

Essex County OPP Detachment Board - North

Minutes

Date: Monday, September 15, 2025
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Tecumseh Town Hall - Council Chambers
917 Lesperance Road
Tecumseh, Ontario N8N 1W9

Present:

Chair Paul Sweet
Vice Chair, Dave Kigar
Member Sherry Bondy
Member Tracey Bailey
Member Karen M. Robertson
Member Marc Gomes
Member Ed Hooker

Also Present:

Municipal Liaison Margaret Misek-Evans, Tecumseh C.A.O
Municipal Liaison Susan Hirota, Lakeshore Corporate Leader- General Counsel
Municipal Liaison, Kate Giurissevich, Essex C.A.O
OPP Superintendent Mark Loucas
OPP Acting Inspector Bryan Andrusyk
OPP Inspector Charles Lorway
OPP Staff Sergeant Christian Cortese, Tecumseh
OPP Acting Staff Sergeant Shawn Hand, Lakeshore
Ron LeClair, Police Services Advisor, Inspectorate of Policing
Deputy Clerk - Clerks Services & Policy Advisor Christina Hebert
Administrative Support Karen Murteira

Absent:

Member Gary McNamara
Member John Quennell

A. Call to Order

Chair Paul Sweet called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

B. Roll Call

Chair Sweet noted regrets from Member Quennell and Member McNamara. Superintendent Mark Loucas introduced Acting Staff Sergeant Shawn Hand, interim manager for the Lakeshore detachment.

C. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations (comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi Peoples), and of the Huron-Wendat Peoples. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture while remaining committed to moving forward respectfully with all local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

D. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There was no pecuniary interest declared by a member of the Board.

E. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: ECODB-N 36/25

Moved by Member Marc Gomes
Seconded by Member Tracey Bailey

That the Agenda for the Essex County OPP Detachment Board - North Meeting dated Monday, September 15, 2025, as duplicated and delivered to the members thereof, **be accepted**.

Carried

F. Approval of the Previous Minutes

1. Essex County OPP Detachment Board - North Meeting Minutes - June 9, 2025

Motion: ECODB-N 37/25

Moved by Vice Chair Dave Kigar
Seconded by Member Karen M. Robertson

That the Regular Minutes of the June 9, 2025 Essex County OPP Detachment Board - North Meeting, as duplicated and delivered to the members thereof, **be adopted**.

Carried

G. Delegations

1. Sarah Yalda, President - Windsor Chapter, Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association

The detachment board heard a presentation by Sarah Yalda, President of the Local Chapter of OSARVA and OPP Special Constable and Eileen Dancil, Vice President of the Local Chapter of OSARVA and Windsor Police Auxiliary Acting Sergeant.

OSARVA was established in 1992 and is a provincially recognized not-for-profit organization working with OPP and municipal police services in search and rescue events. The closest OSARVA team to Windsor-Essex is in London, therefore there is a desire to open a local chapter. OSARVA members must complete training through the OPP and a criminal record check. Other services provided include community safety presentations and door-to-door checks in weather emergencies.

Letters of support are needed from all municipalities in order to establish a local chapter. Individuals interested in volunteering may contact Ms. Yalda at sarahyalda05@gmail.com. The method of involvement with police is determined by a Memorandum of Understanding between OSARVA and the police service. OSARVA is looking into involvement in search and recovery as well.

Motion: ECODB-N 38/25

Moved by Member Tracey Bailey
Seconded by Member Sherry Bondy

That a letter **be provided** by the Essex County OPP Detachment Board – North (Lakeshore, Essex, Tecumseh) to the Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association in support of establishing a local chapter in Windsor-Essex.

Carried

2. OPP Detective Constable Lisa Whitelaw, Investigator, Abuse Issues Unit

Detective Constable Lisa Whitelaw provided a verbal presentation on the OPP Detachment Abuse Issues Unit, a new unit formed in 2024 comprised of 70 Detective Constables province-wide, including 3 in Essex County.

The unit monitors warrants and reviews every call for service and supports patrol and investigations on abuse issues including intimate partner violence, child and elder abuse, sexual offences, and human trafficking. The unit provides training to frontline members using a victim-centered approach and collaborates with other service providers including victim services, court services, Children's Aid Societies, and other police departments.

In addition, Community Safety Officers present at senior centres, churches, retirement and nursing homes, and to grade 6 students who are encouraged to share information with their families.

Motion: ECODB-N 39/25

Moved by Member Marc Gomes
Seconded by Member Ed Hooker

That the information provided and detailed as Items 1 and 2, Delegations, **be received.**

Carried

H. OPP Monthly Report

1. Essex County Detachment Monthly Overview - August 2025

Acting Inspector Bryan Andrusyk provided highlights of the Essex County data provided. One fatal collision as a result of distracted driving was noted, as well as an increase in Criminal Code, traffic, and impaired charges as a result of proactive enforcement. Decreases were noted in sexual offences, robberies, violent offences, and property crime. Clearance rates are within provincial standards.

With respect to Youth Criminal charges, there were 3 diversions in August attributed to the work being done by the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) and the Youth Crisis Response Team emphasising the importance of diversion. Mental Health occurrences are trending downward due to MCRT working closely with community partners. Approximately 26% of referrals to victim services offered were accepted.

Superintendent Loucas noted on the monthly overview report that the County data is showing the positive results of proactive enforcement with emphasis on daily RIDE programs and high-visibility patrolling.

