

Minutes

Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners

September 3rd, 2026

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners held on September 3, 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 Mitchell, Commissioner Conklin, Commissioner Lipsett and Commissioner Champoux

Regrets: Commissioner Spencer, Commissioner Ali

Also present: Chief Feener, Deputy Chief MacPhee, Recording Secretary Jillian Croft, CAO Tammy Crowder, and Media/IT/Communications Specialist with BPS Keith Corcoran.

Order

Call to order at 5:30 by Board Chair Fougere

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

None

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

Motion 26-030 Motion to approve the minutes of May 21st, 2026, regular meeting as amended. Moved by Commissioner Lipsett and seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. Motion Carried

Correspondence & Information

BPS Monthly Report May 13-Aug 25th **doc # 26-027**

Chief Feener reporting that this meetings BPS report is a few months condensed into one. It's been a busy summer for BPS. Internally with purchasing and developing. Also, a lot of staffing and hiring was done over the summer. This is the first summer in some time where we were fully up and running on patrol side of things.

Chief Feener spoke briefly on the operational budget for year end 2025-2026.

Deputy Chief MacPhee reports that we were able to move people into vacant positions due to being at full complement of staff.

Chief Feener spoke about the new traffic report which has been added as part of the BPS Monthly Report. It was created by Cst. C Bruce who has recently been assigned to the traffic unit. Chief Feener reports over the past few months that a significant number of SOT's have been issued. This reflected the hard work Cst. Bruce has put into the traffic unit.

Commissioner Mitchell commented that his office has seen an increase in complaints regarding loud noise from motorcycles and other vehicles. He asked questions about illegal modifications to vehicles and what could be done to address the noise. Chief Feener said in collaboration with Vehicle Compliance, our traffic unit has intentions to crack down on illegal modifications.

Commissioner Conklin then asked how Vehicle Compliance will work with BPS. Chief Feener explained how Police can work directly with Vehicle Compliance.

There were no other questions or comments on the reports.

Letter from Nova Cast Media Inc.doc# 26-028

Board Chair Fougere was happy to see this in the package.

Letter of Thanks **doc # 26-029**

Chief Feener, told the backstory for this letter of thanks. It was from a family member regarding a missing loved one. They wanted to send their appreciation and thanks to BPS.

Tiger Team doc #26-030

Chief Feener reporting this is an updated status of different types of community safety officers from DOJ.

Deputy Chief MacPhee spoke of the different Tier Levels.

Commissioner Mitchell spoke of the program and the expectations of the Municipalities.

Certificate of Appreciation **doc # 26-031**

Chief Feener spoke of a Certificate of Appreciation that was received. Cst. Bruce had volunteered to attend an event. The kids were very accepting of Cst. Bruce and it was a great response from the community.

Unfinished/Old Business

Strategic Plan Draft doc #26-033

Chief Feener took the suggestions from the May meeting and had new pictures inputted and wording updated for the Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Palma is wishing to have the worksheets from the Strategic Plan (Post it notes slides) removed from the final Strategic Plan. He commented that this was part of the talking points from the last board meeting.

CAO Crowder suggested an implementation plan for what exactly is going to be accomplished. She recommends a plan to make sure everything aligns with what the board has discussed.

Suggest Operation Review be done first, before figuring out what priorities need to be ranked/prioritized.

Step one should be the Operational Review.

Motion 26-031 Commissioner Lipsett motion to accept the strategic priorities as in the Strategic Plan and the first step would be to conduct an Operational Review to determine the next step. Prior to 2027-2028 budget deliberation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Palma. Motion passed.

Operational Review Update

Chief Feener says a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an Operational Review was conducted over the summer. This closed last week. The scoring was completed at the end of day yesterday (September 2, 2026). Once documents are received from the Town, they will be given to the CAO. A total of 4 packages were received. The scored packages are now with procurement.

South Shore Exhibition Update 2026

Chief Feener spoke of how the Exhibition went this year. He reports there was an issue leading up to the Exhibition regarding security and the liquor licenses. This was due to an outside beer location that was recently created.

Security was provided by Paladin. The main issue that came up was do they have enough trained people to appease the liquor license? Which in turn they did.

There were no real issues during the Exhibition. The rain helped a lot with the crowds. Lock ups this year were minimal. And there are no major issues to report.

