



Ottawa Police Service Board

Minutes

Meeting #: 111
Date: December 2, 2024
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Electronic Participation

Present: Chair: Salim Fakirani, Mayor Mark Sutcliffe, Councillor Cathy Curry, Vice Chair: Marty Carr, Peter Henschel

Absent: Dave Donaldson

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1. Notices and meeting information for participants and members of the public
 2. Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was amended to withdraw items 8.9, 8.10, and 8. 11.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board confirm the amended agenda of the 2 December 2024 meeting.

Carried as amended

3. Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 Minutes #109 of 28 October 2024

That the Ottawa Police Service Board confirm Minutes #109 of the 28 October 2024 meeting.

Carried

3.2 Minutes #110 of 13 November 2024

That the Ottawa Police Service Board confirm Minutes #110 of the 13 November 2024 special meeting.

Carried

4. Committee Meetings: Reports from Committee Chairs & Minutes

4.1 Finance and Audit Committee - Draft Minutes #29 of 22 November, 2024

That the Ottawa Police Service Board receive this item for information.

Received

5. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

6. Public Delegations

1. Robin Browne
2. Sofia Chaudhry
3. Don Lalonde
4. Councillor David Hill.pdf

Delegates spoke to Abdi's inquest, budget increase, and crime rates increase in Ottawa.

The Board received two written submissions. The first outlined concerns related to 911 dispatch from the perspective of Ward 12 residents. The second

requested increased investments to enhance the safety of North Sandy Hill residents.

7. Inquiries

There were no Inquiries.

8. Items of Business

8.1 Chair's verbal report

Chair's report

That the Ottawa Police Service Board receive this report for information.

Received

8.2 Chief's verbal report

Chief's report

A question was raised about a perceived change in tactics during recent protests. Specifically, protesters have been asked to use sidewalks more often instead of blocking streets, and there has been a greater presence of officers and vehicles. Community members expressed concerns about these changes to Board members.

The Service highlighted that the ongoing crisis in the Middle East has significantly impacted the community, leading to frequent protests—sometimes occurring multiple times a week. The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) has prioritized engaging with community organizers to foster productive discussions. While these discussions have been largely successful, challenges persist, including feedback from the community regarding traffic disruptions, prolonged intersection blockages, and noise levels. Depending on factors such as the number of participants, the time of day, and specific circumstances, officers negotiate with protestors to minimize disruptions. Despite these efforts, some arrests have been necessary due to behavioral issues not strictly related to noise or traffic. The Service noted that the lack of prior notice for some events affects their planning and deployment of officers.

The importance of proactive communication was emphasized. It was noted that an engaged effort to strategically communicate expectations to the public and organizers is required. More specifically, enhanced and consistent communication—especially during weekends when passion and attention are heightened—was discussed. OPS acknowledged this feedback and affirmed that communication is key, noting that public notices were issued, and outreach to organizers was conducted. Despite these efforts, reaching all stakeholders remains challenging. OPS added that staff work overtime on weekends to provide communication coverage due to resource limitations.

The Service highlighted its ongoing commitment to dialogue and de-escalation, particularly through the work of the Police Liaison Team (PLT). The Service plans to increase the proactive use of social media to address misunderstandings and enhance public awareness.

A question was raised about permits for protests and how they aid police operations. The Chief explained that permits provide essential details, such as expected crowd size and contact information with organizers, which enable better planning and resource allocation. It was noted that without this information, planning is more challenging and adjustments to resource deployment are often required during events.

Concerns were expressed about the presence of a large number of officers at protests and whether permits could help optimize these deployments. OPS clarified that planning for such events involves scalable strategies. Officers are deployed based on the anticipated need and resources are scaled back when deemed unnecessary. OPS also confirmed that incidents in other cities, such as Montreal, are considered when planning and staffing events locally.

A question was raised about whether OPS had altered its overall approach to managing protests. The Service confirmed that while the overarching philosophy remains consistent, specific tactics have evolved over the past 14 months to address different behaviors and circumstances. Factors such as noise levels, traffic disruptions, and feedback from affected communities influence tactical decisions. It was noted that arrests have been infrequent, with the last major incident occurring in May.

Commanders retain discretion to adapt strategies based on on-the-ground circumstances.

The Service emphasized that officer deployments during protracted events often involve shift rotations to ensure relief for personnel. The Board acknowledged community concerns and emphasized the importance of these discussions in maintaining public trust.

OPS reiterated its commitment to supporting the diverse communities affected by the global crisis. The Service values its relationships with these communities and continues to work toward balancing the needs of all stakeholders during these emotionally charged times.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board receive this report for information.

Received

8.3 Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa – Report on outcomes of grant funding

Presentation

Adam Joiner from Boys and Girls Club (BGC) provided a presentation on this item.

A Board member commented about a Grade 10 program at Carleton Secondary School where students research and study organizations such as the BGC. The student's research highlighted the organization's positive long-term impact to the community.

