



Sarnia Police Service Board

Open Meeting
Thursday, November 7, 2024
9:00 a.m.

[Join Virtual Meeting](#)



1. Welcome		Chair
2. Land Acknowledgement		Chair
3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest		Chair
4. Approval of Agenda	Approval	Chair
5. Minutes 5.1 September 26, 2024	Approval	Chair
6. 2025 OAPSB Membership Fee	Approval	Chair
7. 2025 Budget Update (Verbal)	Information	Chair
8. Monthly Operation Update	Information	Chief
9. 2024 Q3 Financial Update	Information	Director, Financial Services
10. Crime Stoppers	Presentation	Board Chair, Sean Robbins
11. Open Forum		All
12. Closed Meeting Report (Verbal)	Information	Chair
13. Adjourn to Closed Session	Approval	Chair
14. Report from Closed Session (Verbal)	Information	Chair
15. Adjournment 15.1 Next Regular Public Meeting: Thursday, December 12, 2024	Approval	Chair



SARNIA POLICE SERVICES BOARD

OPEN MINUTES
9:00 a.m. - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024
COMMUNITY ROOM, SARNIA POLICE SERVICES

Board Members Present: Paul Wiersma, Kelly Ash (Video Conference), Councillor George Vandenberg, Charlene Sebastian (Video Conference) and Councillor Chrissy McRoberts

Administration Present: Chief of Police D. Davis, Deputy Chief R. Hansen, Acting Deputy Chief M. Van Sickle, J. Dale, Fleet & Facilities Manager, C. Dam, Director of Corporate Services and Joan Knight as Board Secretary.

Additional Present: Ronald LeClair, Zone 6 Advisor

1. Welcome

Chair Paul Wiersma opened the meeting.

2. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land on which the Sarnia Police Service operates is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Board Member G. Vandenberg, seconded by Vice-Chair K. Ash, and **carried:**

That the Agenda as presented, be adopted.

5. Minutes

Moved by Board Member C. McRoberts, seconded by Vice-Chair K. Ash, and **carried:**

That the Minutes of August 27, 2024, be adopted.

6. Correspondence – Aylmer Police Department

A letter of thanks dated September 11, 2024, from William Vanraes, Chair, Aylmer Police Service Board and Deputy Chief Kyle Johnstone, Aylmer Police Service regarding the donation of tasers was received.

7. Board Policies

A report from Chair P. Wiersma, dated September 26, 2024, with respect to the revision of the Administration and Infrastructure and Emergency Response policies to align with the new Community Safety and Policy Act (CSPA) and its regulations was considered.

Chair Wiersma spoke to this and advised of the updating to align with the new Act.

Moved by Board Member C. McRoberts, seconded by Vice-Chair K. Ash, and **carried:**

That the Sarnia Police Service Board adopt the Administration and Infrastructure Policies and the Emergency Response Policies as revised.

8. 2025 Budget Clarification

A report from Chief D. Davis, dated September 26, 2024, advising of an amendment to the 2025 Operating Budget Report was considered.

C. Dam, Director of Corporate Services spoke to the report explaining the corrections made, she advised that these corrections have no impact on the 2025 budget increase of 8.86 percent.

Moved by Board Member G. Vandenberg, seconded by Board Member C. McRoberts, and **carried:**

That the Sarnia Police Service Board approve the amendment of three of seven total references to the net dollar amount in the 2025 Operating and Reserves Budget Report (Open Agenda of August 27, 2024) from \$36,294,935 to \$36,369,840 resulting in zero impact to the approved 8.86 percentage increase.

9. Facility Update (Verbal)

Chair P. Wiersma gave a facility update, advising that he has reached out to Mayor Bradley to set up a meeting to discuss the budgetary process and to begin talks to start a building fund.

Chief Davis clarified that the budget is split into funds for the building and funds for the service and gave a breakdown of the needs between the building and service and spoke to continuing building issues.

Jason Dale, Fleet and Facilities Manager gave a list of issues currently being addressed being HVAC issues, water drainage issues, problems with rodents and bats in the building, mold, and ongoing sewage issues in basement.

Chief Davis expressed the need for a solution as the building in the current state is not viable for a police service, Chair Wiersma advised that the Board is in full agreement and that a facility update will be an ongoing agenda item.

10. Monthly Operation Update

A report from Chief D. Davis, dated September 26, 2024, regarding the monthly operation update was provided.

Acting Deputy Chief M. Van Sickle, spoke to the report advising that the canine team had made its first arrest and that they have been deployed at least twenty (20) times to date and has proved to be a great asset to the service, he also advised of collaborative interagency work with London in arrests for theft.

