



Minutes

The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board

Date: April 16, 2025
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers - Virtual Meeting
32 Mill Street, Thornbury ON
Prepared By: Carrie Fairley, Acting Recording Secretary/Acting Deputy Clerk

Members Present: Gail Ardiel, Lynn Church, Jim Oliver
Members Absent: Andrea Matrosovs, Donna Wilson
Staff Present: Acting Chief Administrative Officer Adam Smith

A. Call to Order

Chair Oliver called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with all members of the Board present save and except for Members Matrosovs and Wilson, who sent their regrets.

Town staff present was Acting Chief Administrative Officer Adam Smith.

OPP Detachment Staff present were Detachment Commander Loris Licharson, Town of The Blue Mountains Staff Sergeant Kevin Cornell, Acting Interim Operations Manager Mark Stadig and Sergeant Brett Buck.

A.1 Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

We would like to begin our meeting by recognizing the First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples of Canada as traditional stewards of the land. The municipality is located within the boundary of Treaty 18 region of 1818 which is the traditional land of the Anishnaabek, Haudenosaunee and Wendat-Wyandot-Wyandotte peoples.

A.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Lynn Church
Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

THAT The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board Agenda of April 16 2025, be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda.

Yay (3): Gail Ardiel, Lynn Church, and Jim Oliver

The motion is Carried (3 to 0)

A.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2023-62, The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

A.4 Previous Minutes

Moved by: Gail Ardiel
Seconded by: Lynn Church

THAT The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board minutes of January 15, 2025 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made.

Yay (3): Gail Ardiel, Lynn Church, and Jim Oliver

The motion is Carried (3 to 0)

A.5 Chair's Remarks

Chair Oliver introduced and welcomed Police Services Advisor/Inspector, Hank Zehr who joined the Board for this meeting. Hank noted his current role as the Police Service Liaison and he is responsible for zone five and parts of zone three. Hank provided background information to the Board regarding his 30 years of experience with St. Thomas City Police and with the Ministry.

B. Deputations, if any

None

C. Correspondence, if any

C.1 Ryan Teschner, Inspector General of Policing Of Ontario, Re: Inspector General Memo #2: Changes to the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, 2019 and Revised Advisory Bulletin

Moved by: Lynn Church

Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

THAT The Blue Mountains OPP Board receives for information correspondence from Ryan Teschner, Inspector General of Policing of Ontario, regarding Inspector General Memo # 2: Changes to the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 and Revised Advisory Bulletin

Yay (3): Gail Ardiel, Lynn Church, and Jim Oliver

The motion is Carried (3 to 0)

C.2 Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce, Re: Invitation to Board Members to attend the 2025 Golf Classic Tournament and Registration Package

Moved by: Lynn Church

Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

THAT The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board receives for information correspondence from Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce Invitation to Board Members to attend the 2025 Golf Classic Tournament and Registration Package

Yay (3): Gail Ardiel, Lynn Church, and Jim Oliver

The motion is Carried (3 to 0)

C.3 Drew Kalte, Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce, Re: Program Coordinator's Report, October 1 to December 31, 2024

Moved by: Gail Ardiel

Seconded by: Lynn Church

THAT The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board receives for information correspondence from Drew Kalte, Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce regarding Program Coordinator's Report, October 1 to December 31, 2024

Yay (3): Gail Ardiel, Lynn Church, and Jim Oliver

The motion is Carried (3 to 0)

D. Staff Reports

D.1 Detachment Commanders Report - Quarter 1, 2025

Detachment Commander Licharson provided an overview of the Detachment Commander's Report.

Chair Oliver noted there was a significant drop in the average emergency department wait times in March, compared to other months and questioned if that is coincidental and further noted it is good to see shorter wait times. Detachment Commander Licharson noted the goal is to reduce that number as much as possible and further noted it really depends on how busy the emergency room is or how many staff members are working. Detachment Commander Licharson noted the numbers now seem to be a bit above the average on what has been seen over the last couple of years. Detachment Commander Licharson noted they are continuing to work with their partners in the hospital towards a Transfer of Custody Memorandum or Understanding, or an agreement between the OPP and the hospital with regards to mental health apprehensions. Detachment Commander Licharson further noted that it is designed with the hopes of speeding up that wait time for low-risk patients. Detachment Commander also noted that the OPP will have to stay for any medium or high-risk individuals, and that they are making progress, and are hopeful that an agreement will be signed by next quarter.

Chair Oliver questioned when the OPP are responding to a mental health call, if the individuals are taken to the Meaford or Collingwood Hospital. Detachment Commander noted individuals will be taken to Meaford Hospital, if closer.

Chair Oliver sought clarification regarding the anticipated ability to break down the data by municipality and questioned if that meant that the data could be broken out for just the Town of The Blue Mountains. Detachment Commander noted that is correct and further noted that traditionally the numbers have been presented in an aggregate, but also broken down by the municipalities, as included here, and noted it is general. Detachment Commander noted that there were 53 calls engaged in the Town of The Blue Mountains for this quarter. Detachment Commander Licharson further noted they anticipate they will be able to do that and right now they are waiting to see what that layout for the automated version is going to look like, and if they can break that down by municipality.

