

Minutes
Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners
January 8, 2026

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners held on January 8, 2026 at the Bridgewater Police Service, 45 Exhibition Drive, Bridgewater, NS commencing at 5:30 pm with Board Chair Cheryl Fougere presiding.

In attendance: Vice Chair Mitchell, Commissioner Spencer, Commissioner Conklin, Commissioner Lipsett

Regrets: Commissioner Champoux and Commissioner Ali

Also present: Chief Feener, Deputy Chief MacPhee, Deputy CAO Mark Flint, Recording Secretary Jillian Croft.

Guests: DOJ Chris MacNeil

Order

Call to order at 5:30 by Board Chair Fougere

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Firing Range

NS Association of Police Governance – Correspondence

26-003 Motion to add to the above by Board Chair Fougere, Passed by Commissioner Lipsett

Land Acknowledgement

Acknowledged that the Town of Bridgewater is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Minutes

26-004 Moved by Commissioner Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2025 regular meeting as amended. Motion Carried.

Correspondence & Information

BPS Monthly Report

doc# 26-001

Chief Feener reported that December activity was slightly slower overall. A significant amount of training was completed during the first part of the month. Members remained busy responding to a high volume of theft-related incidents throughout December.

Recertification and Use of Force training was completed for approximately half of the staff, with the remaining members scheduled to complete training in mid-January.

Regarding 629 King Street, there were five occurrences during the month of December, including one overdose incident on December 24,25.

Commissioner Lipsett asked whether the majority of calls for service, specifically theft-related incidents, involved repeat offenders.

Vice Chair Mitchell inquired how repeat offenders are accessing restorative justice.

Chief Feener advised that many businesses, particularly when merchandise is recovered, choose to proceed with a PPA (Protection of Property Act) and do not wish to engage in the court process. Chief Feener confirmed that many of the individuals involved are repeat offenders.

Chief Feener further explained that the Department of Justice is exploring alternative approaches for repeat offenders, including bail reform and other measures.

Deputy Chief MacPhee spoke to directives from the judicial system, including guidance from Judges and the Crown, noting that police must provide justification for why charges are being laid. Deputy Chief MacPhee advised that many businesses opt not to proceed, as court appearances take time away from business operations.

Deputy Chief MacPhee also discussed a significant case file involving the seizure of a stolen vehicle, in which additional stolen property was located. He advised that considerable time was spent identifying the originating businesses and returning the stolen property to the rightful owners. Approximately \$3,000 in property was recovered and returned to multiple businesses in the area.

Thank-you letter Sgt. Wareham and Cst. Bruce

doc# 26-002

Anytime we get good feedback we want the commission to be aware.

Thank-you letter Cst. Bruce

doc #26-003

Another letter of thanks.

NS Association of Police Governance

doc #26-004

Board Chair Fougere advised that Cheryl Brook's term has not been renewed and that she will continue to serve in the capacity of Past President. The Board will be seeking a new President at the AGM in May.

Unfinished/Old Business

Update on CCTV Cameras- NS Power

The name and contact information for Nova Scotia Power has been obtained. An email has been sent outlining what we need. The contact had advised that he is returning from holidays, and we are currently awaiting a response.

Commission Mitchell advised that Nova Scotia Power involvement is not required for the installation of a camera at the LaHave/Aberdeen intersection.

Chief Feener mentioned a camera could be installed at that location, however, it would not be a licence plate reader. Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal will not allow access to the Registered Owner info until we get the new traffic safety act in place. This will give more power to the municipality's going forward.

Strategic Plan Update

Earlier in the week, Board Chair Fougere, Chief Feener, Deputy Chief MacPhee, Recording Secretary Croft met with Lisa Bozek – Director of IT Shared Services for Municipal Joint Services Board. The meeting was to go over the timeline for the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan Proposal for Bridgewater Police Service.

It was proposed that we have two evening sessions, starting at 5pm with supper, and ending at 8:30. These two planning seminars are to go over the results from

the Community Input Survey, reflect on progress for made from the last Strategic Plan (2022-2025), and to prioritize and design action steps for the 2026-2029 Plan.

