

# **STRATFORD POLICE SERVICE BOARD**

A meeting of the Stratford Police Service Board was held on the 3rd day of September 2025, Stratford Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford

**PRESENT:** Steve Cousins – Chair Presiding, Martin Ritsma, Harjinder Nijjar, Chief Greg Skinner, Acting Deputy Chief Mark Taylor, Inspector Jason Clarke, Casey Riehl – Executive Assistant

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Call to order**

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

### **2. Adjournment to In-Camera Meeting**

**Motion by** Harjinder Nijjar | Martin Ritsma

**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 9:01 a.m.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 11:30 a.m.

### **3. New Business**

Martin Ritsma provided the following updates:

- Your City, Your Future Youth Engagement Event – October 2, 2025

Martin Ritsma inquired if the Police Service's senior team would send representatives to attend the event to engage with youth. The event is being held at the Rotary Complex.

Chief Skinner confirmed that the SPS will have representation at this event.

- Update on Intersection Photo Radar Cameras

Chief Skinner reported that the Director of Infrastructure stated that due to other pressing priorities that took precedence over the speed camera pilot project, the October/November date for the pilot project has now been bumped to 2026. It is disappointing for SPS as there were benefits to having the 8-9 cameras up and running in the community and adding to traffic safety. The Director did state that there is a plan to enhance the lighting in the downtown core in relation to the Downtown Business Association Safety Committee and some of their discussion around employees not feeling comfortable walking over to the Cooper site at night. There was discussion around crime prevention

through environmental design, such as lighting, cameras, visibility of police officers and other supports that could be put in place.

Martin Ritsma asked Chief Skinner to continue to keep this at the top of the priority list. The Chief stated that embracing technology will help support the SPS. Whether it is a drone, a red light or speed camera or video coverage, it will all help.

- Alternative to Suspensions Program

Martin Ritsma explained a new program launched in conjunction with the YMCA, AMDSB and HPCSB to provide services for youth who are suspended to have a location to go to and a program to join with the YMCA. This will be a community-based approach.

Chief Skinner stated that the SPS will definitely be involved. No child should be left to figure this out on their own. As they build their community response unit, this will be one of their mandated responsibilities to be involved in this program.

- Homelessness in Our Community

Martin Ritsma stated that a report will be coming to Council to help explain what the City of Stratford is doing to assist with homelessness in the city. He is working with the Council of Churches and bringing forward a package offering a warming centre, looking at augmenting the services that are currently at the Connection Centre for evening hours. Some people would prefer not to be put in a hotel room and are just looking for an opportunity to get in out of the cold for a few hours. They would have the ability to have a meal, a warm shower, do some laundry, etc. This would not be a shelter, it would be a warming centre that allows local people the opportunity to stop in for a few hours.

Chief Skinner stated he would be happy to discuss any security needs and help coordinating it with volunteers.

#### **4. Adjournment**

**Motion by** Harjinder Nijjar | Martin Ritsma

**THAT the September 3, 2025 Police Service Board meeting adjourn.  
Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

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Steve Cousins, Chair