

## Essex County OPP Detachment Board - North

### MINUTES

Date: Monday, February 10, 2025  
Time: 10:00 am  
Location: Tecumseh Town Hall - Council  
Chambers  
917 Lesperance Road  
Tecumseh, Ontario N8N 1W9

#### Present:

Chair Paul Sweet  
Vice Chair Dave Kigar  
Member Sherry Bondy  
Member Tracey Bailey  
Member Gary McNamara  
Member Ed Hooker  
Member John Quennell (Virtual)  
Member Karen M. Robertson

#### Also Present:

Municipal Liaison Margaret Misk-Evans, Tecumseh C.A.O.  
Tyson Cragg, Lakeshore C.A.O.  
OPP Superintendent Mark Loucas, Essex County  
OPP Inspector Jamie Smith, Essex County  
OPP A/Staff Sergeant Mike Lane, Lakeshore  
Ron LeClair, Police Services Advisor, Inspectorate of Policing  
Christina Hebert, Tecumseh Deputy Clerk – Clerks Services & Policy Advisor  
Karen Murteira, Administrative Support and Recording Secretary  
Robert Auger, Director, Legislative Services & Clerk, Tecumseh

#### Absent:

Municipal Liaison Susan Hirota, Lakeshore Corporate Leader - General Counsel  
Member Marc Gomes

#### **A. Call to Order**

Administrative Support Karen Murteira called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

#### **B. Roll Call**

##### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Margaret Misk-Evans introduced Tyson Cragg, new CAO of the Municipality of Lakeshore, attending today in place of Susan Hirota.

OPP Superintendent Mark Loucas introduced Inspector Jamie Smith and Acting Staff Sergeant Mike Lane.

**2. Oath of Office - Ed Hooker, 2025 Community At-Large Member**

Robert Auger administered the oath of office to new Community At-Large Member Ed Hooker.

**C. Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations (comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi Peoples), and of the Huron-Wendat Peoples. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture while remaining committed to moving forward respectfully with all local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

**D. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There was no pecuniary interest declared by a member of the Board.

**E. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

**1. Election of Chair**

Member McNamara nominated Member Paul Sweet for the position of Chair. There were no further nominations following the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> calls.

**Motion: ECODB- 01/25**

Moved by Member Dave Kigar  
Seconded by Member Gary McNamara

**That** Member Paul Sweet **be appointed** to the position of Chair of the Essex County OPP Detachment Board - North (Lakeshore, Essex, Tecumseh) for the period of February 10, 2025 to the date of the first meeting of the board of 2026.

Carried

**2. Election of Vice Chair**

Member Bondy nominated Member Dave Kigar for the position of Vice Chair. There were no further nominations after the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> calls.

**Motion: ECODB- 02/25**

Moved by Member Karen M. Robertson

Seconded by Member Tracey Bailey

**That** Member Dave Kigar **be appointed** to the position of Vice Chair of the Essex County OPP Detachment Board - North (Lakeshore, Essex, Tecumseh) for the period of February 10, 2025 to the date of the first meeting of the board of 2026.

Carried

**F. Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion: ECODB- 03/25**

Moved by Member Tracey Bailey

Seconded by Member Karen M. Robertson

**That** the Agenda for the Essex County OPP Detachment Board - North meeting dated Monday, February 10, 2025, as duplicated and delivered to the members thereof, **be accepted**.

Carried

**G. Approval of the Previous Minutes**

**1. Essex County OPP Detachment Board - North Meeting Minutes dated December 9, 2024**

**Motion: ECODB- 04/25**

Moved by Member Gary McNamara

Seconded by Vice Chair Dave Kigar

**That** the Regular Minutes of the December 9, 2024 Essex County OPP Detachment Board - North meeting, as duplicated and delivered to the members thereof, **be adopted**.

Carried

**H. Delegations**

**1. OPP Constable Matthew Campbell**

Re: Project Lifesaver

OPP Constable Matthew Campbell, a member of the Emergency Response Team, provided a presentation on this a proactive tool used by police services to partner with family and caregivers of people who may be at risk of wandering. The individual is provided with a watch-like band containing a transmitter that can be worn on the wrist or ankle. Searchers use a receiver set to the radio frequency of the transmitter. Use of this technology reduces search times (usually less than 30 minutes), saving money and resources. It also gives more freedom to the individuals who use it to go out into the community. The initial cost to the individual is \$200 with an additional \$20 per month for registration. Funding assistance is available to those in need.

Essex County OPP was the first service in Canada to use Project Lifesaver and it is now being used across North America, including Windsor Police Service. Citizens can attend any OPP detachment where the Mental Health Response Unit will register the individual and provide regular follow ups to check the device and battery. Currently 40-50 people are registered in Essex County and 10 in Windsor, with over 25 local trained OPP members.

