

# **STRATFORD POLICE SERVICE BOARD**

A meeting of the Stratford Police Service Board was held on July 15, 2026 at 4:30 p.m., Stratford Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Rm., 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

**PRESENT:** Martin Ritsma – Chair, Councillor Harjinder Nijjar, Dan Mathieson (virtual), Lisa Wilde, Travis Blum (virtual), Chief Paul Landers, Acting Deputy Chief Jason Clarke, Inspector Mark Taylor, Acting Inspector Mike Robinson, Sergeant Rob MacMillan – Police Association President, Councillor Rob Edney – Town of St. Marys, Members of the Public, Members of the Media, Casey Riehl – Administrative Assistant

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Call to order**

Martin Ritsma, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

### **2. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement and Moment of Silent Reflection**

Martin Ritsma read the Land Acknowledgement and asked for a moment of silent reflection.

### **3. Reading of the Respectful Conduct Statement**

Martin Ritsma read the Respectful Conduct Statement.

### **4. Adoption of the July 15, 2026 Agenda and Addition of Agenda Items**

**Motion by** Travis Blum | Dan Mathieson

**THAT the agenda for the regular meeting of July 15, 2026, be adopted as printed. Carried**

### **5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

None declared.

### **6. Adoption of the Previous Minutes**

**Motion by** Lisa Wilde | Harjinder Nijjar

**THAT the minutes of the regular meetings from May 20, 2026 and June 3, 2026 be adopted as printed. Carried**

### **7. Presentations/Delegations**

None noted.

## **8. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

### **8.1 Police Station Update**

Acting Deputy Chief Clarke reported that staff has met with RPL Consultants and engineering firms regarding the renovation costs at Wright Boulevard. These discussions are ongoing with the CAO's Office and they are preparing a report to go to Council in the next few weeks.

## **9. Correspondence Received**

None noted.

## **10. Chairs Report**

None noted.

## **11. Governance Report**

None noted.

## **12. Receipt of Monthly Statistical Reports (May & June 2026)**

### **12.1 Statistical Reports for Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South (May & June 2026)**

Board Members have been provided the May and June 2026 statistical reports for Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South. Acting Inspector Mike Robinson provided the following summary and review:

#### **Stratford**

- Calls for Service: 1,796 (May) and 1,882 (June)
- Charges Laid: 562 (May) and 501 (June)
- Mental Health-Related Calls: 105 (May) and (142) June
- Domestic Occurrences: 57 (May) – with 10 incidents resulting in charges and 54 (June) – with 12 incidents resulting in charges.
- Violent Crime: 15 (May) and 16 (June)
- Property Crime: 122 (May) and 92 (June)

#### **St. Marys**

- Calls for Service: 226 (May) and 232 (June)
- Charges Laid: 77 (May) and 53 (June)
- Property Crime: 17 occurrences (May) and 11 occurrences (June)

**Perth South**

- Calls for Service: 207 (May) and 178 (June)
- Charges Laid: 148 (May) and 117 (June)
- Violent Crime: 2 assaults (May), no assaults were reported in June
- Property Crime: 6 occurrences (May) and 3 occurrences (June)
- Motor Vehicle Collisions: a total of (8) MVC's were reported in June. The increase is likely attributable to higher seasonal traffic volumes associated with summer travel and tourism.

**Traffic Enforcement Summary**

Across Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South, the most common e-ticket offences issued during the reporting period were:

1. Speeding
2. Driving while under suspension
3. Careless driving
4. No currently validated permit
5. Failure to surrender licence

These offences continue to reflect enforcement efforts focused on high-risk driving behaviours and roadway safety throughout all serviced communities.

**Human Resources – Sick Leave and Staffing Impacts**

Sick time and callout coverage:

May – 320 sick hours, 0 callout hours required

June – 525 sick hours, 36 callout hours required

Sick leave utilization increased in June, compared to May. Despite this increase, operational impacts were largely managed through scheduling adjustments, with only (36) callout hours required to maintain minimum staffing levels and operational readiness.

**Key Observations**

- Stratford continues to experience increasing calls for service and remains significantly above 2025 demand levels;
- Mental health-related calls in Stratford continue to rise substantially and represent one of the most significant growth areas in service demand;
- Domestic occurrence volumes remain stable, while charge rates associated with domestic incidents increased slightly in June;

- Violent crime levels remained relatively consistent this reporting period;
- Property crime decreased in Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South during June;
- Perth South experienced reductions in calls for service, charges laid, assaults and property crime;
- Traffic enforcement efforts remained focused on speeding and other high-risk driving behaviours across all jurisdictions;
- Sick leave increased significantly in June, but had limited impact on staffing requirements due to effective resource management;
- The new traffic officer started July 7, 2026 and has produced 74 charges to date.

