



GREATER SUDBURY POLICE SERVICE BOARD
MONDAY August 10, 2026 – 8:30 A.M.
Alex McCauley Boardroom/Zoom

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Present:

Gerry Lougheed, Jr., Chair
Shawn Poland, Vice Chair
Al Sizer, Member
Krista Fortier, Member
Paul Lefebvre, Member
Sharon Baiden, Interim Staff

Sara Cunningham, Chief of Police
Marc Brunette, Acting Deputy Chief of Police

Guests:

David McNeil, CEO, Health Sciences North
Dr. R. Koka, Lead Psychiatrist, Health Sciences North

Staff:

Jerry Wilmott, Inspector, Criminal Investigations
Robert Norman, Inspector, Integrated Operations
Chris Brown, Inspector, Patrol Operations
Darin Heffern, Staff Sergeant, Criminal Investigations
Sherry Young, Staff Sergeant, Patrol Operations
Matt Hall, Sergeant, Community Safety and Well-being
Andrea Savage, Manager 911 ECC
Celyne, Piche, Manager, Information Management
Kaitlyn Dunn, Supervisor, Corporate Communications

Media:

Tyler Campbell

1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lougheed at 0830

2 Land Acknowledgement

Member Sizer read the land acknowledgement.

3 Roll Call

Chair Lougheed read roll call.

4 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None noted.

5 Agenda

5.1 Adequate and Effective Policing – Police Response to Safety Issues in the Downtown

Chair Lougheed opened the meeting welcoming members of the Board, Special Guests David McNeil, President and CEO, Health Sciences North and Dr. R. Koka, Psychiatrist.

Chief Lougheed advised that a Special Meeting of the Board had been convened in response to local media reporting and asking in around what is being done about homelessness, open drug use, vagrancy, and issues of vandalism in the downtown. He indicated that Chief Cunningham would provide an update from a policing perspective. As well, the Chair advised that David McNeil and Dr. Rayuda Koka partners in these important issues have been invited to share their voices in this important community conversation. Chair Lougheed re-iterated that the Board's priority is to do an adequacy and effectiveness check how the Board is doing against the legislative requirements.

The Chief, Mr. McNeil and Dr. Koka shared provided updates and insights on the issues followed by Board dialogue on the various items raised with the following resolution:

(2026-84) FORTIER-POLAND: WHEREAS the Greater Sudbury Police Service Board and the Greater Sudbury Police Service recognize the concerns raised by community members regarding open drug use, property crime, vagrancy, vandalism, trespassing violations, violent crime, and social disorder in the downtown core and across the country;

AND WHEREAS the Board and the Service understand that community members, business owners, employees and visitors want and deserve to feel safe in our community and expect visible action to address behaviours that affect public spaces;

AND WHEREAS officers remain actively engaged on a daily basis in the downtown core to focus on both public safety and community safety with a compassionate approach and enforcing the law and holding offenders accountable, where applicable;

AND WHEREAS officers continue to take proactive enforcement action through initiatives such as the Bail Compliance and Warrants Apprehension Program;

AND WHEREAS officers are working closely with businesses, loss prevention personnel and community partners to address property-crime related offences and shoplifting;

AND WHEREAS these proactive enforcement efforts have identified and apprehended wanted individuals located in the downtown;

AND WHEREAS the Greater Sudbury Police Service has a dedicated strategy to work steadfastly with community partners, the City of Greater Sudbury, Downtown BIA, Go Give, service providers, businesses and residents which is having a measurable impact on calls for service, social disorder, open drug use, homelessness, violent crime, weapons related calls and suspicious persons calls;

AND WHEREAS the Greater Sudbury Police Service and its HSN, mental health and addictions service partners continue to respond to the significant impacts of addiction, mental health crisis and homelessness as a collaborative community response, however, are restricted by individual rights to refuse treatment and limitations within their respective legislative authorities;

AND WHEREAS despite significant efforts, certain individuals refuse and have the right to refuse much needed treatment despite being at risk for harm to themselves or others;

AND WHEREAS the mandate of Greater Sudbury Police Service Board is to ensure adequate and effective policing in our community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Greater Sudbury Police Service Board fully supports the Chief of Police and the members of the Greater Sudbury Police Service in their efforts to address issues related to homelessness, addictions and the mental health crisis through a visible downtown presence, enforcement action against criminal activity, and responses to community concerns that help build a safer and healthier downtown; and,

FURTHER THAT the Greater Sudbury Police Service Board open deliberate, meaningful discussions with all levels of government and partners on an urgent priority basis to develop solutions and regulatory authority to address these chronic issues through treatment interventions and consequential intervention for legal violations; and,

FURTHER THAT the Greater Sudbury Police Service Board request the Ontario government to enact legislation that provides for involuntary addiction treatment which will include assessment services, stabilization intervention, treatment and follow up support for individuals who chronically place service demands on police, accessible and affordable housing, social services and the health care system; and

FURTHER THAT the Greater Sudbury Police Service Board supports the increase in funding from senior levels of government for housing programs and services to navigate the system for necessary treatment and support interventions to maximize outcomes and return on investment.

CARRIED

The Chair noted that the resolution was carried unanimously.

6 New Business

7 Date of Next Regular Meeting

September 16, 2026

8 Adjournment

(2026-85) FORTIER-LEFEBVRE: THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED



Gerry Loughheed, Jr., Board Chair



Sharon Baiden, Interim Board Staff