Two meetings have been scheduled for January 20th and January 27th, 2026. Both these dates seemed to be okay with the majority of those in attendance.

Also discussed was the response that was received from the Survey that was posted. 218 responses have been received, and 10 questions were asked.

Survey is still open. The survey will be closed on Monday Jan 11th.

Deputy MacPhee reports, at a quick glance, it looks like the top three topics reported from the survey were, King Street – particularly John Howard Society, Drugs/Addiction and Traffic.

New Business

Operating and Capital Budget

Chief Feener opened the discussion regarding the upcoming 2026/27 Operating and Capital Budget.

Chief Feener outlined three primary budget considerations, including the replacement of a marked vehicle for 2026/27 and the failure of the Livescan system, for which pre-approval is being sought. He noted that operational budget requirements will largely depend on the outcomes of the Strategic Plan. A preliminary operational budget has already been submitted to Finance, with most requested items relating to aging or failing equipment.

Vice Chair Mitchell inquired whether funding was included for cameras. Chief Feener advised that there is capacity within the budget for one or two cameras. Vice Chair Mitchell reported that Council is supportive of camera installations and asked which budget would be responsible for the expense. Vice Chair Mitchell and Chief Feener indicated they would follow up with Nova Scotia Power regarding this matter. Vice Chair Mitchell further stated that Council has indicated cameras should be installed where needed and that Council should be advised accordingly.

Deputy CAO Flint suggested that a list of proposed camera locations be developed and prioritized. Chief Feener reported that there are specific locations under consideration and that having two adaptable, mobile cameras would be beneficial, allowing them to be relocated as demographics change.

Deputy CAO Flint advised that funding is available until the end of March, and that in the next fiscal year, camera installations could be funded based on identified priorities. Chief Feener noted that he was not previously aware that funding was available in the current fiscal year.

Commissioner Conklin raised two additional points for consideration. First, he inquired about the feasibility of solar power. Chief Feener advised that solar power is not recommended in this climate. Commissioner Conklin also asked whether funding might be available through the Insurance Bureau of Canada. Commissioner Lipsett expressed doubt, and Deputy CAO Flint indicated that she would investigate potential grant opportunities.

Chief Feener noted that in the past, businesses have made donations toward camera installations and have received tax receipts in return. In these cases, businesses benefited from both enhanced security and the associated tax receipt.

Board Chair Fougere suggested that once total costs are known, additional funding avenues could be explored if required.

Deputy CAO Flint sought confirmation if Finance had received the operational budget draft. Chief Feener confirmed that it had been submitted by the December 19, 2025 deadline, noting that it is not a final draft and will require updates due to recent vehicle issues.

Commissioner Conklin asked about the draft budget and how figures are determined. Chief Feener explained that the budget is based on the previous three years, with Finance providing an initial draft that is reviewed line by line, taking into account the past year and projections for the upcoming year.

Chief Feener advised that the first draft of the budget will be presented at the February Commission meeting. He noted that a detailed line-by-line review would only occur during an in-camera session.

Range

Chief Feener updated the commission on a grant received from the Department of Justice to revamp the police range.

Chief Feener advised that Halifax Regional Police (HRP) recently attended the range to conduct a review.

HRP has since expressed an interest in using the range from February 9-12, 2026, for Emergency Response Team sniper selection. Due to the size and length of the range, HRP is requesting permission to use the facility during that period.

Chief Feener noted that, historically, the Commission had limited range access to BPS only, following public noise concerns raised approximately ten years ago. Mostly from the local winery that was conducting business during Monday-Friday. Chief Feener further advised that the recent range upgrades were funded by the Department of Justice and sought confirmation that the Commission was agreeable to HRP's request.

The Commission indicated its approval for HRP to use the range during the requested dates. Members also acknowledged that the range is regarded as one of the best in the province.

Next Meeting

February 5th, 2026

In camera after regular meeting to discuss matters under the Municipal Government Act, Section 22 (c), Section 51 of the Nova Scotia Police Act .

Adjournment

26-004 Moved to adjourn regular meeting by Conklin and seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. Motion Carried.

Recording Secretary
Jillian Croft

Board Chair
Cheryl Fougere