



# MINUTES

## Police Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 4:00 PM

Council Chamber, Oak Bay Municipal Hall

2167 Oak Bay Avenue, Victoria BC

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<b>PRESENT:</b>	Mayor Kevin Murdoch, Chair Lawrence Lewis (virtual) Wendy Zink	Christine Hall Andrew Weaver (virtual)
<b>REGRETS:</b>	Heather Cochran	
<b>STAFF:</b>	Mark Fisher, Chief Constable Paula Kully, Board Secretary	Julie Chanin, Deputy Chief Constable

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was delayed. Chair Murdoch called the meeting to order at 4:28 pm followed by a Territorial Acknowledgement.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

***MOVED AND SECONDED;** that the Agenda for the October 24, 2023, Police Board meeting be approved as presented.*

**CARRIED**

### 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

***MOVED AND SECONDED;** That the Minutes from the September 26, 2023, Police Board Meeting be approved as presented.*

**CARRIED**

### 4. STANDING ITEMS

#### 4.1. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE – Chief Constable Fisher

- Chief Fisher advised that the changes requested by the Board at the last meeting were completed. This included a measurement around Block Watch parties and a piece on governance in relation to policy review for board policy.
- It was agreed that due to how late it is in the current year, the Strategic Plan will be extended by an additional year and cover the period of 2023-2027.

***MOVED AND SECONDED;** that the Oak Bay Police Department Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2027 be approved and adopted.*

**CARRIED**

#### 4.2. ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT – Deputy Chief Constable Chanin

- DC Chanin advised that there was one OPCC notification.
- Regarding use of force reports, the GVERT assisted Oak Bay Police with a high-risk arrest where munitions were deployed, and an injury was sustained by the individual arrested. The file is with Victoria Police.

**MOVED AND SECONDED;** That the Accountability Report for September be received.

**CARRIED**

**4.3. BC Association of Police Boards (BCAPB) Update - Chair Murdoch**

- Chair Murdoch noted for the Board's information that the 2024 BC Association of Police Boards annual conference is scheduled for April 11 & 12 if they wish to attend. The annual fee will be increased nominally.
- BCAPB is currently undertaking a strategic planning process with funding from Province.

**4.4. Board Learning/Policy Review – All**

- The board discussed moving forward with developing a process for the Chiefs annual performance review. Members who expressed interest in working on this are Christine Hall and Wendy Zink.

**4.5. Board Policy Review**

- n/a

**5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**5.1. Chief Constable's Monthly Update - Chief Constable Fisher**

- In addition to the written report, the Chief provided the following updates:
  - o Five employees from the police department were recently recognized at the district's long-term services employee's luncheon. These people included: DC Chanin, Cst. Gibbs, Cst. Dalep, Cst. Grekul and Rebecca Cobb. All have over 10 years of service.
  - o All the police department's received notice from the Office of Human Rights Commissioner that she is conducting an inquiry into whether police forces use force disproportionately against people who are indigenous, black, or racialized or who have mental health issues. She will be requesting data from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General for the past 5 years.

**Discussion:** There was significant discussion from Board members regarding the accuracy and identifiers of data collection in determining an individual's race and mental health status. Concerns were expressed around the impact to police officers who are already dealing with difficult situations. The Chief noted that similar concerns have been raised by the Canadian Chiefs of Police Committee who are working on recommendations.

**MOVED AND SECONDED;** That the Chief Constable's monthly update be received.

**CARRIED**

**5.2. Overtime Reports - Deputy Chief Constable Chanin**

- There was no significant increase from the same period last year.
- DC Chanin noted that the department relied heavily on Cst. Mishrigi who covered 13 shifts and the Special Municipal Constables (SMC) one of whom completed 16 shifts that otherwise would have been covered by regular members and would have a negative impact on the department's overall health and wellness.

***MOVED AND SECONDED; That the overtime reports for September 2023 be received.***

**CARRIED**

**6. Old Business**

**6.1. School Liaison Program** – Letter from School District 61 President, Nicole Duncan (Chair Murdoch)

- A response was sent to the President's letter and a tentative date of November 29 is scheduled for a board-to-board meeting.
- Chair Murdoch is meeting with Minister Farnsworth, and it is his intention to raise the issue that the school board, as an elected body, seems to have overstepped its bounds by mandating police.

***MOVED AND SECONDED; That the letter from School District 61 dated September 29, 2023, be received.***

**CARRIED**

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**7.1. New Issues Raised by Board Members**  
n/a

**7.2. Policy Updates**

OB2220 Sexual Assault (revised from September 26 meeting)

- Sgt Perry spoke to the use of the term "victim" as it is consistent with the provincial standards.

***MOVED AND SECONDED: to approve policy OB2220 Sexual Assault as revised and presented.***

**CARRIED**

**7.3. Oak Bay Police Department 2024 Budget**

- Chief Fisher provided the Board with a detailed overview of any increases or reductions in budget categories.
- Wages and benefits make up approximately 75% of the overall increase. However, the department is still waiting on a wage settlement, but an estimate has been included.

- The overall police budget increase for 2024 is 7.5%.
- One of the most significant increases is from E-Comm with a projected increase of 22-26%.
- There has been discussion with the IT manager regarding significant future cost increases for cyber security. However, the IT manager does not have details at this point, but the Chief is recommending keeping this in the forefront as a possible cost partway through the year.
- Chief Fisher noted that Oak Bay's police budget is within a similar range of 3 of the other departments in the region.

**Discussion:** There was significant discussion around the high increase for E-Comm services for a second year in a row while the service and staffing challenges have not been notably addressed.

The Board recommended ongoing cyber security training for all members be included in future budgets.

**ACTION:** That a presentation from Saanich IT to the Oak Bay Police Board regarding cyber security measures for Oak Bay PD be organized for a future meeting date.

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That the 2024 provisional budget for the Oak Bay Police Department be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

**MOVED AND SECONDED;** the regular meeting of the Oak Bay Police Board be adjourned at 5:50 pm and go In-Camera (closed meeting) where the Board will consider confidential matters that deal with personal or private information as outlined in the Police Act, Section 69(2)(b) a matter concerning a person's financial or personal affairs and (c) a matter concerning labour contract discussions, labour management relations, layoffs, or another personnel matter.

**CARRIED**

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Mayor Kevin Murdoch, Chair

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Paula Kully, Police Board Secretary

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December 5, 2023

Date