



Owen Sound Police Service Board

2nd Floor Board Room

Wednesday June 24, 2026

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

Members Present:	J. Thomson (Chair), M. Koepke (Vice Chair), C. Merton, M. Dickson, B. O'Leary
Management Present:	Chief C. Ambrose, Deputy Chief D. Bishop
Absent with Regrets:	Inspector T. Doherty, Inspector C. Matheson
Guests Attending:	F. Dobbyn- Executive Director of United Way, 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.

Chair Thomson reported that the last two weeks have been very difficult for policing in Canada as we have lost three members in line of duty deaths and three other members have been shot and severely injured during incidents. He asked members to rise for a moment of silence in honour of:

- O.P.P. Constable Tarun Bali
- Toronto Police Constable Marc Pinizzotto
- Ville de Montreal Police Constable Mohamed Lamine Benredouane

2. Land Acknowledgment

Chair Thomson gave the land acknowledgment.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by B. O'Leary, seconded by M. Koepke.

"That the agenda dated June 24, 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.

Chair Thomson introduced Francesca Dobbyn, Executive Director of the United Way Bruce Grey. Ms. Dobbyn had requested to appear before the board and provide an update on the local service navigation projects.

Chair Thomson thanked Francesca for coming to the open session and providing her update on local service navigation projects. F. Dobbyn left the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

6. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Public Session held May 27, 2026.

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

"That the minutes dated May 27, 2026 be approved." **CARRIED**

7. Business arising out of the Public Session Minutes of May 27, 2026. HEARING NONE

8. Correspondence received

Chair Thomson referred members to correspondence received for information purposes.

- a) Letter from Sargent
- b) Appreciation email
- c) A counter Narrative on River District Woes
- d) Good things in The River District
- e) Downtown Owen Sound
- f) OSPSB Motion
- g) Our River District

- h) Monday Meeting
- i) Letter to Mayor, Council and Police
- j) Safety Concerns re: 612 2nd Ave East
- k) Thank you for Sponsoring 2026 PGO Spring Conference and AGM

9. Chairman's Report

PGO

Chair Thomson reported that members Koepke, O'Leary, and he attended the PGO AGM and Spring Conference on May 31 thru June 3, 2026. The theme of this year's conference was from Compliance to Governance.

M. Koepke and B. O'Leary provided highlights on the sessions that interested them the most and the takeaways they had from the conference.

Chair Thomson reported that one of his takeaways was a quote that best described the governance relationship between the Board and the Chief. "You (Board) are the "what" (policies) and the Chief is the "how" (implementing policy)"

Zone 5 Meeting

Chair Thomson reported that on June 9, 2026 members Koepke, Dickson, Chief Ambrose and he attended the Zone 5 meeting in Clinton hosted by the Huron OPP Detachment Board.

The guest speaker was Jacqueline Massi VP of Operations from Accident Support Services International.

Accident Support Services International has been in business since 1994 and is funded by the Insurance Industry and manages 60 collision reporting centres across Ontario. Owen Sound's reporting centre is included in that number.

Chair Thomson also reported that Hank Zehr provided a report on IoP's recent findings report, their decisions and directions which included next steps related to Project South.

The IoP is currently working on:

- Developing an inspection methodology

- Issue inspection dates – comprehensive list and sight inspections of 25 services have been identified
- Reports on their findings are anticipated to be delivered in September 2027
- Police response times will also be included in those inspections

Election of Zone 5 officers for 2026 were held:

- Jim Dietirck to Chair
- Ian McSweeny to Vice Chair
- John Thomson to Zone 5 director until the end of his term with OSPSB.

IoP

Chair Thomson reported that the IoP had released their IoP Intelligence Hub and it is now available to board members through the link below. Board members will need their board credentials in order to log onto this site.

<https://ontariogov.sharepoint.com/sites/SOLGEN-IOPHUB>

He encouraged members to visit this site and review the information it provides, especially in comparing municipal police service across the province, including size, budgets etc.

10. Governance

- a) Bill 119 Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026, Schedule 3
<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-44/session-1/bill-119>

The bill is currently being debated at its Second Reading in the Ontario Legislature after passing a closure motion on June 2, 2026.

If passed, Bill 119, will introduce an omnibus package of public safety measures. For a local service like the Owen Sound Police Service (OSPS), the impacts will primarily center around new enforcement tools, streamlined administrative capabilities, and expanded areas of oversight.

SCHEDULE 3 Section 3 has items that are significant for all municipal boards.

The duties of the Minister in Section 3 of the Act are expanded to include consulting with and advising on the effective operation of police service boards and monitoring trends in policing.