In response to Member Bondy, Superintendent Loucas advised that the OPP media officer is engaged with social media and media releases to inform the public about the program. Member Bondy recommended attending senior expos to promote the program. In response to Member Bondy and Chair Sweet, Superintendent Loucas advised that the OPP does not have a Vulnerable Persons Registry but as calls regarding at-risk individuals are received, a database template containing photos and pertinent information is created and maintained.

Member McNamara suggested putting the link to Project Lifesaver on the municipalities' websites.

**Motion: ECODB- 05/25**

Moved by Member Ed Hooker  
Seconded by Member Tracey Bailey

**That** the presentation and information provided and detailed as Delegations, Item 1, **be received**.

Carried

**I. OPP Monthly Reports**

- 1. Essex County Monthly Overview - November 2024**
- 2. OPP Detachment Board Monthly Reports - December 2024**
  - a. Municipality of Lakeshore
  - b. Town of Essex
  - c. Town of Tecumseh

### 3. **OPP Detachment Board Monthly Reports - November 2024**

- a. Municipality of Lakeshore
- b. Town of Essex
- c. Town of Tecumseh

The Chair congratulated Jamie Smith on his promotion to Inspector. Noted in Inspector Smith's verbal summary were increases in traffic stops, tickets, and RIDE programs. The Mobile Crisis Response Team has received an enhancement grant to March 31 and for next 2 years for weekend coverage.

In response to Vice Chair Kigar, Inspector Smith confirmed that motor vehicle collision numbers include those brought to the Collision Reporting Centres, which are located at the Essex County main detachment and in Leamington.

In response to Member Bondy, Superintendent Loucas advised that the data is current as to the date printed, and that increased numbers are due to high frontline availability and proactive enforcement.

In response to Member Bailey regarding young adults and impaired charges, Superintendent Loucas advised that under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, ages cannot be disclosed but OPP is looking at the trends, and diversion programs are being used. New OPP reporting will include more data.

#### **Motion: ECODB- 06/25**

Moved by Member Gary McNamara  
Seconded by Member Karen M. Robertson

**That** the OPP Reports for the months of November and December 2024 and information provided **be received**.

Carried

## J. **Reports**

### 1. **CamSafe Program Update**

Inspector Jamie Smith provided a verbal update on the CamSafe CCTV program in Essex County, which will be presented to the Essex County South detachment board in March. OPP is now registered for the program and some people have signed up. This is a good resource for the crime unit and to assist with missing persons.

### 2. **OPP Calls For Service re: Homelessness - Tracking Update**

Inspector Jamie Smith a provided verbal report on how calls for service regarding homelessness are being tracked. There have been only 19

specific matches on the database since 2018. Individuals in need of shelter are being brought to the Leamington Homelessness Hub as well as the Mission in Windsor.

### **3. On-line Criminal Record Checks**

Superintendent Loucas provided information on the platform which is province-wide. Every detachment is experiencing processing delays and receiving negative citizen response. The OPP is also affected by the slow response, creating delays (in hiring) within its own organization. The Superintendent has met with the OPP Strategy Management Unit, and the Commissioner Command Team will also be meeting to address the issue.

In response to Vice Chair Kigar, Superintendent Loucas advised that some detachments continue to receive people attending in person, and are disappointed when the administrative staff can only explain the online process, rather than process their applications directly.

Member McNamara advised that Tecumseh Council is receiving a lot of calls as organizations are lacking volunteers, etc. Superintendent Loucas advised that enhanced accountability is needed to ensure that timely processing is being performed. With OPP being subject to community satisfaction surveys, Detachment Commanders want to exceed expectations but have no control over providing a remedy on this particular service.

Margaret Misek-Evans presented a resolution for the Board's consideration, which was drafted in consultation with OPP, to be forwarded to the OPP Commissioner.

#### **Motion: ECODB- 07/25**

Moved by Member Gary McNamara  
Seconded by Member Sherry Bondy

**That** the OPP review the prioritization and response times of the criminal record check application process and take steps to resolve processing delays, in response to citizen and Council concerns regarding long wait times that have resulted in lost employment, post-secondary education, and volunteer opportunities.

Carried

In response to Member Bailey, Superintendent Loucas advised that agencies can set their own parameters to decide how much risk to take in allowing individuals to perform certain functions prior to receiving a clearance.

**Motion: ECODB- 08/25**

Moved by Member Ed Hooker  
Seconded by Member Tracey Bailey

**That** the information provided and detailed as Reports, Item 1 through 3,  
**be received.**

Carried

**K. Communications - Action Required**

There were no Communications - Action Required presented to the Board.

