

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Abbotsford Police Board

Wednesday, 25 March 2026 at 8:30 AM

AbbyPD HQ (3rd Floor Boardroom), 2838 Justice Way, Abbotsford, BC, and Video Conference*

POLICE BOARD MEMBERS' PRESENT:

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

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM & STAFF PRESENT:

Chief Constable Colin Watson
Deputy Chief Constable Jason Burrows – Administration
Deputy Chief Constable Dan Culbertson – Operations
Director Bea Nicolato – Finance & Budget Branch
Paul Walker, Communications

REGRETS: Mandy Padda

GUEST(S):

Aird Flavelle*

MINUTE RECORDER:

Sangeeta Hussain

The meeting was called to order at 8.30am

1. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by A. Narang and seconded by G. Hollway that the Agenda be **approved**, the motion was **adopted**.

2. Presentations - None

3. Consent Agenda

It was moved by A. Narang and seconded A. Rai that the consent agenda be **approved**, the motion was **adopted**.

4. Board Correspondence

a. Police Board Commendation Award (JB)

A recommendation was presented regarding the commendation of a citizen for exercising exemplary diligence, resulting in the preservation of another individual's life. The Committee unanimously approved the recommendation. Arrangements will be made for the individual to be recognized at a formal ceremony in Surrey.

It was **moved** by A. Narang and **seconded** by A. Rai that the commendation award be approved. **The motion passed unanimously.**

5. BCAPB Report (Chair Siemens)

Reported that were was nothing further to report. M. Padda remains on the BCAP Board and invited expressions of interest from the AbbyPD Board members wishing to assume the role. M. Padda will continue in the role but not in an executive capacity.

6. Chief's Report

6.1 Police Academy Graduation (JB)

As of March 13, five new graduates have been certified to Constables. They have completed brief transition period and are now ready for deployment.

6.2 BWC Evaluation Update (JB/CW)

An update was provided on the bodyworn camera trial, which concluded in December. The evaluation consists of two components, including a UFV-based component involving a focus group, and is intended to identify potential benefits and impacts.

Preliminary findings from the evaluation were shared. It was noted that a final report for the Senior Leadership Team is anticipated in May, after which further discussion and direction will be brought forward to the Board. A meeting with the principal investigator is scheduled later this week to review additional information and next steps.

It was emphasized that the evaluation will be valuable in informing decision making, including assessment of return on investment, resourcing considerations, and long-term impacts of body worn cameras within the policing environment. Further analysis and implementation considerations are expected to continue over an extended period. The Board was advised that the information gathered will support informed and evidence-based decisions.

A question was raised regarding whether any police agency has conducted a trial and not proceeded to implementation. It was noted that, while none are known within British Columbia, some agencies have not yet started to explore this program.

Consideration of resource implications for policing oversight bodies, the Crown, and related offices were also highlighted, noting the substantial tools and impacts involved.

A further question was raised regarding consultation with the judiciary on administrative implications. It was noted that it is unclear whether this has been explicitly discussed, and that any potential impacts or implications have not yet been determined.

The Board Chair expressed appreciation for the thorough analysis presented and acknowledged the complexity underlying what may appear to be a straightforward initiative, emphasizing the importance of careful and well informed decision making.

6.3 Strategic Planning Update (CW)

An update was provided on the Strategic Planning process. A recent workshop was held with the Police Board and resulted in valuable discussion. Since that time, significant progress has been made, and the plan is nearing its final version. The current week marks the final phase of work, during which input is being solicited by staff members.

It was noted that the draft plan will be released publicly in May for local community feedback, with a formal launch anticipated in July. Appreciation was expressed for the participation of the Board and Senior Leadership Team in preparing toolkits to support engagement with staff. Positive feedback has been received, and continued participation from team members was encouraged.

6.4 Youth Leadership Program (CW)

Update was provided for the graduation of the first Youth Leadership Program, which was held on Saturday, 21 March. The program was supported by numerous donors and sponsors and included 32 students from Grades 10 to 12. Participants engaged with staff over a eight-day period.

The program focused on leveraging the leadership expertise of staff through a policing and public safety lens, and on engaging youth. The graduation ceremony was well attended, with participants, families, and friends in attendance. The event was marked by positive engagement and strong feedback. Considerable effort was invested in delivering the program, and satisfaction was expressed with the outcomes achieved in its inaugural year.

A short video highlighting the Youth Leadership Program was presented.

It was noted that the program created valuable opportunities for youth and reflected a significant commitment from team leaders, senior leadership, and staff who participated throughout the week. The return on investment was described as positive.

During discussion, the importance of leadership skill development within the local youth community was acknowledged.

6.5 Community Connections (CW)

a. Strategic Planning Day with Abbotsford Police Foundation

The Strategic Planning framework is continuing to develop, with its foundational elements becoming more firmly established.

b. Recently appointed to ETEP Governance Committee

The Chief reported on his recent appointment to the ETEP Governance Committee and outlined objectives to enhance communication, foster innovation, and advance traffic safety.

c. Meeting with Crown Counsel

An update was provided regarding the working relationship with Regional Crown Counsel and opportunities to strengthen the work of each organization.

d. Abbotsford Community Foundation

An update was provided regarding ongoing projects with the Community Foundation and opportunities for alignment with the Strategic Plan.

e. Abbotsford City Council

The Chief recently met with City Council regarding strategic priorities.

f. Asked to speak at BCAPB

The Chief advised that he has been invited to speak at the BCAPB Conference on current developments and their implications for local policing.

g. Asked to speak at a meeting of BC Hotel Association

The Chief is scheduled to speak with the BC Hotel Association on April 14 in Nanaimo.

h. Character Abbotsford

Character Abbotsford brings together a strong group of community leaders, including the Mayor.

i. JIBC Board of Directors

Ongoing work with the Justice Institute of British Columbia continues. The organization remains actively engaged across multiple initiatives.

A comment was made acknowledging the level of activity underway.

7. Standing Board Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee (GH)

No updates to report.

b. Governance & Policy Committee (AN)

No updates to provide, other than what was provided in the package.

c. Human Resources Committee (SC)

No update to report.

8. Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting proceeded to adjournment.

Upon motion duly made and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53am.



Chair - Ross Siemens



Minute Recorder - Sangeeta Hussain