



Owen Sound Police Service Board

2nd Floor Meeting Room

Wednesday June 25th, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

Members Present:	J. Thomson (Chair), B. O'Leary (Vice-Chair), C. Merton, B. Wilkins
Absent with Regrets:	I. Boddy
Management Present:	Chief C. Ambrose, Inspector D. Bishop
Guests Present:	H. Zehr Police Service Advisor - Inspectorate of Policing, Sgt Tremblay, Sgt Houston
Minutes:	K. Wardell

1. Call to Order

Chair Thomson called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Chair Thomson read the land acknowledgment.

Chair Thomson reported that "Prior to today's meeting, the Board met in closed session to review and discuss matters that in their opinion fell under Section 44 of the Community Safety and Police Act and Section 25 item b) of the OSPSB General Policy-003 - Board Governance.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by B. Wilkins, seconded by C. Merton.

"That the agenda dated June 25, 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.

Chief Ambrose noted the retirements of Sergeant Rawn and Sergeant Baker earlier this year. Following a successful internal promotional process, he introduced Sergeant Glen Tremblay and Sergeant Nick Houston, congratulating them on their recent promotions and presenting each with their new badge and uniform rank insignia.

a) Uber

Jake Brockman from Uber joined the meeting via Zoom at 11:15 a.m. to present on the challenges and opportunities of ride-sharing in Ontario. He explained that while ride-sharing is regulated at the municipal level, the lack of a standardized provincial framework creates significant barriers to expanding services into rural and northern communities. These areas face transportation shortages, which impact labour force access, tourism, and regional connectivity. Jake highlighted how other provinces, such as Alberta and Québec, have adopted provincial regulations to support safe and consistent ride-sharing services. He emphasized the need for Ontario to adopt a similar framework to improve access to reliable transportation, enhance safety, and support economic growth in underserved areas.

6. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Public Session held May 29, 2025.

Moved by C. Merton, seconded by B. Wilkins.

“That the minutes dated May 29, 2025 be approved.” CARRIED

7. Business arising out of the Public Session Minutes of May 29, 2025. HEARING NONE

8. Correspondence received

a) Inspector General Memo # 5 and Spot light report

Chair Thomson reported that in the IGs Spotlight Report on Policing of Protests and Major Events: Public Order Maintenance in Ontario contained 12 recommendations that highlighted areas that boards and police chiefs should review and update their public order maintenance policies to create more effective governance.

One of the recommendations contained in the report noted that where a police service does not maintain its own POU (Public Order Unit), the board must ensure it has a valid

agreement in place, in compliance with Section 14 of the CSPA, to have another board or the OPP Commissioner provide POU services.

The Chair also reported that he will be forwarding this report onto Dave Preston our policy writer to review our policies to ensure we are in compliance.

- b) Thank You for Sponsoring the 2025 OAPSB Spring Conference and AGM
- c) Wellness Recovery Centre marks one year of transforming mental health addictions care

9. Chairman's Report

Chair Thomson reported that he attended the OAPSB AGM on June 3, 2025. Highlights of that meeting included the election of a new Chair Al Broughton and Chair Thomson had been elected Treasurer.

He also reported that the OAPSB focus for 2025 will be in the areas of:

- Advocacy
- Education

He would also be attending the OAPSB 2026 – 2028 Strategic Planning session on July 3, 2025

OAPSB Spring Conference June 4th and 5th

Chair Thomson also reported he attended the OAPSB Spring Conference with 233 delegates attending. There were a number of presentations from police leaders and a new feature this year were five breakout sessions for training on specific topics.

Meetings since last board meeting

On June 12, 2025, Chair Thomson and Chief Ambrose attended a meeting with Francesca Dobbin. Overall, the meeting was very productive. As a follow-up, Ms. Dobbin shared several charts and graphs outlining the support the United Way is providing to individuals in the community who are less fortunate.

Chief Ambrose also met with several other social service agencies, including those involved in community safety and well-being planning, the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), and others. The purpose of these meetings was to begin a broader conversation around a multi sector approach to addressing community issues.

A message was sent to the City to help initiate these discussions and to explore how each sector can contribute. It was emphasized that no single social service agency is solely responsible for addressing addictions. This is a challenge that requires collective effort from all sectors.

10. Governance

No new governance for the open session.

11. May Monthly Reports

- 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) Front Line Patrol and Collision Statistics
- f) Community Services Office
- g) Lost Hours and Training

12. Reports from Director of Civilian Services K. Fluney

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

14. Report from Manager of Human Resources W. Pratt

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

15. Financial Update from the Chief of Police

Chief Ambrose noted that retroactive payments are now scheduled to be issued by the City of Owen Sound on June 27th. Until these payments are processed, and while SOA negotiations are still ongoing, financials will not fully reflect the current budget position. Nonetheless, there are currently no concerns regarding the overall budget.

16. 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.

17. Other Items and New Business

a) OSPSB GP-024 Political Activity

Chair Thomson noted that the board package for this meeting included a new draft of Policy OSPSB GP-024, Political Activity – Political Affiliation, submitted by Dave Preston. He invited any questions or comments regarding the draft policy. As none were raised, he proceeded to call for a motion to approve the policy.

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

"That the OSPSB approve policy OSPSB GP-024 Political Activity be approved."
CARRIED

b) Funding:

- i. Availability of funding from Provincial or Federal to support the increased administrative costs to police services as a result of the CSPA?
- ii. How can municipalities and police services support adequate and effective policing and the capital costs to maintain service standards required.

H. Zehr noted that there is no provincial funding is being provided as a result of the additional administration work required under the new Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA). C. Merton suggested exploring ways to quantify changes under the new legislation to track common elements. The Board requested that Chair Thomson, at the next OAPSB meeting, inquire as to whether any municipalities had tracked the administrative, direct and indirect costs, associated with implementing the new CSPA reporting requirements or had the OAPSB tracked any of the new requirements compared to those reporting requirements under the PSA.

c) Annual Report

Chief Ambrose presented the 2024 Annual Report, highlighting a year of significant change, growth, and dedication of the Owen Sound Police Service. The report reflects

on the service's efforts to meet increasing demands, implement the Board's strategic priorities, and adapting to the sweeping changes introduced by the new Community Safety and Policing Act. A major milestone was the relocation and expansion of the Owen Sound Emergency Communications Centre, enhancing emergency response across 28 municipalities and two Indigenous communities and 48 different locations—completed without funding from the City. The OSESCC help to continue to offset the costs of policing to our city taxpayers into the future. Despite ongoing recruitment challenges faced across the sector, OSPS successfully welcomed a record number of new hires, bringing fresh energy and strengthening their capacity. The full 2024 Annual Report is available on the OSPS website.

d) 2025 Staff Appreciation Night

K. Wardell asked the board to approve the 2025 Staff Appreciation Night that has been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 29th, 2025 at Heartwood Hall.

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

"That the OSPSB approve the 2025 Staff Appreciation Night on October 29th, 2025 at Heartwood Hall." **CARRIED**

18. Termination of the Public Meeting

Having completed all of the business items listed on the agenda Chair Thomson terminated the closed meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 24th, 2025