

SAANICH POLICE BOARD

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2026 – Kirby Room



PRESENT:

Chair: J. Cambridge

Board Members: C. Morton, S. Allan, G. Beckett, R. Gandi, Mayor Murdock, S. Dhillon, J. Taylor, J. Theobald (virtual)

Staff: Deputy Chiefs Underwood and Kowalewich, Inspectors, T. Stevens, A. Stuart, J. Bland, D. Robertson, Director of Finance and Procurement J. Ko

Recorder: A. De Medeiros

REGRETS: Chief Duthie, P. Smith

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1432 HOURS.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ms. Beckett delivered the Territorial Acknowledgment.

Ms. Theobald expressed condolences to the Songhees Nation for the passing of Dr. Skip and marked the 10-year anniversary since Dr. Perry Kendall declared a public health emergency due to the opioid crisis, noting over 18,000 deaths and the ongoing impact on families and frontline workers.

2. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S COMMENDATION PRESENTATION & ALEXA AWARDS PRESENTATION

Deputy Underwood, on behalf of Chief Duthie, presented the Chief Constable's Citizen Life Saving Award to Mr. David McDonald in recognition of his courageous intervention during an aggravated assault at the Beaver Lake parking lot. His actions helped prevent further harm and assisted police in their response.

Deputy Underwood also recognized officers who received Alexa Awards for impaired driving enforcement, including "All Stars" who removed 50 or more impaired drivers in a year, and outlined the purpose of the awards and their nomination criteria.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF APRIL 14, 2026

MOVED by Ms. Taylor and **SECONDED** by Mr. Morton: "That the agenda of the April 14, 2026, Police Board Public Meeting be approved."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2026

MOVED by Mr. Morton and **SECONDED** by Ms. Beckett: "That the minutes of the March 10, 2026, Police Board Public Meetings be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

5. NEW BUSINESS ARISING

No items.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1** OPCC News Release re: Systemic Review
Received for information.

7. DIVISIONAL UPDATES

7.1 Detective Division

Inspector Robertson provided an overview of the Detective Division report as circulated, including its structure, recent restructuring, and current activities across integrated units, forensic identification, intelligence, special investigations, major crime, and street crime. He also noted ongoing challenges related to staff turnover and training and responded to Board questions regarding unit roles and workload trends.

He advised that the greatest workload increase has been within special investigations, particularly sexual assault and child abuse files, due in part to improved resourcing and specialized investigators. He clarified that the street crime unit is a proactive plainclothes team focused on drug and property crime, separate from patrol, and emphasized the importance of specialized investigative skills when supporting vulnerable victims and families.

Mayor Murdock joined the meeting at 1454 hours.

7.2 Patrol Division

7.2.1 Retail Business: Shoplifting Symposium

Inspector Stuart reported that the retail business shoplifting symposium, supported by a provincial grant, combined enforcement and community engagement initiatives and was well received by retailers and community partners. He also advised that an online shoplifting reporting portal will launch shortly to improve data collection and resource deployment, with additional grant funding to be sought for future symposiums.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS (AS NEEDED)

8.1 Finance

8.1.1 April 13th Committee Meeting Summary

Mr. Morton reported on the committee's revision of terms of reference (TOR) to include the risk register with an amended TOR to come for board approval in May or June.

8.2 Governance and Strategic Planning

8.2.1 Committee Meeting Summary

Ms. Taylor provided an overview of the work currently underway as well as recommendations brought to the Board for approval.

8.2.2 SPB Remuneration Policy Amendment

Main Motion:

MOVED by Ms. Taylor and SECONDED by Ms. Allan: "That the Saanich Police Board Remuneration and Honorarium Policy 1.7.1, as circulated and endorsed by the Governance Committee, be adopted".

Amendment:

MOVED Mr. Morton and SECONDED by Mr. Dhillon: "That Item 3.3 of the policy be amended to state that the maximums and meeting rates be indexed annually to the Victoria CPI".

During discussion on the amendment, Mayor Murdock noted the importance of comparing remuneration with other boards and expressed concern that the Board should not drive broader increases. Ms. Allan noted support for considering CPI-related changes, but not for an automatic increase.

The amendment was defeated. The main motion was then put and carried unanimously.

8.2.3 Updated Board Agendas and Meeting Format

Ms. De Medeiros advised that the proposed agenda template was developed in consultation with the province, aligns with police board training, and reflects established municipal practices. She noted that the updated format is intended to modernize procedures, improve efficiency through a consent agenda, and strengthen governance consistency and accountability.

MOVED by Ms. Taylor and SECONDED by Ms. Theobald:" That the Saanich Police Board adopt the updated Board agenda and meeting format, as recommended by the Governance Committee."

CARRIED

8.2.4 Management of Bring Forward Items and Board's Legislative Requirements

Ms. Taylor noted that the committee recognized the increased workload arising from legislative changes and Board workplans and identified a need for expanded executive support to ensure compliance with legislative requirements.

MOVED by Ms. Taylor and SECONDED by Mr. Dhillon:" That the Saanich Police Board, in support of its overall governance mandate, seek expanded administrative support to manage and coordinate its compliance with legislative requirements and bring-

forward items, in accordance with provincial regulations and the Board’s policies and procedures”.

CARRIED

8.2.5 Strategic Planning Update

The Board discussed the status of the strategic planning process. Deputy Underwood advised that the RFQ had been issued, with award of contract expected following the May 14 review, after which a more detailed timeline would be developed.

He noted that the contractor would support data collection through a combined community and strategic planning survey, Board consultation, and internal staff outreach, with the role focused on gathering and analysing input rather than drafting the strategic plan itself, based on lessons learned from the previous process. While the goal had been to report back on the community survey by the end of July, timelines are now expected to extend into the fall, with the new strategic plan anticipated to come into effect following Board approval, likely in 2027.

8.3 Stakeholder Outreach

No updates.

8.4 Human Resources

No updates.

8.5 BCAPB

No updates.

8.6 CAPG

8.6.1 2026 Conference in Edmonton Aug. 12-14

MOVED by Ms. Beckett and SECONDED by Mr. Gandhi:” That the Saanich Police Board approve up to three board members to attend the 2026 CAPG Conference in Edmonton.”

CARRIED

9. CHIEF CONSTABLE UPDATES

No items.

10. OLD BUSINESS


No items.

11. ADJOURNMENT AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: MAY 12TH, 2026

MOVED by Ms. Taylor and **SECONDED** by Mr. Gandhi: "That the Saanich Police Board adjourn the April 14, 2026, public meeting in accordance with S. 69 of the *Police Act* and continue in a closed meeting."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1545 hours.


Chair