

Minutes
Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners
April 2, 2026

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

In attendance: Commissioner Champoux, Commissioner Spencer, Commissioner Lipsett, Commissioner Mitchell, Commissioner Conklin

Regrets: Commissioner Ali, Deputy Chief MacPhee

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

Order

Call to order at 5:30 by Board Chair Fougere

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Strategic Plan update to be added under old / unfinished business

26-020 Motion to have the Strategic Plan updated added to the April 2nd agenda - Moved by Commissioner Lipsett and seconded by Commissioner Conklin. Motion passed

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

26-021 Motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2026 regular meeting as amended. Moved by Commissioner Lipsett and seconded by Commissioner Palma. Motion Carried

Correspondence & Information

BPS Monthly Report

doc# 26-017

Chief Feener reports another busy month. Wanted to report the hiring of two (2) more Constables. Further discussion on names of those parties when in camera.

Chief Feener says the call volume/calls for service for the last reporting period were normal for this time of year

Cedar Place

Regarding King Street, there were 23 calls for service over this last reporting period.

Cedar Place closed its doors on March 27th, 2026. Since then, there has been a significant decrease in calls for service related to clients who frequent that address. Roof 25 has seen a 100% reduction in beds, and reports that one evening they had only six (6) occupants, compared to the 20+ average they were reporting nightly in the past.

One call to Kings Court was in relation to a former client (who was PPA/banned by Cedar Place), that was protesting the closure of same. In total, there have been six (6) calls for service since the closure related to only three (3) past clientele.

Deputy MacPhee and Chief Feener attended a meeting at the Courthouse related to the Judicial System. They are seeing a large number of people who are on orders to remain at Cedar Place, requesting address changes for their current conditions.

Observation since the closure is that there not a lot of people seen on the street.

Patrol is also seeing the decrease in call volume, and contact with past residences.

Major Cases

GIS concluded the Petro Canada Armed Robbery with two parties being arrested and charged. This was a lengthy file, and our Detectives worked in conjunction with Halifax Regional Police, and the RCMP to have the successful outcome.

An arrest was also made in connection with the fire at Shipyard Landing last year.

PVEC/Interpol incident. Heavy police presence was seen at the school in the following week (after March Break). PVEC had reached out and asked for the SSRO and another member to attend. A visibly high presence of police was at the school during drop offs/arrivals. The Chief and Deputy Chief attended the school every morning the week the students returned from break. PVEC was very supportive of the police response. Meeting was had with the Superintendent, as well as the Trauma Response Team.

Police were in attendance for peace of mind of students. A few parents were outspoken about the event. By Friday pretty much everyone was back at school.

Commissioner Spencer reporting a student at BES has been withdrawn from the school by their parents as a result of the call. As well, an international student from Columbia has chosen not to attending BJH due to the incident.

NSCPA & NSPGA Fall Conference

doc# 26-018

This was a heads up for the Commission members. If they are looking to attend, we should reserve rooms sooner than later. This year's conference is being hosted by Kentville, Oct 14-16, 2026 at Oak Island Resort and Marina. Kentville did not have any suitable location that was available to run the conference, so they chose to host it at Oak Island Resort. Chester Golf Course will be the location for the golf on Wednesday afternoon, with the Gala Thursday night. Member's wishing to attend will need to notify Jillian, and advise if they are requesting a room be reserved.

Updated SOP's

doc #26-019

Following the last meeting, an update has been done on more SOP's that were rolled out to our members. A total of 46 SOP's will be updated over the course of the next few months.

Unfinished/Old Business

Capital and Operational Budget 2026-2027

Chief Feener reporting there were two (2) Capital items that were preapproved - a new patrol vehicle and a livescan (fingerprint). The patrol car is in the process of going out to tender. And the livescan is on order.

No big changed regarding Operational Budget. Deputy MacPhee and Chief Feener went to a council meeting a few weeks ago to field any questions or concerns.

Board Chair Fougere had a question regarding CCTV Cameras. With Cedar Place closing, is there a need for all the cameras that we originally discussed. Chief Feener says that two (2) cameras were budgeted in the Capital. The current camera at the Ark needs to be replaced, but agreed that less cameras will be required now than originally thought.

Strategic Plan

The first draft has been received; Patrick Hirtle was contracted to produce. It looks good, but a few pictures will need to be changed as they are outdated. New photos will be taken next week, and a rough draft will be sent out next week. Hoping to have the Strategic Plan ready for approval by the May meeting.

Next Meeting

Regarding the June 4th, 2026 regular meeting, the Deputy and Chief will be away and unable to attend, as well as several board members. Request to push the May meeting to mid to late May to combine the May/June meetings. May 21st looks good for all council members that were in attendance.

New Business

No new business.

Next Meeting

May 21st, 2026

Adjournment

26-022 Motion to adjourn regular meeting and go in camera, Commissioner Mitchell and seconded by Commissioner Conklin.

26-023 Moved to adjourn meeting by Commissioner Mitchell and seconded by Commissioner Lipsett at 19:02. Motion Carried.

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

Recording Secretary
Jillian Croft

Board Chair
Cheryl Fougere