Deputy Chief R. Hansen gave an update on the recent Olgivie murder case, stating that the investigation is ongoing with three people arrested and in custody, he also gave updates on other CID cases, drug trafficking and stolen vehicle investigations.

Chair Wiersma stated that he was pleased with media release of the Olgilvie murder announcement and thanked them for their work on media coverage.

Chair Wiersma asked about the ongoing homeless issue. Chief Davis gave an update advising that they continue to patrol the current encampments but for any new encampments the first call goes to City of Sarnia By-Law Enforcement, but to move the campers police assistance is often required, he advised the challenge is that the new protocol does not give direction or provide for anywhere to move them.

11. Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR)

Chief Davis gave a PowerPoint presentation on Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR), giving the background on the use of the technology, advising that in 2022 Provincial grants were available for services to update their vehicles with the technology.

Chief Davis explained that a hot list is created provincially and locally, cameras placed on police vehicles scan all licence plates in their vicinity, if it comes across a match of interest to the police an alert will sound in the officer's vehicle, he advised that it is a passive system only giving alerts to licence plate matches on the hot list.

Chief Davis responded to questions of the Board.

12. Open Forum

Mandatory Thematic Training

Chair Wiersma advised that the mandatory thematic training required for all Police Board members needs to be completed by September 30, 2024, and certificates should be forwarded to the Chair.

13. Closed Meeting Report (Verbal)

Chair P. Wiersma advised that the Board in their Closed Meeting will deal with Human Resources Matters, Negotiations and a Legal matter.

14. Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Moved by Board Member G. Vandenberg, seconded by Vice-Chair K. Ash, and **carried:**

That the Sarnia Police Service Board adjourn to their Closed Meeting.

15. Report of the Closed Meeting

Chair Wiersma advised that there is no report from the Closed Meeting.

16. Adjournment

Moved by Board Member G. Vandenberg, seconded by Board Member C. Sebastian, and **carried:**

That the Sarnia Police Service Board adjourn to their next Regular Meeting to be held Thursday, November 7, 2024.

Secretary

Chair



Sarnia Police Services Board

To: Sarnia Police Services Board

From: Paul Wiersma, Sarnia Police Services Board Chair

Subject: 2025 OAPSB Membership

Date: Thursday, November 7, 2024

The Sarnia Police Service Board is a member of the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB). Benefits of an OAPSB membership include Education, Expertise, and Advocacy. More information can be found at [2025 Membership - Ontario Association of Police Service Boards \(OAPSB\)](#). In recent years, members of the SPS Board have benefitted by attending the annual spring conference.

Membership fees are based on the size of the police service. 2024 membership fees were \$5 597.13. For 2025, the membership is \$7 345, representing a 31% increase.

The OAPSB indicates:

This year has been one of significant change and growth, marked by the introduction of the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA). In response, the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB) has expanded its supports and training programs to ensure all our members are well-equipped to navigate these changes. Additionally, we have continued to expand our Strategic Actions in Advocacy, Education, and Expertise, including member services, providing you with more robust resources and tools to aid in your governance roles.

For some of you, the membership amount will look very different as it did in past years. As many of you know, the OAPSB of the past was not funded as a working organization. In 2022, the Board decided it was time to hire a full-time Executive Director and, with funding help from the Ministry of the Solicitor General, expand our services into supports and training for Boards, with the introduction and enforcement of the CSPA.

The PAO and the OACPs memberships are ultimately funded by salaries through police board budgets, yet very little money has been allocated in police board budgets to support your own association. In 2023 and 2024, over 37.5% of the OAPSBs operating budget has come from a transfer payment agreement with the Ministry. This agreement ends in March 2025. Without these funds we will not be able to sustain status quo, let alone continue to grow. We need sustainable funding from the membership to continue daily operations.

Recommendation: That the SPS Board renew its membership in the OAPSB for 2025.



SARNIA POLICE SERVICE

Open Agenda Information Report

To: Chair and Police Service Board Members

From: Chief Derek Davis

Subject: Monthly Operational Update

Date: November 7, 2024

Report #: 24-11-008-0

SUMMARY:

The Sarnia Police Service is committed to continuously improving the level of service and safety we provide to our communities. While the police are traditionally responsible for incident response, by working with community partners in each of the prevention, risk intervention and social development pillars, a coordinated response can be implemented.

This report is a snapshot of operational and member accomplishments and is not an exhaustive account of the achievements of the Sarnia Police Service.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Derek Davis".

