Staffing and labour relations
- c. Matters related to SIU investigations

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

Having completed all of the business items listed on the agenda Chair Thomson terminated the open meeting at 2:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting: February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

DRAFT