The Big Ex did have flooding in one of the buildings.

This year, the parade went across York Street, which did work well. It allowed for vehicle movement on King Street. This year's parade was smaller than usual. Commissioner Mitchell reports they are receiving positive comments from the public.

Commissioner Mitchell commented that "in kind" support for the Town and Police Service should be recognized. He's frustration that there's no level of sponsorship/recognition to show the Town's and the Police Departments' contributions "in kind". Commissioner Mitchell He feels that the commission

hast to have a conversation with the Exhibition executive, and if there isn't recognition that BPS is given "in kind" donations, then we should start billing the Exhibition.

Commissioner Lipsett says that it's a private event, and he's not sure that recognition is required. The event brings a significant amount of money into the town.

Chief Feener also feels that recognition isn't required. Most of the week the focus is on road safety on Dufferin Street and keeping people safe.

Commissioner Mitchell says the Town's contribution cost to the Big Ex is \$15,000, and the town receives zero recognition.

Commissioner Conklin comments that 3 years ago there was a large expense to BPS for Big EX. He asked if things have changed operationally for BPS, i.e. no vacations for BPS are allowed during the EX, specialized units are pulled back to uniform. Chief Feener reports that all hands are on deck during the week of the Exhibition. He also commented that staff from Annapolis and Kentville also come to assist during the busy times. The question was asked, how much is added to the payroll for exhibition?

Chief Feener and DC MacPhee explained how the scheduling works during the Exhibition, and that during the week of the Ex, administrative duties are not the priority. They both report that there is not a lot of overtime created due to the Exhibition, as schedules for all staff are adjusted to accommodate and voids.

Chief Feener reports that the department does budget to have guards' man the cells 24/7 starting Thursday and straight through till the end of the Exhibition on Sunday.

Building Update

Chief Feener reports that the building has been having major HVAC issues regarding the AC for the past few years. BPS ran all summer with only one AC unit. That unit had to be shut down periodically over the summer as it was working too hard and icing up. BPS worked with building management and the Town. Council has approved several steps to improve the situation. The cost will come out of surplus.

The main issue is that the compressor can't get rid of the heat (in the cupula), and this is causing the unit to freeze, and when it defrosts, it's leaking through the roof, into the ceiling tiles. The roof has been leaking for at least 10 years in the valley, and the issue with the AC freezing up has persisted over the past four summers.

CAO Crowder reports that all the maintenance of the building is the responsibility of the tenant. BPS lease on the building is up in 2032.

Commissioner Mitchell asked questions about the cost of breaking the lease. Discussions need to start soon on the future of BPS's location.

CAO Crowder says there will be a report going to council soon regarding the building and what the facility needs are. This is part of a larger discussion.

Fall Conference – Oak Island

Chief Feener spoke of the fall event, and that Kentville is the host of this year's festivities. The event runs from Oct 14th -16th. CAO Crowder, Deputy CAO Flint, Commissioner Spencer, and Board Chair Fougere are attending. The agenda has been released. Chief Feener will make sure this is forwarded to everyone

New Business

Attorney General Justice – Minister's Directive doc # 26-032

Chief Feener says that this was added to the meeting as information for the board. It's a Ministerial order for briefing notes to be sent to the DOJ for certain call types. A rundown of the affected call types was discussed with commission members.

Deputy Chief MacPhee says DOJ wants to be in the know for any calls that may end up reaching the media.

Chief Feener says this report needs to be done within 24 hours of any calls meeting this criteria. Chief Feener reported that BPS did have a call for service over the summer that met this criteria, and a report was submitted.

DOJ Critical Incident Response

The province made an announcement that they will be covering critical incident responses for the 8 Municipal Police Forces. There will be no cost to the town.

Commission Mitchell did have a recent conversation with the Minister.

Chief Feener says MOUs will need to be signed. If we need RCMP, we need to fill our obligation of the MOU by calling them first, but If RCMP aren't available, we can go to our Municipal agencies to make a request.

Chief Feener advised DOJ is looking to attend the October meeting regarding the audit for Critical Incident Management.

Next Meeting

October 1, 2026

Adjournment

26-032Moved to adjourn the regular meeting by Commissioner Conklin and seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. 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 SecretaryBoard Chair

Jillian CroftCheryl Fougere