Derek Davis
Chief of Police

:RH/MV/LM

OPERATIONS DIVISION

1. Arrest Made in Stuart Street Garage Entry – SA24024392:

On Saturday, September 14, 2024, at 6:43 AM, police were dispatched to a Stuart Street residence for a report of a break and enter in progress. The homeowner had discovered a male party had broken into his garage. The suspect was confronted by the homeowner and subsequently fled on a bike, pulling a trailer.

Police located the suspect nearby, with the assistance of the homeowner. Investigation confirmed that items had been stolen from the garage and the suspect was placed under arrest. A 44 year old male from Sarnia was held for bail on the following offences:

- Break and Enter
- Theft Under \$5,000.

The male was held for bail and subsequently released.

2. Arrest Made in Early Morning Commercial Break-in - SA24025372:

On September 24, 2024, shortly after 5:20 AM, police responded to an alarm at Battlefield Equipment Rental on Confederation St. in Sarnia, ON. Upon arrival, police observed a hole cut into a fenced compound and soon after located a male hiding in a dumpster. Police also located a backpack beside the dumpster that contained wire cutters and a quantity of stolen wire with an estimated value of \$500.00

A 38-year-old male of Sarnia, was held for bail on the following offences:

- Break and Enter
- Theft Under \$5,000 Mischief Under \$5,000
- Fail to Comply with Probation Order.

3. Break and Enter to Hydro Facility/Subject Located by Canine Officer–SA24025690:

On September 27, 2024, the Sarnia Police were dispatched to Bluewater Power on Confederation St. in Sarnia, ON. The subject activated the monitoring alarms, which prompted police response. A person was then observed by the monitoring company, on the cameras, who guided the police response to the scene. Once police arrived in the area, the subject attempted to flee the area and ran to a dark area, where officers lost sight of him.

This prompted the activation of the Police Canine unit. Police Service dog Vader, along with his handler, commenced a track. The subject was located shortly thereafter, hiding, making an attempt at concealment. The Officer then located tools and copper wiring, which the subject was in the process of stealing.

A 39-year-old male from Sarnia was held for bail on the following offences:

- Break and Enter – Commit Indictable Offence.

4. Impaired Operation Incident at Rainbow Park – SA24027983 – October 20, 2024

A 25-year-old Blenheim man has been arrested for impaired driving following an incident in Rainbow Park, where the vehicle he was operating narrowly avoided colliding with an occupied tent on the property.

The incident occurred when the driver failed to negotiate the turn at Front and Johnston Streets, drove his vehicle over a curb and skidded within five feet of a tent located in the park. The vehicle continued forward until becoming stuck in a grassy area nearby.

Sarnia Police Service officers arrived to find the driver holding an open liquor bottle as he exited the vehicle. Several empty beer cans were also observed in the front seat.

The driver has been charged with impaired operation and refusal to comply with a breath demand. His driver's license has been suspended for 90 days, and his vehicle was impounded for seven days under the Highway Traffic Act of Ontario.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION:

1. Sarnia Police Recover Stolen Snowmobiles in Search Warrant - SA24025481

On September 7th, 2024, a resident of the Town of Wyoming, reported to the Ontario Provincial Police that a trailer, containing two snowmobiles had been stolen from his residence. The two snowmobiles and trailer were estimated to have a value of approximately \$40,000.

The Sarnia Police Service became aware that the stolen property had made its way to a residence in their jurisdiction and commenced an investigation to recover the property. On September 26th, 2024, the Sarnia Police Service, Criminal Investigations Division, were granted a search warrant to search a property on Tashmoo Avenue.

As a result of the search warrant, the Sarnia Police Service was successful in retrieving these items and returning them to their rightful owner. The snowmobiles were concealed, on the property, within a sea can, and the trailer was hidden in a nearby forested area.

A 53-year-old male from Aamjiwnaang of was arrested and charged with Possession of Property Obtained by Crime - Over \$5000



2. Sarnia Flooring Contractor Charged with Fraud - SA24025585

The Sarnia Police Service investigated several complaints regarding the owner of McMillan Flooring and More Inc. allegedly defrauding customers.

Between May and June 2024, the business owner, solicited business from several customers in the Lambton County area. Despite receiving deposits to secure flooring contracts, the business owner failed to fulfill his obligations, allegedly using the funds for personal gain.

The alleged business owner's fraudulent practices included providing false excuses for material and installation delays, ignoring customer inquiries, and ultimately failing to deliver the ordered flooring. The victims, who believed they were investing in their homes, suffered significant financial losses.

