

**POLICE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Ross Siemens, Chair  
Gordon Holloway, Vice-Chair  
Mandy Padda  
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  
Inspector Chris Brown-John  
Sergeant Paul Walker

**REGRETS:**

Paula Olmstead

**GUEST(S):**

Aird Flavelle

**MINUTE RECORDER:**

Leeanne Pengelly

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 AM

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be **approved**. Adopted and motion carries.

**2. Presentations - None**

**3. Consent Agenda**

It was moved and seconded that the consent agenda be **approved**. Adopted and motion carries.

- a. Previous minutes – **approved**.
- b. Mr. Holloway had a question regarding the term “other” in the Crime Overview Report: Inspector C Brown-John confirmed for him they are items that do not ‘fit’ in the larger categories.
- c. Policy revisions – **approved**.

**The consent agenda is moved and approved. Motion carries**

**4. Community Survey Results**

2025 Results & 2022 to 2025 comparisons – Chief Watson highlighted the responses and is very pleased with the outcomes and the number of responses we received. The top five themes from the comments captured were: Public safety/homelessness, Traffic enforcement, Justice system and repeat offenders, Youth and school safety, and Mental health/addiction. AbbyPD will be taking these larger pieces and using them for the upcoming strategic planning for the Department.

**5. Board Correspondence**

- a. CAPG – Request for proposal to host 2027 CAPG Annual AGM & Conference  
The consensus is that at this time, we would not be in a position to do this. We are a few years away from that.  
**Decision:** We will decline with thanks for 2027.

- b. NG-9-1-1 Police and Fire Update
  - Information only.

## **6. BCAPB Report – Mandy Padda**

Nothing to report

## **7. Chiefs Report**

DC Culbertson - Sex Crimes Unit/ICE

- Currently, in the process of collating our strategic goals from 2025, and the creation of the SCU was a goal that was met. Currently, the SCU contains 1 Sgt and 7 det.
- Team stats – 146 files have been reviewed, assumed 34 significant investigations, 127 ICE investigations reviewed, with some assumed.
- Main mandate is community outreach and engagement. A gap was identified in the need for a dedicated crime analyst. A business case was submitted to the Federal Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund, which was approved in the amount of \$309,000 for a three-year multi-funding process for a crime analyst position. We are now looking to fill this position. If the position is successful as expected, we will look to include it in the budget after 3 years.

DC Culbertson - Extortion – Project Disengage Highlight

We run a multi-pillar approach to extortions: Investigations, Overt intelligence-led response, Intervention and exiting program, Community media platform and engagement process. With the ability to scale the project resources as required/needed.

- In 2025, there were 58 incidents. Almost exclusively were letters or WhatsApp calls, with 6 incidents of gunfire with no injuries.
- In 2026 so far, there have been 5 incidents, all letters or WhatsApp – no incidents of violence.

Project disengage was created as the missing piece in this problem. It is aimed at offenders to keep them away from potential recruitment and to avoid radicalization. Because we already have a successful gang intervention program, we looked at how to adapt it to this situation. The project was launched on Dec 4th and was the first offender-focused project launched in BC.

- Bold imagery was used on media and posters to get the point across.
- Since Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, we have had two referrals to date.
- Actively working with the Province to potentially acquire extra funding to get more media items out. We would like more posters placed in areas such as airport washrooms, City facilities/gyms, Places of worship, and on social media. Posters are in both languages in the temples and places of worship. The next variation of the poster will be minus the firearm, as some places have issues with it.
- A counter-radicalization/gang constable position was created to assist with this team and to assist with training for other constables.
- Mandy asked if posters are up at the university and or school district. Not this version of the posters, but UFV has taken this on and is researching with students to see if the campaign is 'working'. Feedback is expected in March.

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Abbotsford Police Board

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 8:30 AM**

AbbyPD HQ (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Boardroom), 2838 Justice Way, Abbotsford, BC, and Video Conference\*

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### DC Culbertson - Extortion – funding for 2 VS personnel

- Federal Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund \$13,000 for specialized police equipment (spike belts)
- Federal Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund \$36,000 specific to equipment (laptops, docking stations, etc.)
- Province funded \$225,000 for two full-time appts of VS personnel. (1 to project disengage and one to the victims of extortion)

### DC Culbertson – FIFA

- We have released 17 members for FIFA for a 4-week time period.
- At this time, there are no other requests for assets

### DC Culbertson – Homicide incidents

- 3 incidents in late December, all under investigation still.
- Homicide Jan 9<sup>th</sup>. Entrenched in gang life, the funeral is this weekend.
- Homicide Jan 15<sup>th</sup>. Under investigation still.

AbbyPD has launched a program where police and volunteers will deploy to neighbourhoods following a serious event to provide information and reassurance. Door hangers will be provided to homes that include a link for additional information online.

### Chief Watson – thank you to board members re Christmas breakfast participation

- Information only

### Chief Watson – swearing in of 7 new officers

- Information only

### Chief Watson – BWC Program update

- The trial program ended in mid-December and now in assessment phase with internal data collection and partnership with UFV doing research components for final report and recommendations. Reports estimated to be completed within Q2.

### Chief Watson – Flood update & OT costs

- The challenge was on top of extortion files and regular work, it required forward thinking with work scheduling issues which will incur OT and cost recovery issues.

### Chief Watson – PB awareness of DCC Culbertson being elected to the executive of the BCAMCP

- Informative

### Chief Watson – Strategic Planning Update

- Taking a different approach as discussed previously with board. We are narrowing down next steps to move forward.
- Using community survey and an external branding agency.
- Further meetings with board sub-committee in the next few weeks.

### Chief Watson – End of Decriminalization

- Provincial government not requesting extension of decriminalization which brings program to a complete close at the end of this month.
- Training updates and Policy updates with this change are being made.

Chief Watson – Strategic Communications – Annual Summary and Report

- Importance of communications. Real emphasis over the last year. Chief handed out the year-end report brochure with stats and numbers.
- Asked the board to take some time and read through the stats in this brochure.

## **8. Standing Board Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee** – Closing off last year.

**Governance & Policy Committee** – Nothing

**Human Resources Committee** – Nothing

## **9. Other Business**

None raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 AM.



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Chair – Ross Siemens



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Minute Recorder – Leeanne Pengelly