

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BRANDON POLICE BOARD HELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

PRESENT: Board Members: Deb Arpin, Chair
Councillor Shawn Berry
Councillor Jason Splett
Mayor Jeff Fawcett
Hope Switzer
City Manager Dave Wardrop

 Regrets: Marycia Kruk
 Doug Gerrard

 Staff: Chief of Police Tyler Bates
 Jacob Wenger, Legislative Services

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

1. ADOPTION OF PUBLIC SESSION AGENDA

SWITZER - SPLETT

That the Agenda for the Public Session meeting of the Brandon Police Board to be held on Friday, March 6, 2026 be adopted as amended. CARRIED AS AMENDED.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

SPLETT - SWITZER

That the minutes of the public session of the Brandon Police Board meeting held on Friday, December 5, 2025 be adopted. CARRIED.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

The Board considered a report from Chief Tyler Bates dated March 6, 2026, where Chief Bates provided a general overview of the activities within the Brandon Police Service (BPS) since the December 5, 2025 meeting.

Chief Bates highlighted the list of activities within his report at a community, provincial and National level. He noted BPS has been in consultations with a variety of client groups associated with the Downtown Public Safety Strategy.

Downtown Public Safety Strategy Implementation

Chief Bates spoke to the current state of the Downtown Public Safety Strategy. He reported that over the course of 2025, BPS held four individual townhalls with downtown residents, social service providers, downtown business owners and police administrators. Feedback was obtained which culminated in a report that was publicly disseminated to participants and the community at large. Subsequently, a Downtown Safety Strategy Working Group was formed to consider the collective feedback and propose implementation of responsive initiatives. The working group is comprised of participants from each townhall and are now meeting quarterly to gauge progress on the implemented strategy.

Provincial Drug Enforcement Task Force

Chief Bates provided an update on the Provincial Drug Task Force. The inaugural meeting had taken place with a subsequent meeting later in March.

Digital Evidence Management Systems

Chief Bates delivered an update on the Digital Evidence Management System implementation. In June of 2025 Brandon Police Service fully completed the implementation of a Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS) through Axon. This began as a pilot project in collaboration with the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Prosecution Services (MPS) in 2024. This enabled the police service to electronically share digital evidence such as surveillance camera footage, statements, social media content, photographs, audio and video with MPS. The system would allow businesses and members of the community to share digital evidence electronically with the police service by way of a community request.

Chief Bates noted that in December 2025, all police cruisers had Axon dash cameras, rear seat compartment cameras and Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR) installed by Axon. Some were new installations and others were replacing a dated fleet of camera and ALPR equipment. Chief Bates reported that beginning in April of 2026 BPS would begin to implement Body Worn Cameras (BWC's) for all front-line officers. This implementation was expected to take several months with full implementation happening by the end of August 2026. As a result, a new Digital Evidence Management Section would be formed in 2026 to help with the processing of an abundance of digital evidence. This section would include one Sergeant and three Clerical Support Assistants beginning in April 2026.

Budget

Chief Bates reported that the Brandon Police Service was able to provide a projection of 2025 results as work on year-end continued at the time of preparing his report. The current budget forecast for BPS reflected an overall surplus of \$936,000 for 2025. This surplus was primarily from the Police Operating costing center. The Police Vehicles costing center was projecting a \$332 surplus. Chief Bates noted that the surplus was higher than the projected surplus reported at the December 5th, 2025 Brandon Police Board meeting, and noted the increase was due to additional bank time and WCB savings.

Statistics

Chief Bates provided a set of statistics to the Board. He noted that in 2025 there were total Calls for Service: 37,886, an increase of 1.67% over 2024. For the first two months of 2026, there were 6383 calls for service; an 8.1% increase over the first two months of 2025. There were approximately 12,837 calls for service to the downtown area in 2025, accounting for approximately 34% of our total calls for service in 2025 (up 2% from 2024). In 2025 there was a 32% decrease in mischief and break and enter calls for service Downtown. BPS had seen an increase in persons-related calls for service (approx. 7%) between 2024 and 2025, and a significant decrease (approx. 20%) in property-related calls for service. There was a 22% decrease in shoplifting calls for service and a 31% decrease in break and enter calls for service. Chief Bates further noted that in 2025, there were 3422 total bylaw-related calls for service. This encompasses ACO, bylaw, meter, found bike and parking complaint calls for service, as they are the types that bylaw typically responds to.

Chief Bates highlighted data collected by the Property section, and reported that BPS members seized 1,978 grams of Meth in 2025. BPS members seized 2,146.83 grams of Cocaine. Chief Bates noted that these numbers were significantly lower than 2024 and there were significant single occurrence seizures of Meth and Cocaine in 2024. He reported that 43 drug trafficking-related files had charges laid and 41 drug possession-related files had charges laid in 2025, representing a 33% total decrease in drug-related charge files over 2024.

Chief Bates reported that there were at least five apparent drug overdose deaths reported to BPS in 2025 and noted that this number may rise as autopsy results are received. There was an increase of approximately 13% in Court-Order related calls for service and an increase of approximately 9% in Court-Order related charges laid between 2024 and 2025. Police have increased walk-throughs in local businesses and community areas by 122% between 2024 and 2025 and increased downtown car patrols 32% and foot patrols 16% between 2024 and 2025.

4. Financial Summary – Chief of Police

The Board considered a summary of the financial position of Brandon Police Services from Chief Bates.

5. 2026 Meeting Forecast

The Board agreed and confirmed the following meeting dates for 2026:

Friday, June 5, 2026

Friday, September 4, 2026


6. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Friday, June 5, 2026

7. ADJOURNMENT

BERRY - SPLETT

That the Public Session of the Police Board meeting be adjourned. (1:02 p.m.).
CARRIED.



Jacob Wenger, Secretary