

Minutes
Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners
May 21, 2026

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners held on May 21, 2026 at the Bridgewater Police Service, 45 Exhibition Drive, Bridgewater, NS commencing at 5:30 pm with Board Chair Cheryl Fougere presiding.

In attendance: Commissioner Champoux, Commissioner Ali, Commissioner Spencer, Commissioner Lipsett, Commissioner Mitchell (via Teams) and Commissioner Conklin.

Regrets: Deputy CAO Mark Flint

Also present: Chief Feener, Deputy Chief MacPhee, Recording Secretary Jillian Croft and presenting civilian Scott Clements - Novacast Media Inc.

Order

Call to order at 5:30 by Board Chair Fougere

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

26-026 Motion to add Dog By-Law to the agenda by Commissioner Conklin, seconded by Commissioner Ali.

Land Acknowledgement

Acknowledged that the Town of Bridgewater is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Champoux and seconded by Commissioner Spencer to approve the minutes of the April 2nd, 2026 regular meeting as amended.
Motion Carried

Correspondence & Information

Mr. Clements points out that he has two conflicts of interest. First with Commissioner Mitchell and second with Commission Spencer. He wanted this noted for the record.

Mr. Clements feels there should be a policy in place when it comes to media. He feels other Municipalities have policies in place.

He believed that the Police force only uses Facebook in critical situations, and have in the past, posted media release on the website. For example, March, May and last February. Feels this looks terrible for the Town and the police. He wants it noted that he is pro police but wants clear and transparent.

Wants a policy created for media releases for Facebook and for emergency alerts. He knows there is a system created that will assist with media releases - as he is the one that created it.

Mr. Clements spoke of other agencies onboard and there are policies in place. He believes it brings transparency.

Wants good news stories released as well as bad news. Crime statistics, celebrations of police officer's achievements etc.

He feels when local media is involved, you'll see an increase in tips to police, he believes more people will come forward.

Reports that RCMP recently put out a recent media release thanking people from coming forward.

He feels when there is no release from the media, that silence is then filled in with other agendas, and that a constant flow of information to the public will fill those gaps.

He advises that rural areas have bad cell coverage, no Wi-Fi, and slow internet. He reports that Novacast Media has a 10kw generator, and that they stay on the air during storms, power outages, and they can do more than social media can.

He points out his concern that the press release page on the BPS Website is very sparse. It makes it feel like the police force is hiding something. He quickly said that he didn't think BPS was but feels people will jump to conclusions.

Mr. Clements suggests that more information be provided to the public. Police can then reference back that they are being transparent.

Mr. Clements ask is that the force stop treating social media as enough, he wants to be CC'ed on information and feels the police services should have a policy. If there is a policy in place, he would like it published.

Deputy Chief MacPhee responded to Mr. Clements' statement. Deputy Chief MacPhee agreed that good news stories are something we can do more of. Deputy Chief MacPhee advised that BPS is looking at making improvements. Media wasn't part of the SOP's updates recently reviewed

Currently, we do not have a policy for media roll out or access, but that will be visited when hiring for the Communications Position is completed. Deputy Chief MacPhee did agree we can do a better job, and that BPS does see that as a concern. Deputy Chief MacPhee does want the public to know what we are doing, good and bad.

CAO Crowder asked about REMO and a second layer of communication. Mr. Clements points out that the radio station NovaCast has the contract. As part of this, Novacast built a system where regardless of what time it is, if something should go wrong, that REMO can activate something and it goes to the radio station. That message sent by REMO is on the air within 3 minutes, repeating every 30 minutes till it is turned off by someone. This type of communication or alert does not need the province or anyone else to give permissions prior to going on the air. The message that NovaCast receives from REMO is released as, no wording is changed.

Commissioner Palama asked for clarification about the other forms/means that Mr. Clements spoke of to get the information out.

CAO Crowder advised that the board doesn't provide contracts. Mr. Clements clarified he doesn't want exclusivity.

Commissioner Mitchell wants to note that he has no conflict of interest here (as pointed out by Mr. Clements). Reiterated he has no direct conflict and feels Commission Spencer wouldn't have a financial conflict either.

BPS Monthly Report

doc# 26-021

Chief Feener speaking about the BPS Monthly Report.

Advised that we have had two new experienced officer's start. They have been on the road with their training coaches for the past few weeks. Hopefully by mid-June they will be signed off and patrolling by themselves. They will be going to record management training at the start of June

Capital purchases have been made.

The job description for the Communications/Public Relations/IT Specialists has been completed and posted on the Town and BPS Webpage. This role will be multifaceted.

The Operations Review Request for Proposal has been completed and will go to the Town to be sent for tender.

Operating Budget for last year has not been finalized, but we are approximately \$588,000 under budget. This surplus would reflect salaries for our staff shortages.

Call volume for the past reporting period has been consistent.

For the last reporting period we had only two calls to the 629 King Street address the Board has been monitoring. Not sure if this should still be tracked due to the low volume.

Chief Feener spoke of major cases still being investigated. Reports that Interpol is consistently working with our GIS members as they investigate the school threat file. Manitoba has proceeded with all charges for their individual charged with the school shooting plot.

Chief Feener says it's been a busy spring.

