

Pembroke Police Services Board Meeting – Draft Minutes

City Hall, Council Chambers
Pembroke, Ontario
January 30, 2025
2:00 p.m.

Present:

Ron Gervais, Mayor
Patricia Lafreniere, Councillor
Christine Reavie
Michael St Jean
Dez Bair-Patel

Also Present:

Inspector Stephan Neufeld, OPP
Staff Sergeant – Operations Manager MaryAnn MacNeil, OPP
Victoria Charbonneau, Recording Secretary

Prior to calling the meeting to order the current Chair stated that as this is the first meeting of the year, per process, election of Chair and Vice-Chair must take place. Chair Gervais vacated the seat of the Chair. Recording Secretary Charbonneau assumed the Chair to conduct the election/appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair positions for 2025.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Secretary of the Pembroke Police Services Board called for nominations for the position of Chair for 2025. Ron Gervais was nominated and there were no further nominations.

Motion:

Moved by Michael St. Jean

Seconded by Pat Lafreniere

That Ron Gervais be appointed to the position of Chair of the Pembroke Upper Ottawa Valley OPP Detachment Board for the year 2025.

Carried

The Secretary of the Pembroke Police Services Board called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair for 2025. Christine Reavie was nominated and there were no further nominations.

Motion:

Moved by Michael St. Jean

Seconded by Pat Lafreniere

That Christine Reavie be appointed to the position of Vice Chair of the Pembroke Upper Ottawa Valley OPP Detachment Board for the year 2025.

Carried

Ron Gervais assumed the Chair.

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion:

Moved by Michael St. Jean

Seconded by Dez Bair-Patel

That the agenda of the Pembroke Police Services Board meeting of January 30, 2025, be approved as presented.

Carried

6. Minutes

- Receive minutes of October 29, 2024

Motion:

Moved by Christine Reavie

Seconded by Pat Lafreniere

That the minutes of the Pembroke Police Services Board meeting of October 26, 2023, be received as circulated.

Carried

7. Presentation

8. OPP Report

- Quarterly Report (October – December 2024)

Acting Inspector McNeill provided an update and noted the following items regarding public outreach:

- Meetings with the public regarding silver stick
- Presentation about online safety and cyber bullying at local schools
- There was also a cruiser tour etc.
- Festive ride throughout the month of December and January – total
- Warming Centre opened on the 6th and MCERT is doing a regular walk through and assisting MCERT in being there on a regular capacity.
- Presentations on careers in policing at local high schools were conducted.

Discussion was had and the following points were highlighted:

- Good news in attendance and involvement in community initiatives
- Questions about billable hours, with all the community service initiatives. It was responded that these initiatives were proactive and not included in billable calls for services hours. The initiatives are already paid for through the provincial envelope.

Inspector Neufeld presented the Q4 report as attached in the January 30, 2025, meeting agenda package. The overview can be captured in totality by viewing the YouTube recording of the meeting at a time stamp of approximately 2:15 p.m.

- Page 20 – violent crime highlights – saw a 16% drop in 3rd quarter.
- The detachment is hopeful the decline will continue, it is hypothesized that it is the lowest number in recent years.
- Property Crime (p. 16/23) – property crime – report for Q4 shows a very successful 24% reduction in property crime which translates to a year end reduction in almost 10% which can be considered a great start for 2025.
- Page 12/23 – mental health calls gave increase year to date which translates to approximately 1 a day.
- The mental health calls continue to increase, and the detachment is continuously working to address these situations. Strategies on how to address and target these calls in a proactive and attentive manor is being actively worked on.
- Page 10/23 – year to date saw a slight uptake on drug crime the detachment has been in discussions with the street crime unit and there are potential targets for 2025 as far as ongoing issues that are concentrated in the downtown that in conjunction with OPP increased visibility in the downtown.
- It was noted that Council has asked for more hours of foot patrol in downtown core the detachment is working actively to appropriately log hours and meet 5-10% increase the OPP aim to support that request.
- As of January 25, 2025, the detachment is on target and anticipated to exceed by end of month reporting.
- A mid-year review will be done and a year end review with PBIA.
- Also, for consideration, if there is an increase in service in one area, there has to be a decrease in service in other areas without as much priority within the community.

Discussion was had and the following points were highlighted:

- Strategies for increased officer presence at the Pembroke Court House are being actively worked on
- OPP as stakeholders are collaborating with community health committees to information share and participate in discussion about how to mitigate social challenges pertaining to addictions in Pembroke.
- During the meeting, no stats can be presented until they are approved by headquarters.
- Community wellness plan – what are the reporting mechanisms and/or next steps?
- After reviewing the issues on the plan, the board can review and identify goals 2-3 goals and outline for 2025 that the Board is going to do promote some public service announcements and/or outreach elements that the board wants to push/champion. The commander highlighted domestic violence is a significant concern in the community based on current statistics.

- Next traffic campaign is snowmobile safety for the month of February.
- The Board was asked if there is a specific guest speaker/item they wished to have present at a future meeting to let the Inspector know and assistance in coordinating an appearance to the Board could be arranged.
- Ideas were discussed about hosting/streaming of the meeting with the anti-rackets speaker at areas like the library, Kiwanis Club and/or Pembroke Seniors Centre would be a good fit.

Direction: The Board requests that Inspector Neufeldt provide some examples of domestic violence public service announcements and/or public information items that the board could potentially sponsor.

a. 2025 Meeting Schedule

Recording Secretary Charbonneau reviewed the report.

Moved by Pat Lafreniere

Seconded by Michael St. Jean

That the PSB accept the 2025 meeting schedule as presented.

Carried

9. Correspondence

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2025, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

11. Motion to Adjourn

Motion:

Moved by Christine Reavie

Seconded by Dez Bair-Patel

That the January 30, 2025, Pembroke Police Services Board meeting adjourns at 3:21 p.m.

Carried

Chair

Recording Secretary