A question was raised about plans to establish additional satellite sites. Adam Joiner referred to the growing need for services, pointing out that children are traveling significant distances to access programs due to a lack of local resources in their communities. He explained that BGC's strategic plan focuses on sustainability, and they aim to expand to new locations, however funding remains a challenge. He expressed a commitment to bridging the gap between current operations and future growth, emphasizing the importance of securing multi-year support rather than short-term solutions.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board receive this report for information.

8.4 Canadian Association of Police Governance: Winter Governance Summit Attendance and Sponsorship

Acting Executive Director 's report

The recommendation was amended to add Member Henschel.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board approve:

- 1. The registration of Chair Fakirani, Vice-Chair Carr, Members Curry, Donaldson, and Henschel, Acting Executive Director Sayah and Board Assistant Ben Guedria for the Canada Association of Police Governance's Winter Governance Summit, taking place in Ottawa on January 6 – 7, 2024, at a cost of \$2,030, before taxes.**
- 2. A \$2,000 Gold sponsorship for the Canadian Association of Police Governance's 2025 Winter Governance Summit.**

Carried as amended

8.5 Ratification of Appointment of Ottawa Police Service Officers by Electronic Polling

This item is before the Board for ratification following pre-approval on November 20, 2024, by electronic polling.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board:

- 1. Appoint, on the date of swearing in, the Ottawa Police Service police officers listed within this report pursuant to Section 37(1)(c) of the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)**
- 2. Issue a certificate of appointment as required by Section 83(4) of the CSPA.**

Carried

8.6 Ratification of Appointment of City of Ottawa, Transit Services Special Constables by Electronic Polling

This item is before the Board for ratification following pre-approval on November 9, 2024, by electronic polling.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board approve the appointment of seven (7) City of Ottawa employees listed in Appendix 1 as Special Constables for City of Ottawa, Transit Services pursuant to Section 92 of the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA).

Carried

8.7 Ratification of Reappointment of City of Ottawa, Transit Services Special Constables by Electronic Polling

This item is before the Board for ratification following pre-approval on November 9, 2024, by electronic polling.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board approve the reappointment of five (5) City of Ottawa employees listed in Appendix 1 as Special Constables for City of Ottawa, Transit Services pursuant to Section 92 of the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA).

Carried

8.8 Appointment of Special Constables – City of Ottawa (Transit Services)

Chief's report

That the Ottawa Police Service Board approve the appointment of five (5) City of Ottawa employees listed in Appendix 1 as Special Constables for City of Ottawa, Transit Services pursuant to Section 92 of the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA).

Carried

8.9 Delegation of Police Officer Status Approval

Chief's report

That the Ottawa Police Service Board:

1. **Introduce a bylaw to delegate authority to the Appointment Committee comprised of the Chair and Vice-Chair to approve**

Police Officer Appointments and, pursuant to Section 42 and 37(1)(c) of the *Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)*, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Approval of Appointment Forms obtained from the Ministry of the Solicitor General; and

- 2. Approve monthly reporting to the Board for exercise of this delegated authority.**

Withdrawn

8.10 Delegation of Approval for Special Constable Appointments and Reappointments

Chief's report

That the Ottawa Police Service Board:

- 1. Establish an appointment Committee comprised of the Chair and Vice-Chair and that the Board delegates authority to the Appointment Committee to approve Special Constable Appointments and Re-Appointments, pursuant to Section 42 and 97 of the *Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)*, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Approval of Appointment Forms obtained from the Ministry of the Solicitor General; and**
- 2. Approve monthly reporting to the Board for exercise of this delegated authority.**

Withdrawn

8.11 Bylaw Establishing the Appointment Committee

That the Ottawa Police Service Board approve the bylaw Establishing the Appointment Committee

Withdrawn

8.12 2025 Draft Operating and Capital Budget

Chief's report

A comment was raised emphasizing the importance of starting discussions on the OPS budget earlier next year with the Finance and Audit

Committee to address potential challenges proactively. It was suggested to include this topic in the next committee meeting.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board:

1. **Approve the Ottawa Police Service 2025 Draft Operating and Capital Budget**
2. **Delegate authority to the Chief of Police to execute and administer the 2025 Fleet Replacement Program, up to a maximum of \$5.4 million.**
3. **Delegate authority to the Chief of Police to execute and administer the 2025 Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) Program, up to a maximum of \$1.9 million.**
4. **Approve the reduction of the budget of capital order 903447 South Facility by \$6 million of pay as you go funding and return those funds to the general reserve.**
5. **Approve the closure of capital order 907491 Elgin Refit and return \$10,354,976 of pay as you go funding to the general reserve.**
6. **Approve the refinancing of \$7,771,192 contained in capital order 903447 South Facility from pay as you go financing to debt.**

Carried

8.13 Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Operations Centre Implementation Plan

Chief's report

That the Ottawa Police Service Board receive this report for information.

Received

8.14 Financial Status Report – Third Quarter 2024

Chief's report

That the Ottawa Police Service Board receive this report for information.

Received

8.15 Workforce Management Report – Third Quarter 2024

Chief's report

That the Ottawa Police Service Board receive this report for information.

Received

8.16 Response to Inquiry I-24-05 – Reporting of Illegal Drug Consumption in Public Spaces

Chief's report

The Service emphasized that open drug use is primarily a policing matter, but each situation is unique. It was clarified that if illegal drug use is occurring and constitutes a crime in progress, individuals should call 911. The Service confirmed that the response to the inquiry addresses the three key questions raised and encouraged Council members to share the information with residents.