2. Essex County Detachment Monthly Overview - July 2025

3. Essex County Detachment Monthly Overview - June 2025

4. Essex County Detachment Monthly Overview - May 2025

Motion: ECODB-N 40/25

Moved by Member Karen M. Robertson
Seconded by Member Ed Hooker

That the OPP Reports for the months of May, June, July, and August 2025 **be received.**

Carried

I. Reports

1. Detachment Board Annual Report 2024

Superintendent Loucas presented the 2024 Annual Report - a year-in-review outlining the priorities of the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan. The report will also be presented to Councils. The development of the 2026-2028 plan is currently in the consultation stage.

The report provides an overview of accomplishments with a key focus on traffic enforcement and public safety. Key points include: the use of patrol vehicle cameras causing a reduction in public complaints; reducing victimization and providing support; Community Engagement Officers engaging with youth and summer students; crime reduction and community wellbeing; partnerships with the Community Safety and Well-being Plan; utilizing protocols with hospitals; expansion of the Mobile Crisis Response Team; maintaining an excellent working relationship with Caldwell First Nation and the Multi-Cultural Council.

Superintendent Loucas reported that the Essex County OPP Detachment received over 70,000 calls, with 18,000 being priority calls for service. More focus on property crime is the goal utilizing partnerships between municipal services and OPP and Joint Force Operations. Acting Staff Sergeant Hand noted various units' daily communication with Windsor and Lasalle services via chat groups.

Motion: ECODB-N 41/25

Moved by Member Ed Hooker
Seconded by Member Marc Gomes

That Report No. ECODB-2025-04 Detachment Board Annual Report 2024 **be received;**

And that the Detachment Board Annual Report 2024 **be presented** by Essex County OPP Detachment Commander Superintendent Mark Loucas to municipal councils for the Municipality of Lakeshore, the Town of Essex, and the Town of Tecumseh.

Carried

J. Communications - Action Required

There were no Communications - Action Required presented to the Board.

K. Communications - For Information Purposes

1. Correspondence from OAPSB dated June 16, 2025

2. **Correspondence from OPP Chief Superintendent Dumond dated June 18, 2025**
3. **Town of Tecumseh Council Resolution and Correspondence to Solicitor General dated July 25, 2025**
4. **Inspector General Memorandum #6 and 2024 Annual Report dated July 15, 2025**

In response to Member Bailey's concerns regarding individuals signing declarations in lieu of police clearances in order to provide volunteer and other services (such as bus drivers), Superintendent Loucas advised that the Detachment Commanders are taking this matter very seriously and are bringing their concerns to every meeting with the Chief and Deputy.

Superintendent Loucas advised that the move to a third party service provider is the cause of the delays which are compounding. All levels of clearances are done by the service provider, including vulnerable sector checks. He clarified that no matter where the applicant lives, the service provider has access to all police records and the entire database and is doing the same check as was done at the local detachments.

In response to Member Bondy, Superintendent Loucas advised that local administrative staff have been offered additional hours immediately; the service provider is hiring and training additional staff immediately, and local detachments have approval to complete urgent checks.

Motion: ECODB-N 42/25

Moved by Member Marc Gomes
Seconded by Member Ed Hooker

That correspondence detailed as Items 1 through 4, Communications for Information, **be received.**

Carried

L. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business presented to the Board.

M. New Business

1. **ECODB-N Draft Policy #03/25 - Detachment Commander Performance Feedback**

Chair Sweet reported that the initial and mid-year performance reviews have been completed by the Detachment Commander Performance Feedback Committee and the Feedback Form has been submitted to the OPP Strategy Management Unit.

Motion: ECODB-N 43/25

Moved by Member Karen M. Robertson
Seconded by Member Tracey Bailey

That Report No. ECODB-2025-05 Board Policy 03/25 – Detachment Commander Performance Feedback **be received;**

And that Board Policy 03/25 – Detachment Commander Performance Feedback as presented at the September 15, 2025 board meeting **be adopted.**

Carried

2. OPP Tow Program - Verbal Report

In response to Member Bondy's request, Staff Sergeant Cortese provided a verbal report regarding the OPP policy and standard operating procedures for local towing.

In September of each year, the OPP Traffic Management Unit accepts applications from towing/storage operators. The approved list comes out January 1st of each year and is provided to officers.

In response to Chair Sweet, S/Sgt. Cortese advised that the criteria for the approved list of operators would include proper licensing and safety standards, location of storage, etc.

3. Proposed Bill 33 - Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025 - Verbal Report

In response to the Chair's request, Superintendent Loucas gave an overview of proposed Bill 33 as it relates to returning Resource Officers to schools. The OPP wishes to maintain close relationships with school boards and students. OPP continue to maintain these relationships with programs such as Cop Camp and the Youth in Policing Initiative.

Motion: ECODB-N 44/25

Moved by Member Marc Gomes
Seconded by Vice Chair Dave Kigar

That information provided and detailed as Items 2 and 3, New Business, **be received.**

Carried

N. Next Meeting

Monday, November 3, 2025 at 10am (Special Meeting)

O. Adjournment

Motion: ECODB-N 45/25

Moved by Member Karen M. Robertson

Seconded by Member Ed Hooker

That there being no further business to discuss, the Monday, September 15, 2025 meeting of the Essex County OPP Detachment Board - North **adjourn** at 11:18 am.

Carried

Paul Sweet, Chair

Dave Kigar, Vice-Chair