**L. Communications - For Information Purposes**

**1. Minister of the Solicitor General dated December 9, 2024: All Chiefs Memo #24-0076**

Re: Amendments to *Community Safety and Policing Act*

**2. Minister of the Solicitor General dated December 24, 2024: All Chiefs Memo #24-0080**

Re: Mobile Crisis Response Team Enhancement Grant Call for Applications

**3. Minister of the Solicitor General dated January 10, 2025: All Chiefs Memo #25-0002**

Re: 2024-2025 RIDE Grant Call for Applications

It was confirmed that this application has been submitted.

**4. Inspector General dated January 5, 2025: Advisory Bulletin**

Re: How Policing is Delivered

Ron LeClair, Police Services Advisor - Inspectorate of Policing, provided information on Bulletin 1.1 regarding how policing is delivered and specifically Section 19 of the *Community Safety & Policing Act*. Previously, a police service requiring assistance from another service required prior approval from the board. As this was not feasible, the regulation was changed to permit the Chief or Commissioner to make those requests. Both services must then provide details to the Inspector General.

**5. Inspector General dated January 15, 2025: Memorandum**

Re: *Changes to the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*

## 6. Town of Essex Community Policing Survey Results

Member Bondy spoke to the negative feedback and noted that it is a small fraction of residents who complete these surveys. She personally feels that policing in Essex is adequate.

### **Motion: ECODB- 09/25**

Moved by Member Karen M. Robertson  
Seconded by Vice Chair Dave Kigar

**That** correspondence and information provided and detailed as Communications for Information, Items 1 through 6, **be received**.

Carried

## M. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business presented to the Board.

## N. New Business

### 1. OAPSB 2025 Spring Conference & AGM

Re: Attendance, Sponsorship, and Call for Resolution

Ms. Misek-Evans advised that the budget allows for five board members to attend. Members Sweet, Kigar, McNamara, Hales, and Quennell attended last year.

### **Motion: ECODB- 10/25**

Moved by Member Sherry Bondy  
Seconded by Member Ed Hooker

**That** attendance at the 2025 Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB) Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting to be held June 3-5, 2025 in London, Ontario, by Members Sweet, Kigar, McNamara, Bondy, and Quennell, and Municipal Liaison Susan Hirota **be approved**, in accordance with Town of Tecumseh Travel Policy #127 and the 2025 Essex County OPP Detachment Board-North Budget;

**And that** sponsorship of the 2025 OAPSB Spring Conference and AGM in amount of \$1,000.00 **be approved**, in accordance with the 2025 Essex County OPP Detachment Board-North Budget.

Carried

Chair Sweet stated that previously under the *Police Services Act*, proceeds from the sale of unclaimed goods were turned over to police services boards for use for purposes of value to the community. The *Community Safety and Policing Act* changed the provision just for detachment boards, such that all proceeds now go into an Ontario



government general fund. As the OAPSB conference has requested submissions of resolutions, and as this change affects all detachments in Ontario, Chair Sweet proposed a resolution to be submitted to the OAPSB.

**Motion: ECODB- 11/25**

Moved by Member Gary McNamara

Seconded by Member Karen M. Robertson

**That** the Essex County OPP Detachment Board – North (Lakeshore, Essex, Tecumseh) **shall submit** the following resolution to the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards, to be forwarded to the Minister of the Solicitor General for consideration:

**That** the current language at Section S. 258 (2.1) of the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, 2019 relating to property in possession of a police service which states:

Sale by O.P.P.

(2.1) The Commissioner may cause the property to be sold, and any proceeds shall be deposited in the Consolidated Revenue Fund. 2023, c. 12, Sched. 1, s. 73.

**BE AMENDED** to:

Sale by O.P.P. Detachment Commander

(2.1) The Detachment Commander may cause property acquired by the detachment to be sold, and the detachment board(s) may use the proceeds for any purpose that it considers in the public interest, including a charitable donation. 2023, c. 12, Sched. 1, s. 73.

Carried

In response to Member McNamara regarding enhanced border security, Superintendent Loucas advised that OPP has ongoing operations in the area. Superintendent Loucas and Inspector Smith sit on strategic joint management committees with CBSA, RCMP, and Windsor Police, utilizing overlapping projects and additional officers. Currently it is unknown whether OPP will see an increase in infrastructure and personnel with the additional federal funding, however, these operational enhancements do not negatively affect current frontline policing.

**O. Next Meeting**

Monday, April 14, 2025 at 10:00 am in Tecumseh Council Chambers.

**P. Adjournment**

**Motion: ECODB- 12/25**

Moved by Vice Chair Dave Kigar  
Seconded by Member Ed Hooker

**That** there being no further business to discuss in open session, the Monday, February 10, 2025 meeting of the Essex County OPP Detachment Board - North (Lakeshore, Essex, Tecumseh) **adjourn** at 11:19 am.

Carried

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Paul Sweet, Chair

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Dave Kigar, Vice Chair