1. A new section 3.1 is to be added to give the Minister the power to issue directives to police service boards establishing priorities that the board must be reflected in their strategic plan.
2. Section 22 is amended to allow the Minister to require the Inspector General to investigate and report on whether appropriate arrangements have been made for the provision of adequate and effective policing if an arrangement were to be approved by the Minister under that section. A similar existing power in subsection 30 (3) is amended to allow the Minister to require the Inspector General to investigate and report, rather than ask for the investigation and report.
3. Section 44 is amended to provide that meetings of a police service board, or of a committee of the board, are also closed to prescribed persons. The duty of confidentiality in subsection 44 (4) is expanded to apply to any person who attends a meeting or part of the meeting that is closed to the public.

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

Chair Thomson noted that over the past weekend call volumes were significant as officers attended 151 calls for service.

12. Administrative Reports

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

Moved by M. Koepke and seconded by M. Dickson

"That Special Constables Krista Fluney and Tina Kirkpatrick be approved for re-appointment." **CARRIED**

d) Lost Hours

13. Building and Facility Update

Chief Ambrose provided the building and facility update. The exterior brick deterioration remains an outstanding issue with no work scheduled for 2026. Previous water leaks have not recurred following repairs completed by City staff. Cleaning services continue to meet expectations, and ongoing on-site facilities support has resulted in improvements to routine maintenance and repairs.

The elevator continues to require manual lockout to restrict access to the upper floor. The front lobby washroom lock conversion to keyed access remains pending scheduling by a locksmith. AODA compliance requirements remain under long-term review with no capital funding currently planned.

HVAC balancing and recalibration were completed in May, with effectiveness to be evaluated as seasonal weather conditions continue. Interior painting of the main floor hallways and selected office spaces has been completed, with no additional painting scheduled. Parking lot storm drain issues recurred following heavy spring rainfall and will be reviewed further, with routine maintenance requested. Renovations to the main floor staff washrooms are underway, with demolition having commenced in mid-June and construction expected to continue over the coming weeks.

Chair Thomson reported that a meeting is planned for June 25, 2026, with representatives from the City to review the first draft of the Facility Review – Project Charter.

14. Financial Update from the Chief of Police

Chief Ambrose reported that based on current projections, the budget is forecasted to be approximately \$22,810 over budget. Chief Ambrose will continue to work with City staff to closely monitor expenditures and the budget throughout the remainder of the year.

15. Operating Reports from the Chief of Police

a) Chief's Activity Reports

16. Other Items and New Business

a) The Corporation of the City of Guelph By-law Number (2024) – 20990

Chief Ambrose outline that The City of Guelph bylaw related to regulating space within the municipality. He will forward it to City staff for review, as it may be relevant in relation to the previously circulated City of Cobourg bylaw on short-term accommodations.

b) Location of PGO Zone 5 Meeting for October 8th, 2026

Sydenham Campus will be the location for the Zone 5 meeting, and details will be shared with J. Fields Police Governance Ontario Zone 5 Secretary/Treasurer.

c) Connected Officer Platform

Chief Ambrose's report recommended that all sworn members of OSPS be issued individual cell phones. Currently, personal devices are only assigned to senior leaders and specialized positions, while patrol officers share phones linked to vehicles. The report identified that shared devices create operational and security challenges, particularly with upcoming Multi-Factor Authentication requirements and access to key systems such as M365, Axon Evidence, the Bail Compliance Dashboard, and RMS tools. Individually issued phones would improve communication, efficiency, officer access to digital tools, and evidentiary continuity, while also supporting modern policing practices and mobile reporting systems.

Moved by M. Dickson seconded by C. Merton

"That the Owen Sound Police Service Board approve proceeding with issuing individually assigned cell phones to all sworn officers, with costs to be funded through Board reserves and future costs be included in annual operating budgets."

CARRIED

d) Section 14 Agreements with the Municipal Services in Grey Bruce

Chief Ambrose reported on Section 14 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, which allows police service boards to enter into agreements with other police services to provide specialized policing services, including canine services, marine units, and major case management services. He noted that these agreements help improve service delivery while making efficient use of available resources.

e) River District Stats

f) Shoulder Flash Redesign

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

*“That the OSPSB approve the redesigned shoulder flash and proceed with the replacement of all shoulder flashes all at once.” **CARRIED***

17. Motion to move into Closed and Confidential Closed Session

Moved by C. Merton and seconded by M. Koepke.

“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 May 27, 2026 2026
- b. Matters regarding Board Training.
- c. Discussions regarding semi-annual meeting with City Council held on June 15th as required under the protocol agreement.
- d. Review and approval of draft 2025 annual report.
- e. Review of request to disclose future guidance to officers and future operational policies and procedures.

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

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 Confidential Closed Session of the Owen Sound Police Service Board meeting held on May 27, 2026; and
- b. Matters related to Staffing and labour relations
- c. The board approved an MOU amending certain sections of the Uniform and Civilian collective bargaining agreements.
- d. Matters related to SIU investigations
- e. The board approved an MOU amending certain sections of the Police Chief's contract with the board.

The Chair confirmed that no other matters were discussed.

20. Termination of the Public Meeting

Having completed all of the business items listed on the agenda Chair Thomson terminated the open meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 23rd, 2026