

MINUTES
BRIDGEWATER BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
April 3rd , 2025

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners held on April 3rd , 2025 the Bridgewater Police Service, 45 Exhibition Drive, Bridgewater, NS commencing at 5:30 pm with Board Chair Darren Lipsett presiding.

In attendance: Commissioners Palma Champoux, Fay Patey, David Mitchell and Cheryl Fougere

Also present: Deputy Chief Danny MacPhee, Deputy CAO Mark Flint and Recording Secretary Patty Sleep.

Regrets: Chief Feener, Commissioners Diane Spencer & Mike Conklin.

Guests: Two members of the public.

ORDER

Call to order: 5:30PM.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

New Highway/Traffic Legislation – impact to police

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Board Chair, Darren Lipsett acknowledges, the Town of Bridgewater is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Commissioner Patey also noted, the 400 years prior, of African Nova Scotians and the land we call Mi'kma'ki.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

AGENDA

25-017 Moved by Commissioner Patey and second by Commissioner Fougere to approve the April Agenda. Motion Carried.

TRAINING

Major Investigations

Deputy Chief MacPhee spoke on two major investigations. He explained the importance and benefits of body worn cameras, drone footage as well as forensic equipment used during these investigations.

A video of members as well as EHS approaching the scene of the homicide was viewed by board members. Deputy MacPhee shared the importance of the clip and how easily this information can be transcribed and placed into evidence.

The recently purchased forensic equipment was proven invaluable, as it was used to process fingerprints as well as DNA. This process allows investigators to fast track the forensic analysis and complete the investigation quite rapidly. Prior to the purchase of this equipment, the forensic analysis process and turn around was six months to one year.

The drone has been used in three high end investigations over the last few months. Video footage shared with the commission members, and was noted, the clear picture the drone provides. Deputy also explained a few additional features, such as inferred imaging as well as hover mode.

Commissioner Champoux commented on this new technology, quick process and the potential cost savings associated.

Members are interested in a synopsis of the homicide case in terms of hours saved, due to this new technology. Deputy MacPhee will provide a general idea at the next meeting.

MINUTES

25-018

Moved by Commissioner Champoux and seconded by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the Minutes of the March 6th , 2025 regular meeting as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION

MOU – Language Interpreters

The deputy described a new Language Interpreter’s software which is being considered.

It is web based and interprets 250 languages, provides transcriptions as well as court testimony, if required.

This will fill the gap on some language barriers which are pertinent during investigations.

The software is very affordable and is pay per use and will be rolled out in the next few weeks through dispatch, computers and cell phones.

Letter from DOJ, Public Safety – DRE Program

doc# 25-008

Correspondence received from DOJ regarding the funding associated with the Drug and Impaired Driving Unit.

Effective March 31st, 2025, the Federal funding for this unit has been discontinued. The member, who had been seconded to this unit, returned to general patrol.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Standards Update - 25-010 through to 25-017

BPS Standards, noted above, were circulated to the Commission. The deputy shared the five sections (below), created by the Province, and briefly explained the content of each. The revised standards listed above belong to the Use of Force Section.

Use of force
Emergency management
Records management
Investigations
Police Service

As each section is complete, they are shared with the staff and kept on a shared drive for reference. The remaining SOPS in these sections will be re titled and placed in the same format.

NEW BUSINESS

Strategic Plan

Board members agree, it is time to begin discussing the next Strategic Plan process.

Deputy CAO, Mark Flint, expressed willingness to work with the chief and deputy to coordinate the next three-year Strategic Plan.

- 25-019** Moved by Commissioner Patey and seconded by Commissioner Fougere, The Deputy CAO be tasked with consulting with the board, a timeline and process of strategic planning. Motion carried.

March Monthly Report

doc # 25-009

Circulated to the Board. Discussion under following topic.

Commission Reports & Topics

Board Chair, Darren Lipsett raised the topic, and discussion of commission reports as well as the type of information and data, board members would find useful.

It was agreed, the monthly report currently being created by BPS is outdated and requires tweaking. What is the best way to relay a truer picture, based on data.

Deputy MacPhee reached out to neighboring agencies to compare and discovered there is no consistency as each agency is unique in their own style.

Suggestions:

- Quarterly budget reports
- Headings, such as training, significant files, etc.
- Include media releases – including links
- Specialized reports from SSRO and Senior Safety only
- Include operational stats & prisoner lock ups
- Highlights only, not the day to day
- Identify wins and losses

Board members expressed interest in a sample of modified format/report at the May meeting.

New Highway Traffic Legislation – Impact to Policing

The new highway traffic legislation, in terms of policing the 100 series highways is currently being reviewed by the province.

Commissioner Mitchell raised this topic as an information item.

Currently, the 100 series highway, in Bridgewater, is the responsibility of the RCMP, as it is a very small piece of highway. It is possible, this responsibility could be placed on Bridgewater Police.

Additional discussion on this topic will take place at both the upcoming NSFM meeting as well as the NSCPA spring conference. Details to follow.

Sundries

- Bill Rogers spoke briefly on EDI Training and its importance. He also thanked the Board for its mention of the Land Acknowledgment.
- Commissioner Patey presented her resignation, excusing herself as a Commission member, effective April 3, 2025.

25-020 Moved by Commissioner Mitchell to go In-Camera. Motion Carried.

25-021 Moved by Commissioner Mitchell to Rise and Report. Motion Carried

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 1st, 2025. Due to conflicts, this date may change.

ADJOURNMENT

25-022 Moved to adjourn the meeting by Commissioner Fougere. Motion Carried

Patty Sleep
Recording Secretary

Darren Lipsett
Board Chair