Detachment Commander Licharson and the Board discussed the change in processes for processing Grants, including the RIDE Grant, due to the change of mechanisms by which funding flows from the province to the municipalities.

Moved by: Lynn Church
Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

THAT The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board receive for information the Detachment Commander's Report Quarter 1, 2025

Yay (3): Gail Ardiel, Lynn Church, and Jim Oliver

The motion is Carried (3 to 0)

Moved by: Lynn Church
Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

THAT The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board requests the Recording Secretary to prepare a letter for the Chair's signature, on behalf of the Board, to the Solicitor General and the Ministry regarding the Board's concerns on the delay in receiving the RIDE Grant 2024-2025 fiscal year

Yay (3): Gail Ardiel, Lynn Church, and Jim Oliver

The motion is Carried (3 to 0)

Chair Oliver spoke regarding stolen property and questioned specifically what happens to currency when seized in these examples. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that it depends on the outcome of court and could be ordered to be turned over to an accused lawyer, turned over to the Courts or returned.

Detachment Commander Loris Licharson spoke regarding awards and recognition and noted that two members of the detachment, Sergeant Kevin Cornell and Christine Dineen received the King Charles Coronation Medal in March of this year from MP Terry Dowdell. Detachment Commander further noted that Kevin was recognized for his dedication, devotion to community and his ability to build and maintain positive relationships and partnerships that have lasted the test of time and have impacted community safety in the town of Blue Mountains for the better. Kevin's positive leadership and devotion is evident to those with whom he works. Detachment Commander further noted that as a result, he's very highly trusted and respected by our detachment and community members alike. Detachment Commander Licharson spoke regarding Christine Dineen and noted that Christine was also recognized for her dedicated efforts to support youth as the school resource officer and that her tireless efforts to build relationships with school administrators, students, families, have borne fruit in the development of relationship and trust with youth in our communities. Detachment Commander further noted that she works hard to get to know the students, their circumstances and the issues they're dealing with. He noted that in this way, she

engages with a focus on root causes of behavior, not just the behavior itself when conducting and supporting investigations, which often leads to youth diversion and supporting referral options as opposed to criminal charges, which sometimes is the best way to go. Detachment Commander Licharson noted that both officers are exemplary officers, and they are really proud that they were recognized as such. Chair Oliver, on behalf of the Board added his congratulations.

Detachment Commander Licharson noted that a significant development in Q1 this year, was the rollout of body worn cameras in central region, to supplement the in-car cameras already in place. Detachment Commander further noted this is just the implementation of tools and technologies to ensure the better collection of evidence and demonstrate greater accountability and transparency, hopefully to enhance public and officer safety in the communities they serve. Detachment Commander provided information to the Board regarding the body-camera and the training the officers are required to attend for this technology. Chair Oliver questioned if the training the officers are required to attend involves the circumstances under which the officer would proactively active the camera. Detachment Commander noted that the training covers not only the function of the camera itself, but the policy that guides its use as well.

Detachment Commander Licharson spoke regarding the action planning process and noted they have started the process again, which occurs every three years. The Board discussed how it can support the OPP with community outreach.

E. Closed Session

None

F. New & Unfinished Business

F.1 Preparation and Timing of the Board's Annual Report to Council (verbal)

The Board discussed a new template that is being released for the Board's Annual Report to Council and when the latest time the Annual Report could be brought forward to Council.

F.2 Change to the Board's Regularly Scheduled October Meeting Date (Verbal)

Moved by: Gail Ardiel

Seconded by: Lynn Church

THAT with respect to the regularly scheduled October 15, 2025, Board Meeting, the Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board waives the provisions of The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board Procedural By-law 2025-01, Section 3(1), that requires this Board to

meet quarterly, on the third Wednesday, to accommodate Town Council's Budget Meetings

AND THAT The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board acknowledges the October Meeting will now be held on October 22, 2025, commencing at 8:30 a.m.

AND THAT The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board requests the Acting Recording Secretary to ensure the changes to the October Meeting date are communicated to the public, via eblast.

Yay (3): Gail Ardiel, Lynn Church, and Jim Oliver

The motion is Carried (3 to 0)

G. Additions to the Agenda

None

H. Notice of Meeting Dates

The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board, July 16, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.
Town Hall, Council Chambers

The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board, October 22, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.
Town Hall, Council Chambers

I. Adjournment

Moved by: Gail Ardiel
Seconded by: Lynn Church

THAT The Blue Mountains OPP Detachment Board Meeting does now adjourn at 10:00 a.m. to meet again July 16, 2025, or at the call of the Chair.

Yay (3): Gail Ardiel, Lynn Church, and Jim Oliver

The motion is Carried (3 to 0)