

Draft Minutes
ELGIN GROUP POLICE SERVICES BOARD
September 20, 2023

The Elgin Group Police Services Board met in the Central Elgin Boardroom at the Elgin County Administration Building, 450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas, with the following in attendance:

David Jenkins, Chair
Trudy Kanellis, Vice-Chair
Ida McCallum, Board Member
Dominique Giguère, Board Member
Andrew Sloan, Board Member
Inspector Jennifer Neamtz, Detachment Commander (virtual)
Sergeant Ed Sanchuk (virtual)
Sergeant Eugene Laarman
Sergeant Brad Cook
Constable Jeff Beaumaster
Constable Nathen Bearss
Carolyn Krahn, Secretary/Administrator

Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes:

Moved by: Ida McCallum
Seconded by: Dominique Giguère

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on May 10, 2023 be adopted.

- Motion Carried.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof:

None.

Reports:

- 1) 2023 Ontario Association of Police Services Boards Spring Conference – Vice Chair Trudy Kanellis

T. Kanellis provided a summary of the 2023 Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) Spring Conference.

Moved by: Andrew Sloan

Seconded by: Ida McCallum

RESOLVED THAT the report from the Vice-Chair, dated June 2, 2023 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

2) Realizing Efficiencies in Crime Detection and Resolution – Sergeant Ed Sanchuk

Sergeant Sanchuk provided an overview of the CAMSafe program. This program creates a database of private security cameras within communities that will act as a resource for police when investigating crimes. Participation is voluntary; participants can delete their account at any time; CAMSafe does not have access to footage or cameras; and only police have access to the registry information. This program was developed by Belleville Police and has been successfully implemented in several jurisdictions. Elgin County OPP will be implementing this program and will begin a communications campaign to promote the program in Elgin.

Moved by: Trudy Kanellis
Seconded by: Dominique Giguère

RESOLVED THAT the report be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

3) Project Lifesaver – Constable Jeff Beaumaster

Constable Beaumaster presented information on Project Lifesaver. Project Lifesaver is a program designed to protect and quickly locate individuals with cognitive disorders who are prone to wandering. The method relies on proven radio technology and specially trained search and rescue teams. Individuals enrolled in Project Lifesaver wear a small transmitter on the wrist or ankle that emits an individualized frequency signal. If an enrolled client goes missing, the caregiver notifies the OPP, and a trained emergency team responds to the wanderer's area. The first responders will then use the client's individualized frequency to locate the position of the individual and bring them back to safety. Elgin County OPP will be implementing this program in partnership with the St. Thomas Police, Aylmer Police, and Chatham-Kent Police. The OPP is collaborating with local community partners to purchase the receivers. Caregivers are responsible to purchase the transmitter for their loved ones. The purchase price is currently around \$400; however, funds from community partners may be available to help families purchase the transmitters. It is anticipated that the program will be up and running by January 2024.

Moved by: Dominique Giguère
Seconded by: Trudy Kanellis

RESOLVED THAT the report be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

4) OPP Tow Program – Sergeant Eugene Laarman

Sergeant Laarman delivered a comprehensive presentation on the OPP Tow Program, highlighting significant changes made by the OPP in response to system abuses in Toronto. Sergeant Laarman distinguished between two types of towing requests: consumer/owner-requested towing, where the owner/driver initiates the tow service, and police-requested towing, which occurs when the police act on behalf of a vehicle owner who is either absent or unable to authorize the tow. Police may also request towing based on legislative authority, such as vehicle impoundment in cases of impaired driving, stunt driving, or evidence collection.

Under the new rules, each tow truck company must apply to the OPP to be considered, and must be approved by a local commander. Annually, the company must provide its ownership, registration, licence, vehicle, equipment, and insurance, and submit its principals to a criminal history background check. A company can also be removed if it fails to pass the requirements. The OPP maintains information on capabilities of registered towing companies. When a tow request arises, officers select the nearest towing service that can adequately address the specific situation. Each tow request must be documented, and each officer can only use a company once per shift.

Moved by: Ida McCallum

Seconded by: Andrew Sloan

RESOLVED THAT the report be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

5) Detachment Commander's Quarterly Report – Inspector Jennifer Neamtz

Inspector Neamtz presented the Detachment Commander's quarterly update. Elgin County OPP have been actively engaged in various initiatives aimed at enhancing community safety. They have been working closely with community partners to address the specific needs of Elgin County, especially focusing on public safety through general patrols and traffic initiatives. Elgin County OPP has been actively involved in educating the community about scams and frauds, while also investigating cases and supporting victims. During the summer months, there has been a focus on boating and water safety. The Crime Unit continues its investigations into benchmark criminal offenses, while the Community Street Crime Unit focuses on drug-related investigations, both units contributing significantly to maintaining community safety. Traffic initiatives, such as the S.P.E.E.D. Campaigns and Commercial Motor Vehicle training, are also planned for this fall. In addition to their various activities, the Elgin County OPP has submitted grant applications for three provincial grant opportunities, each aimed at enhancing community safety.

Inspector Neamtz also highlighted the work of the Elgin County OPP Community Response Unit. The Unit continues to deliver programs in local Catholic and private

schools, but not in schools in the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB). The Board has been conducting a review of allowing officers in schools since Fall 2021. Since that time, there has been an increase in assaults and other crimes in schools. Inspector Neamtz has participated with the TVDSB in the review, and it is expected to be completed soon.

Moved by: Dominique Giguère
Seconded by: Trudy Kanellis

RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Police Services Board send a letter in support of returning police officers to the schools in the Thames Valley District School Board.

- Motion Carried.

Moved by: Trudy Kanellis
Seconded by: Andrew Sloan

RESOLVED THAT the report be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

Correspondence:

Moved by: Ida McCallum
Seconded by: Dominique Giguère

RESOLVED THAT Correspondence Items #1-3 be received and filed.

- Motion Carried.

Other Items:

D. Giguère asked a question regarding how residents should report speeding complaints. Inspector Neamtz responded that residents could telephone the non-emergency line to report concerns. For cases that present an immediate threat to public safety such as possible impaired drivers, residents should call 911. Residents may also go through their local councils to submit general traffic complaints with councillors forwarding the complaints to Inspector Neamtz. Sergeant Laarman added that residents should include as much detail as possible when reporting traffic complaints, including any trends related to time of day.

New Business:

None.

Closed Session Items:

None.

Next Meeting:

The Elgin Group Police Services Board will meet again on Wednesday, November 15 at 1 pm.

Adjournment:

Moved by: Trudy Kanellis
Seconded by: Ida McCallum

RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn 2:30 p.m.

- Motion Carried.

Carolyn Krahn,
Secretary/Administrator.

David Jenkins
Chair.