

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BRANDON POLICE BOARD HELD ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025 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
Marycia Kruk
Doug Gerrard
City Manager Dave Wardrop

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

1. ADOPTION OF PUBLIC SESSION AGENDA

Splett-Switzer

That the Agenda for the Public Session meeting of the Brandon Police Board to be held on Friday, December 5, 2025 be adopted as amended. CARRIED AS AMENDED.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Fawcett-Kruk

That the minutes of the public session of the Brandon Police Board meeting held on Friday, October 3, 2025 be adopted. CARRIED.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

The Board considered a report from Chief Tyler Bates dated October 3, 2025, where Chief Bates provided a general overview of the activities within the Brandon Police Service (BPS) since the October 3, 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 updated the Board on the Public Safety Strategy implementation. He reported meeting with the steering committee to discuss service delivery in Brandon's Downtown and Core areas. Chief Bates noted an increase in calls involving intoxicated individuals and emphasized that cadets and on-staff paramedics have been valuable assets, particularly given the sharp rise in detention facility use.

Detention/Paramedics/Protective Care Facility (72-hour detention)

Chief Bates provided an update on public inquiries regarding the City of Brandon and potential 72-hour detention facilities. He noted increased use of detention facilities and associated costs due to higher occupancy. Chief Bates confirmed that the province has not designated the Brandon Police Detention Facility as a 72-hour site and that current operations will continue until further notice.

Encampment Strategy Refinement

Chief Bates updated the Board on the Brandon Police Service Encampment Strategy. He reported a significant increase in encampment related calls and stated that police are working with Housing and Wellness to improve response. Chief Bates noted that notices will accompany enforcement to clarify the nature of enforcement and outline available supports.

At 12:28 p.m. Doug Gerrard entered the meeting.

Statistics

Chief Bates reported a 10% increase in calls for crimes against persons and a 16% increase in weapons related calls. He noted an 18% decrease in property-related calls and a 33% decrease in break-and-enter calls over the past year. In 2025, there were 3,054 by-law-related calls. Chief Bates highlighted drug enforcement results, including the seizure of 1,934 grams of cocaine, 15.8 grams of fentanyl, and 1,861 grams of methamphetamine in the first ten months of 2025. He reported 35 drug possession charges and 35 trafficking charges in the first five months, a decrease of 27% and 50%, respectively, from the previous year. He also noted three apparent overdose deaths linked to drug toxicity.

Budget

Chief Bates reported a budget surplus of \$655,000, primarily due to vacancies. He outlined training and retention efforts, noting 20 vacancies remain and nine staff are currently in training. Chief Bates stated all positions are expected to be filled after May 2026.

4. SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Councillor Splett inquired about the current agreement between Brandon Police Services and Brandon School Division with respect to School Resource Officers. The Board engaged in discussion on the matter, and Councillor Splett noted that he would ask administration to investigate the matter further.

5. 2026 Appointment of Chair & Vice-Chair

The Board discussed the appointments for 2026 and agreed on recommending that City Council appoint Deb Arpin as Chair and Councillor Shawn Berry as Vice-Chair for 2026. The following resolutions were carried unanimously:

Gerrard-Switzer

That Deb Arpin be appointed Chair of the Brandon Police Board for 2026. CARRIED.

Splett-Switzer

That Councillor Shawn Berry be appointed Vice-Chair of the Brandon Police Board for 2026. CARRIED.

6. 2026 Meeting Forecast

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

Friday, March 6, 2026
Friday, June 5, 2026
Friday, September 4, 2026

Additional meeting dates for 2026 will be determined at a later time.

PRIOR TO THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE CLOSED IN-CAMERA SESSION THE BOARD ADOPTED A RESOLUTION TO RESOLVE INTO OPEN SESSION

The following item was discussed at the In-Camera Session:

7. REDUCTION 2026 BRANDON POLICE SERVICE BUDGET

The Chair noted that the proposed reductions in the approved 2026 Brandon Police Service budget submission had been discussed in today's Closed In-Camera Session.

The following motion was carried by the majority:

Berry-Splett

That the Brandon Police Board approve the proposed reductions to the 2026 Brandon Police Service budget submission as presented at the December 5, 2025 meeting.
CARRIED.


8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Friday, March 6, 2026

9. ADJOURNMENT

Berry - Gerrard

That the Public Session of the Police Board meeting be adjourned. (12:42 p.m.).
CARRIED.



Jacob Wenger, Secretary