A comment was raised noting that individuals should be encouraged to report cases of drug use in public spaces by calling 911. The Service assured that all calls will be received, triaged, and wherever possible, offenders will be diverted away from the justice system and towards appropriate support services.

A question was raised about ongoing discussions with the provincial government regarding improved supports for individuals using drugs.

The Chief noted progress from the province in transitioning from safe injection sites to integrated support hubs. These hubs aim to provide better treatment and support for individuals struggling with homelessness and addiction.

The Service added that the new Homeless and Addiction Recovery hubs, will become more prevalent across the city and will play a significant role in triaging and supporting individuals in need.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board receive this report for information.

Received

8.17 Response to Inquiry I-24-02 – Mistaken Identity

Chief's report

A question was raised regarding tracking mechanisms for mistaken identity, particularly in cases such as traffic stops.

The Service explained that once a mistake occurs, a report must be submitted. This process involves elevating the matter to a supervisor, and the individual responsible must provide justification for the occurrence. Legislation mandates that the individual be released immediately, provided with any necessary information, and treated in a professional manner throughout the interaction.

A question was posed whether mistaken identity incidents are reported in a broader tracking mechanism.

The Service noted that such incidents are extremely rare, and the current Records Management System does not include a specific tracking system for mistaken identity. However, as part of the ongoing development of the data strategy, the possibility of incorporating a tracking mechanism for this will be explored.

The Board discussed investigative detention, detaining an individual who matches certain characteristics being pursued in an investigation. It was explained that when it becomes evident that it is a case of mistaken identity, the individual is released immediately. The Chief noted that mistaken identity occasionally occurs due to inaccurate or incomplete information provided to the Service. It was highlighted that use of force is not applied in such situations. An incident earlier this year was mentioned as an unfortunate but rare example of mistaken identity.

The Board suggested that while mistaken identity events are uncommon, tracking them would be beneficial. The Service confirmed that developing a tracking tool will be considered as part of future system improvements.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board receive this report for information.

Received

8.18 Performance Report – Third Quarter 2024

Chief's report

A question was raised regarding a spike in demand for services attributed to inappropriate use of SOS 911 calls during the third quarter. The Service explained that this issue was related to an update to Apple watches which caused a temporary surge in accidental emergency calls. This spike was resolved following software upgrades.

A question was raised on how the Service can achieve 100% response rates for Priority 1 (P1) and Priority 2 (P2) calls. The Chief noted that achieving this would require significant increases in staffing and strategic placement of personnel across the city to address its geographical challenges.

The importance of monitoring response times for Priority 3 (P3) and Priority 4 (P4) calls was highlighted. It was suggested that KPIs for these priorities should be developed and included in future reports to better understand response times and resource allocation.

A question was asked regarding a section in the report about the re-enactment of tiered agreements post-COVID. The Chief emphasized that the Service often arrives first at emergency scenes due to having the largest number of vehicles operating within the city. The Service further explained that tiered agreements involve collaboration among police, fire, and paramedic services to maximize emergency response efficiency.

A comment was raised that while such collaboration enhances response capability, there is an argument for diverting police resources from non-policing calls, such as overdoses, to focus on law enforcement duties. The

Service stressed the importance of saving lives when officers are the first to arrive on the scene.

A question was posed about changes to operations following the COVID-19 pandemic. The Service noted that staffing shortages during the pandemic resulted in longer wait times and required agencies to coordinate closely to ensure the fastest response possible. It was explained that while OPS cannot disengage from non-medical emergencies until paramedics arrive, every effort is made to prioritize resources effectively.

In response to an inquiry about the availability of data for response times for P3, P4, and other call categories, the Service confirmed that such data exists and has been shared in previous budget consultations. The Service committed to including this data in future reports.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board receive this report for information.

Received

8.19 Outstanding Board Inquiries, Motions & Directions: December 2024 Report

Acting Executive Director 's report

That the Ottawa Police Service Board receive this report for information.

Received

8.20 Letters of Commendation: December 2024

Chief's report

That the Ottawa Police Service Board receive this report for information.

Received

9. Other Business

Vice Chair Carr provided the below motion:

That the Ottawa Police Service Board direct Board staff to begin the process of developing a policy with respect to reporting requirements under section 81 of the Community Safety and Policing Act under the supervision of the Policy and Governance Committee.

Carried

10. In Camera Items

In accordance with Section 44 of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, the Ottawa Police Service Board met in a closed session prior to the public meeting to discuss items pertaining to the following subject matter:

1. Update On Demonstrations and Event Management
2. Operational matters
3. Request for Temporary Assistance (CSPA, S. 19)
4. Lease Renewal
5. Executive Succession Management – 2023-2024 Annual Report
6. Delay Application
7. Labour Relations Matter
8. Legal matters
9. Legal matters
10. Labour Relations Matter
11. Labour Relations Matter

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

12. Next Meeting

Regular Meeting – Monday, December 16, 2024 - 4:00 PM