**MOTION by** Lisa Wilde | Harjinder Nijjar

**That the monthly statistical reports for May & June 2026 be approved as presented. Carried**

### **13. Chief's Report**

#### **13.1 Financial Reports – May & June 2026**

Board members received the May & June 2026 financial reports, Chief Landers reviewed the most recent data for the end of June:

- The budget remains in a favourable position, noting that the full-time salary and wages line is at 46.79% at 50% of the year. The first pay in July was also added into June as the pay fell on the statutory holiday, so there is actually an additional pay included in the 46.79%;
- The salaries and benefits represent approximately 85% of the total budgeted expenditures. In June, Chief Landers worked with the Director of Corporate Services to streamline the G-231 monthly statement of operations by eliminating a number of unnecessary lines. They will continue to work with staff to refine the process and adjust the reporting lines as needed;
- Chief Landers stated that Karmen Krueger, Director of Corporate Services, has offered to attend a future PSB meeting to present to the Board;
- Inspector Taylor reported that the vehicle repair costs have remained an area of concern for the Service and are currently over budget. The main concern is the hybrid vehicles that they are using and seeing a lot of repair costs related to the hybrid engine. Inspector Taylor has reached out to Ford regarding the repair costs. Stratford is the only Service running Ford hybrids and have been informed that technically, they are not designed to run 24/7, 365 days a year. The Service will be looking at

different options for future vehicles. This budget line has been offset with the sale of the Nautilus and not replacing that vehicle until 2027. Moving forward, one option will be to start moving some of the admin vehicles into the fleet.

**MOTION by** Travis Blum | Dan Mathieson

**That the monthly accounts as of May 31, 2026 and June 30, 2026 be approved as presented. Carried**

13.2 Public Complaints

Chief Landers reported that there was one complaint submitted to LECA in May and it was determined that it was not in the public interest to investigate. In June of 2026, two complaints were received by LECA. One was deemed not in the public interest to investigate. One complaint has been assigned to the Stratford Police Service for investigation and currently remains ongoing.

13.3 2025 Annual SPS Report

Chief Landers reported that the Stratford Police Service 2025 Annual Report has been released publicly in mid-June. This timeline is compliant with Section 41 of the Community Safety in Policing Act. It is available on the Service's website and printed copies are available at the Police Station (17 George Street).

13.4 General Updates

Chief Landers reported on the following:

- From January 1 – June 30, 2025, there were a total of (33) foot patrols conducted in Stratford the first six months of 2025. In January and February of 2026, there were a total of (58) foot patrols. From March 2026 to now, there have been (211) total foot patrols, for a total of (269) in 2026. Stratford had (204), St. Marys had (64) and Perth South had (1). In Perth South, there have also been (32) directed patrols, which are different, and include speeding areas, Wildwood Conservation area patrols, various parties, etc. These totals also do not capture the ongoing community engagement by the Park Patrol officers in Stratford and St. Marys.

Martin Ritsma stated that this is important data, as some of the concerns with the relocation of the Police HQ is the reduction of foot patrol and a police presence in the downtown area.

Chief Landers acknowledged that the membership at large has been very receptive to doing foot patrols and are fully engaged in participating throughout the communities when possible;

- The new Traffic Officer position has been filled as part of the creation of a dedicated Traffic Unit. Constable Tom Lecomte was the successful applicant. Constable Lecomte officially assumed his new duties on July 6, 2026, and brings significant knowledge, training and experience to the role. He is a qualified speed enforcement instructor, a Level 4 accident reconstructionist, commercial vehicle inspector for heavy trucks, trained in highway interdiction in regard to drugs, qualified in standard field sobriety testing and a breath technician. In his role, he will be concentrating on impaired driving, speeding, distracted driving and aggressive driving. As part of his duties, he has been assigned to spend a considerable amount of time addressing traffic concerns throughout the communities and work proactively to improve road safety and respond to the issues that are brought forward by residents and community partners. To date, Constable Lecomte has had seven shifts so far and has already laid (8) hand-held/distracted driving charges, (13) seatbelt tickets, (13) speeding charges and (6) commercial motor vehicle defect charges;
- On June 23, 2026 members of the SPS and Ministry of Transportation conducted a commercial motor vehicle blitz, which resulted in (13) charges for various violations;
- Rachel Sinco, is the successful candidate for the Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) program. She began working with the SPS on July 6, 2026 and will conclude her placement on August 30, 2026. Ms. Sinco is working under the direction of Identification Specialist, Dave Frai;
- SPS has entered into a research partnership with Georgian College. This is a funded research partnership for Georgian College with SPS and the Barrie Police Service for a 3-year project. The primary focus is strengthening community policing relationships and developing training related to diversity and inclusion.

## 14. New Business

### 14.1 Board Approval of Updated Fee Schedule

The 2025 Fee Schedule has been provided to Board members for their information. The SPS is not seeking to make any changes for 2026. Chief Landers stated they will be doing a full review prior to 2027 to insure the figures are still suitable.

**Motion by** Harjinder Nijjar | Lisa Wilde

**THAT the Stratford Police Service Board approves updating the current Fee Schedule for 2026. Carried**

## **15. Consent Items**

None noted.

## **16. Adjournment to Go into Closed Session**

**Motion by** Dan Mathieson | Travis Blum

**THAT the Board adjourn and convene in closed session pursuant to subsection 44(2) of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, for the purpose of considering the following matters:**

- a. Personal matters about an identifiable individual;**
- b. Legal matters pertaining to the Board.**

**Carried**

5:01 p.m.