The Sarnia Police Service has charged a 33year-old man from of Sarnia, with the following:

- Fraud under \$5,000 (x5)
- Theft under \$5,000 (x5)
- Fraud over \$5,000
- Theft over \$5000

3. Drug Investigation Results in One Arrest and Quantity of Illicit Drugs Seized – SA24027152

During the early morning hours of October 11th, 2024, the Major Case Action Team (MCAT) along with members of the Sarnia Police Emergency Response Team (ERT) executed a search warrant at a home being operated as an Airbnb on Nelson Street where one male was arrested and the following was seized:

- 161.35 grams of fentanyl
- 89.35 grams of cocaine
- \$6130 in cash
- Digital Scale
- 3 Cell phones



The estimated street value of the seized drugs is \$34,925.00

An 18-year-old man from of Scarborough was charged with:

- Possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking contrary to section 5 (2) of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act
- Possession of fentanyl for the purpose of trafficking contrary to section 5 (2) of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act
- Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 contrary to section 354(1)(a) of the Criminal Code.

4. MCAT Investigation Concludes With One Arrested - SA24028171

On Tuesday October 22, 2024, the Major Case Action Team (MCAT) concluded a drug investigation with the arrest of a local female and the execution of search warrants at a home on Conrad Street and a London Line Motel.

The arrested female was already out on bail for drug related offences stemming from a March 2024 investigation. As a result of the search warrants, the following was seized:

- 112.69 grams of methamphetamine
- \$1,955 in cash
- 2 digital scales
- 2 cell phones



The estimated street value of the seized drugs is \$5,635.00

A 63-year-old woman from Sarnia was charged with:

- Possession of methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking contrary to section 5 (2) of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act
- Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 contrary to section 354(1)(a) of the Criminal Code.
- Two counts of failing to comply with a release order (Bail)

COMMUNITY SUPPORT DIVISION:

1. Rebound 40th Anniversary – October 19, 2024



2. Run for the Front Line – October 6, 2024

A number of police officers and civilian members of the Sarnia Police Service joined members of other First Responder, Front Line agencies, and supporting community members in a 5 KM run to benefit Three Oaks Cabin and Project Mental Wellness held at Canatara Park.



CONSULTATION:

- Leo Murphy – Inspector Community Support Division
- Ron Hansen – Deputy Chief Criminal Investigations Division
- Mike Van Sickle – A/Deputy Chief Community Support / Operations Division
- Brad Murray – Investigative Analyst



SARNIA POLICE SERVICE

Public Agenda Information Report

To: Chair and Police Service Board Members

From: Chief Derek W. Davis

Subject: 2024 Q3 Financial Update – Operating Budget

Date: November 7, 2024

Report # 24-11-009-0

SUMMARY:

Financial updates of the Police Operating Budget are reported out quarterly to the Police Service Board.

The Police operating budget is used to fund day-to-day operating expenses including salaries and benefits, fleet and facility maintenance, supplies, technology licensing and maintenance costs, and legal and insurance costs. Revenues from fees, cost recoveries, and grants also flow into the operating accounts.

At September 30, 2024, the police operating budget is 81% expended. At this point in the year, we are projecting net expenditures to show an overall shortfall of approximately \$160,000 or almost one half of one percent (0.48%) of the total budget of \$33,408,295 by year-end.

As part of ongoing budget diligence, the administration continues to monitor and review accounts and variances to identify considerations that may mitigate overall 2024 budget pressures.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Derek Davis".

Derek W. Davis
Chief of Police
:CD

DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS

As reported previously, several historical budget lines have not been updated to reflect the reality of current costs. As such, these under budgeted areas continue to be problematic until realistically aligned with today's costs. This will be an ongoing and multi-year undertaking to address. The following are highlights of the current budget framework and realized expenses:

- Vehicle Maintenance – Costs are incurred through fleet servicing procured through City Works, body repairs and other fleet related items. The 2024 projected account shortfall is \$140,000. However, this has incurred an average annual cost over 3 years of \$300,000 (but the current budgeted amount remains \$180,000).
- Telephone & Cable – Connectivity (land lines, cell services, data services, and fibre connections) are running about \$130,000 over the annual \$248,000 budget allocation. The three year average cost is \$360,000.
- IT Maintenance – This line is projecting about \$153,000 over budget. This includes the maintenance and licensing on firewalls, servers, security software, and general office user software.
- Software Licensing & Maintenance – This account which shows the costs of licensing for police-specific technology and other end-user software is forecast to end about \$195,000 over budget. This area has been adjusted upwards through annual budgets however price inflation continues to be an issue in the police information and technology sector.
- Prisoner Security Costs – Prisoner security in the courts and in our own holding cells is proving to be an area of pressure for a variety of reasons that include the challenges of providing effective security in aging and poorly designed facilities. The impact of CSPA guidelines for increased Special Constable training also factors into this.

