

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 8:30 AM

UFV (Clearbrook Campus) Room L131 32355 Veterans Way, Abbotsford, and Video Conference*

POLICE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ross Siemens, Chair
Gordon Holloway, Vice-Chair
Mandy Padda
Paula Olmstead
Amrik Narang
Amar Rai
Shannon Charney

REGRETS:

MINUTE RECORDER:

Shyanne Bergen

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM & STAFF PRESENT:

Chief Constable Colin Watson
Deputy Chief Constable Jason Burrows – Administration
Director Bea Nicolato – Finance & Budget Branch
Sgt. Paul Walker – Strategic Communications

GUEST(S):

Special Advisor - Chris Dominato
Aird Flavelle*
Brent Trueman

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 AM.

1. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be **approved**. The motion was **adopted**.

2. Consent Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the consent agenda be **approved**. The motion was **adopted**.

- (a) Minutes from previous meeting – March 19, 2025
- (b) Financial Statements – March 31, 2025
- (c) Crime Overview Report – March 2025
- (d) Strategic Communications Report (Mar 9/25 to Apr 9/25)
- (e) Policies
 - i. AbbyPD Policy Update
 - ii. I.B.060 Respectful Workplace & I.B.280 Sexual Harassment – REVISED
 - iii. II.D.XXX Body Worn Cameras & II.F.250 DEMS Package – REVISED
 - iv. Repeal Package L

3. Body Worn Cameras – Update

DCC Burrows reported on AbbyPD's upcoming implementation of the pilot project, highlighting the level and complexity of work that will go into every recording.

Discussion of the pilot project being 6 months long and the potential that it is not long enough to collect the appropriate data to warrant keeping the program.

Discussion of the extensive administrative steps required for the implementation of the program, including disclosure requests and the likelihood of needing additional staff. The department is unaware if other BC agencies have declined the program after the trial phase.

Discussion of 16 cameras being deployed during the trial and that the cameras were free to the department for the pilot. There are expectations for additional time for staff and an increase in the use of overtime and auxiliary staff members. AbbyPD has set aside \$50k for these costs. It was noted

that the decision to keep the program will be an evidence-informed decision and that the department is working on determining what the success metrics will look like and the importance of a cost-benefit analysis.

DCC Burrows reported that the program is tentatively set to start May 13, and the members' reactions have been mixed and have raised concerns that the footage will be used for performance management. This concern is addressed in the policy. Sgt. Walker will be doing a media release shortly.

Discussion of the variable retention period for digital evidence noted that general day-to-day interactions will be retained for 13 months.

4. Letter from PSSG re: Clarification of s.28 of the *Police Act* dated March 25, 2025

Chief Watson reported on a preliminary conversation with the Governance Committee on what changes would look like with the clarification of s.28. It was advised that the rules of the Board will be contained in the Board Manual once completed and filed. The Department is working on minor internal process changes to align with the clarification.

5. Compliments Report – March 11 to April 14, 2025

Chief Watson reported on the increase in reports received by the Compliments email address.

6. BCAPB Report

Ms. Padda reported on the following:

- Lara Victoria is stepping down as president, and there will be an election at the AGM
- BCAPB is working on their manual and bylaws
- AGM is moving forward and encourages SLT and Board members to attend (May 7 to 9) in Delta
- North Vancouver has offered to host the conference next year

7. Chief's Report

Chief Watson and DC Burrows reported on the following:

- **Swearing-in (Class 177)** – Happen on May 1, swearing in 5 new recruits and the Vice-Chair will be saying a few words on behalf of the Board
- **JIBC** – Working to change their rollout to the 3 x 96 model. The department can likely get 15 seats a year, and the provincial funding has not been received yet.
- **Vaisakhi Parade in Surrey** – The department sent 14 officers to assist SPS which was done at no cost to the department (cost recovery)
- **AbbyPD Commendation Ceremony** – Set for May 28, Board members are to RSVP directly to Leeanne Pengelly

- **Community Survey** – Conducted every three (3) years and is set to launch in June. The results will help inform the strategic planning process.
- **Medals of Valour and Merit** - Five AbbyPD officers are in Victoria today with DCC Culbertson to receive medals of Valour and Merit. More information will be shared later.
- **Chief's Community Relations Update** – Had several meetings with different members/groups of the community, including attending the Role Model Ceremony at Semáth First Nation, Council meeting with Matsqui First Nation, Abbotsford School District Superintendent, Prayer Breakfast, E-COMM appreciation week, Battle of the Badges, and the JPA graduation.

Brief discussion of policing expectations for the Abby Canucks hockey games and it was noted that the department regularly has officers attend the game and the costs of which are recovered.

8. Standing Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Nothing.

Governance & Policy Committee – Nothing.

Human Resources Committee – Nothing.

9. Other Business

None raised.

10. Questions from the public relating to today's Agenda

A member of the public expressed appreciation for seeing the impaired drivers' signs around Abbotsford and would like to see more to raise awareness. It was noted that road safety and, specifically, impaired drivers continue to be a focus of the Department.

Brief discussion about communication to the public regarding implementing the body-worn cameras pilot, and it was noted that a website and media release will be going out shortly.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 AM. The motion was **approved**.

“Original Signed”

Chair – Ross Siemens

“Original Signed”

Minute Recorder – Shyanne Bergen