Commissioner Ali wanted some clarification on theft under \$5000 charges. Deputy Chief MacPhee advises the Crown usually proceeds with Restorative Justice for a lot of the theft under \$5000. Deputy Chief MacPhee says police can lay the charges, but when it goes to the Crown, they can refer to Restorative Justice. For these charges to not go to Restorative Justice, businesses need to proceed with charges, but a lot of businesses don't like going this route. It involves taking time off work to go to court, and that affects a lot of small businesses. Chief Feener will soon be having a meeting with the Board of Chambers for educational purpose.

NSACP AGM May 22, 2026

Board Chair Fougere will be attending the AGM May 22, 2026 in Truro. Topic of discussion are police modernization and police strategies, also homelessness and low-level crime.

CAPG Annual Conference - Alberta Aug 12, 2026

doc #26-022

For information purposes. No interest from board members in attending.

Letter of Recognition - From Security at SSRH

doc # 26-023

Chief Feener spoke of the email received. Reports that police have a great working relationship with the hospital. South Shore Regional Hospital (SSRH) has two types of Security. Yellow and Blue. Blue are being trained above the basic security role - use of force. The goal is to change the role for Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act to give them new roles for Special Constable. SSRH have new hired, and new managers. New Manager is a retired use of force member from HRP.

Letter to NSFM on Policing Costs

doc # 26-024

Chief Feener spoke about this letter. It also went to counsel. There is a large section for the Department of Justice. There will be a downloading of costs to Municipalities for services they do not provide. A lot of unknowns currently.

This is to satisfy the AGM. More will come out in the fall. Municipalities will have to pay for services that we do not have in-house. Will not affect MOU's that have been currently approved.

Commissioner Lipsett asked if the resources will be there when we need them?

Deputy Chief MacPhee is interested in seeing the audits. Street level response mitigates the critical incident. Municipalities will have to pay for front loaded services - patrolling all the time, or if you want RCMP.

Chief Feener says RCMP are moving away from per officer cost. It will be based on a formula based on population, statistic driven, serious calls etc.

CAO Crowder has one question about the statement. "Continue to enhance and modernized over time". Feels there is more coming. Deputy Chief MacPhee said she's correct.

Unfinished/Old Business

Strategic Plan Draft

doc #26-025

A draft for the Strategic Plan is in the package. Chief Feener reports that some of the photos will be updated, He wanted to know if there were any questions or comments. Looking for a motion to adapt this as our strategic plan.

Commissioner Lipsett feels some of the sticky notes and notes from the planning session should be removed.

CAO Crowder wants to know if anything is going to follow - like an action plan. Asked if we are developing a recruiting plan? Wants to have something to measure accountability. What does success look like? That could come in a second implementation plan.

Chief Feener feels there may be changes with the review, DOJ, new modernization of police service and what that might look like.

Commissioner Spencer says it's a recap of what the board did. It's not a plan. It's how we came up with our priorities. It captures our process.

Deputy Chief MacPhee says we are looking to have a consultant do an Operational Review. It's close to being sent to the town for RFP.

Chief Feener and Deputy Chief MacPhee had a meeting with Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Human Resources this week.

Chief Feener spoke of retention and recruitment in the last meeting. Perhaps some internal restructuring needs to be done. That information would be part of the result provided by an Operational Review.

Commissioner Spencer feels that maybe it should be titled "Strategic Priorities", not a "Strategic Plan".

CAO Crowder has been through a few operational reviews before. Finds that we already know the answers, and that an Operational Review gives an outside look in and shows transparency.

Commissioner Chamoux asked, "why can't we talk about conclusions?" Notes that it does not show the direction we are going. He's referring to page 11. Commissioner Chamoux also comments that it doesn't talk about the process. He asks if this can be tied into the conclusion section.

Board Chair Fougere agreed to strategic priorities, and conclusion.

Board Chair Fougere also suggests that on page 5 that the wording be changed to "retaining staff" instead of "officers".

New Business

Updated SOPs

doc # 26-026

Another group of SOPs has been updated. Audit standards. Just keeping commission updated with our SOP's.

Dog Bylaw

Commissioner Conklin wanted to know how the dog bylaw is enforced. Chief Feener says it depends on what portion.

Chief Feener says a dog running at large for a 1st instance the dog is apprehended and brought to BPS. Whatever the call may be, bylaw is looped in to follow up. From there, there is a decision of charges, and that would be a SOT under bylaw.

Police go to the initial call, try to locate the owner, then it's given to bylaw officer.

CAO Crowder wants to know if bylaw calls are tracked, and the amount of officer's time that's taken?

Deputy Chief MacPhee says we can track the calls, but unable to record the personnel time that was dedicated to the call.

Commissioner Conklin references the monthly report, that there was 1 offence under the dog act and wanted to know what that was. Chief Feener says it was for a dog running at large.

Next Meeting

September 3rd, 2026

Adjournment

26-027 Moved to adjourn the regular meeting by Commissioner Conklin and seconded by Commissioner Palma. Motion Carried.

In camera after regular meeting to discuss matters under the Municipal Government Act, Section 22 (c), Section 51 of the Nova Scotia Police Act .

Recording Secretary
Jillian Croft

Board Chair
Cheryl Fougere