Budget overages continue to be mitigated through temporary salary gaps in the Uniform area. This has been a recent trend but is likely unsustainable over time as availability for police college spots improves. Ultimately, the goal is for future budgets to be aligned with true costs of licensing, maintenance and upkeep.

2024 Paid Duty revenues are being projected to end \$330,000 over budget due to higher than expected demand from local companies and area correctional institutions.

Cost impacts from the new Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA) are now being noticed particularly as the police service responds to new guidelines on defensive equipment and protective clothing.

A summary of results is shown on the next page.

**THIS TABLE SHOWS SEPTEMBER 30 ACTUALS AND A DECEMBER 30 PROJECTION
FOR EACH EXPENSE AND REVENUE CATEGORY**

Category	BUDGET	ACTUALS	PROJECTION	VARIANCE
Fees Revenues ¹	-\$287,000	-\$544,581	-\$706,081	\$419,081
Cost Recoveries	-\$902,068	-\$630,923	-\$973,064	\$70,996
Revenues Other	-\$5,000	-\$9,336	-\$5,175	\$175
Grant - County ²	-\$1,526,653	-\$584,487	-\$1,184,487	-\$342,166
Grant - Ontario	-\$321,185	-\$299,065	-\$316,065	-\$5,120
	-\$3,041,906	-\$2,068,392	-\$3,184,872	\$142,966
Compensation ³	\$22,831,424	\$16,669,936	\$21,863,706	\$967,718
Benefits	\$7,424,607	\$5,490,647	\$6,955,173	\$469,434
Recruitment, Development, Wellness ⁴	\$311,593	\$336,544	\$487,574	-\$175,981
Clothing/Personal Equipment	\$140,000	\$101,865	\$171,865	-\$31,865
Police Operational Supplies	\$456,195	\$506,136	\$560,336	-\$104,141
Licensing/Maintenance - Police Technology	\$358,461	\$445,833	\$545,833	-\$187,372
Radio Communications	\$167,301	\$186,016	\$207,116	-\$39,815
IT Systems & Connectivity ⁵	\$736,200	\$888,372	\$1,016,772	-\$280,572
Maintenance – Facility ⁶	\$451,850	\$644,272	\$863,272	-\$411,422
Maintenance - Fleet ⁷	\$433,820	\$529,039	\$696,039	-\$262,219
Lease - Facility	\$71,750	\$69,344	\$84,344	-\$12,594
Other Supplies & Services ⁸	\$87,970	\$226,302	\$282,802	-\$194,832
Allocations	\$414,125	\$425,377	\$425,377	-\$11,252
Reserves	\$2,490,000	\$2,490,000	\$2,490,000	\$0
Board Expense ⁹	\$74,905	\$81,869	\$103,069	-\$28,164
	\$36,450,201	\$29,091,552	\$36,753,277	-\$303,076
	\$33,408,295	\$27,023,160	\$33,568,405	-\$160,110

¹ Higher than budgeted Paid Duty Revenues (fees & recoveries) were realized year to date; Paid Duties are supplied on a request-basis. Q1 and Q2 levels did taper off somewhat into the 3rd quarter but still projecting a surplus toward the end of the year;

² The County Grant will be based on actual Court Security costs and may be lower than budgeted.

³ Savings are related to salary gaps as the availability of seats at Ontario Police College impact the rate at which new recruits are brought on board;

⁴ Increased recruitment and training costs reflect the youth of the police service;

⁵ Reference is made 2025 Proposed Budget document to “budget stagnation”; the budgets of several areas including maintenance (vehicles, fleet, and licensing) have not been updated to reflect today’s costs and the realities of increased volume as the police service grows;

⁶ See footnote 5

⁷ See footnote 5

⁸ Other Supplies and Services includes the purchase of a \$50k training module from Victim Services (offset by a provincial grant), and the costs of website development;

⁹ Board Expense – the legal account is located in this category. The annual budget of \$50k was expended by mid-year;

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Any year end operating overage or shortfall will flow through the Police Operating Contingency Reserve which has a balance of \$500,000.

CONSULTATION:

Derek Davis – Chief of Police

Michael Van Sickle – Deputy Chief of Police

Ron Hansen – Deputy Chief of Police

Cathy Dam – Director of Financial Services

Jason Dale – Manager of Planning, Policy, Fleet & Facilities

Dan Cyr – Manager, IT