

STRATFORD POLICE SERVICE BOARD

A meeting of the Stratford Police Service Board was held on the 23rd day of April 2025, Stratford Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

PRESENT: Steve Cousins – Vice-Chair, Martin Ritsma, Harjinder Nijjar, Dave Gaffney, Chief Greg Skinner, Deputy Chief Gerry Foster, Inspector Jason Clarke, Hank Zehr – Zone 5 Police Service Advisor, Councillor Rob Edney – Town of St. Marys, Casey Riehl – Executive Assistant, Members of the Media

MINUTES

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

2. Adoption of the April 23, 2025 Agenda and Addition of Agenda Items

Motion by Martin Ritsma | Harjinder Nijjar

THAT the agenda for the regular meeting of April 23, 2025 be adopted as presented. Carried

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

4. Adoption of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 19, 2025.

Motion by Harjinder Nijjar | Dave Gaffney

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of March 19, 2025 be adopted as printed. Carried

5. Hearings of Deputations and Presentations

None Noted.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

6.1 Police Station Update

Inspector Clarke updated members that the front entrance ramp at 17 George Street is not open yet. A new front door was installed on Monday, April 21, 2025 and power has been run to it. The door should be fully functioning with power by tomorrow.

6.2 Rideshare Update

Dave Gaffney inquired if there had been any movement on the request to have ridesharing options permitted in Stratford. Chief Skinner reported that as directed at the last Board meeting, the delegate has been coordinating with the City Clerk to do a presentation at an upcoming Council meeting.

Chief Skinner reported that talks are ongoing with the City regarding the responsibility of taxi licensing. There is a mix across the province with some Police Services, similar in size and smaller to Stratford, who have maintained the taxi licensing responsibilities and the compliance with the taxi by-law. Whereas the larger municipalities have all turned the responsibility back over to the City, who have the capacity to hire dedicated administrative support.

7. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports (March 2025)

Board members received the statistical reports for March 2025. Inspector Clarke reviewed the reports with the Board with respect to Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South and was available for questions.

7.1 Stratford – March 2025

- (1548) calls for service
- (484) charges laid
- (54) M/H related reports
- (3) suicides, (1) O/D
- (53) domestic related occurrences
- (7) assaults
- (7) sexual offences
- (13) B&E occurrences
- (21) fraud offences
- (20) theft under
- (6) drug offences, (2) impaired by alcohol
- (55) MVC's
- Top E-ticket issued: speeding (52)

Community Resource Report: (10) community contacts, (1) media release, (2) events/presentations, (19) self-initiated occurrences, (2) traffic initiatives, (20) meetings attended and (30) occurrences reported under "other", such as supplementing a platoon and going on calls for service.

7.2 St. Marys – March 2025

- (195) calls for service
- (40) charges laid
- (11) M/H related reports
- No suicides or O/D
- (3) domestic related occurrences
- (2) assaults
- (1) sexual offence
- (2) auto thefts
- (1) impaired by alcohol

- (4) MVC's
- Top E-ticket issued: no currently validated permit (5)

Community Resource Report: (5) community contacts, (2) self-initiated occurrences, (2) school initiatives, (5) meetings attended.

7.3 Perth South – March 2025

- (153) calls for service
- (115) charges laid
- (3) M/H related calls
- No suicides or O/D
- (3) domestic related occurrences
- (1) impaired by alcohol charge
- (8) MVC's
- Top E-ticket issued: speeding (48)

Community Resource Report: No occurrences or contact reported.

Motion by Martin Ritsma | Dave Gaffney

THAT the Monthly Statistical Reports for March 2025 be received as presented. Carried

8. Approval of Monthly Accounts (As of March 31, 2025)

Chief Skinner reported that at the end of the first quarter of 2025, they would expect to have spent approximately 25% of their annual budget. To the end of March, the Service has spent 18.76% or \$2,900,000.00 of their annual \$15,900,000.00 budget allocation. Last year at this time, they had spent \$3,400,000.00, spending approximately \$425,000.00 less year to date than they spent in 2024. Some of the cost containment measures are starting to have an impact positively on the bottom line and some of the one-time expenditures from last year are no longer a financial concern.

Salaries and benefits account for approximately 88% of the overall budget and year to date they are showing a variant between actual expenditures on salaries and benefits and the budgeted allocation of approximately \$445,000.00. Spending \$445,000.00 less on salaries and benefits than was budgeted. Chief Skinner cautions the Board that officers and civilian staff will generally bank their overtime hours at the start of the year, which does not show a true picture of the financial impact of overtime on the budget. Overtime hours worked by members so far this year is 1917 hours, with only 37% of those hours, or 715 hours, being utilized to cover off shift shortages.

MOTION by Dave Gaffney | Harjinder Nijjar

**That the monthly accounts for March 2025 be approved as presented.
Carried**

9. Police Association Business

None to report.

10. Public Complaints

Chief Skinner provided the Board with a copy of the 2024 Law Enforcement Complaints Agency dashboard for the Stratford Police.

- There were (29) new complaints that were received by LECA in 2024.
- (27) of those complaints alleged officer misconduct and (2) were service complaints.
- Of the (27) allegations against officers, (26) were screened by LECA during the 2024 calendar year, with (13) being screened out (LECA did not refer them for investigation as they were either frivolous, vexatious or out of scope). The remaining (13) were referred for investigation. Of those (13) referred for investigation, (4) were unsubstantiated, (3) were withdrawn by the complainant, (1) was resolved prior to the investigation being completed, with the balance being carried over into 2025.
- None of the complaints resulted in finding wrongdoing on the part of the officers involved.
- Of the (2) service complaints received in 2024, (1) was screened out by LECA and one was subsequently withdrawn by the complainant during the investigative process.

For the current month, there was (1) new complaint referred to investigation and (3) complaints were finalized, all of them unsubstantiated and they are waiting for the required time period to see if the complainants will be requesting a review of the Chief's decision through LECA.

11. Correspondence

None noted.

12. Consent Items

None noted.

13. New Business

13.1 Review of the Municipal Police Service Board Policy on Critical Point Reporting

Deputy Chief Foster previously provided Board members with a copy of the draft critical point reporting policy for their review. The policy was originally received from the Inspectorate of Policing, which deals with the majority of points contained in this policy. Dave Preston prepared the draft policy for the Stratford Police Board for their approval.

MOTION by Dave Gaffney | Harjinder Nijjar

That the Stratford Police Service Board approves the Critical Point Reporting Policy as presented at the April 23, 2025 meeting. Carried

14. Adjournment to In-Camera Meeting

Motion by Martin Ritsma | Harjinder Nijjar

THAT the meeting adjourn to an In-Camera session to discuss personal matters about identifiable individuals, to reconvene in open session if required. Carried

The meeting adjourned to In-Camera at 4:49 p.m.

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Steve Cousins, Vice-Chair