



Altona Police Board

"The mission of the Altona Police Board is to provide civilian oversight and governance of the Altona Police Service in order to ensure a safe community."

Minutes of the Altona Police Board public meeting held in the Town of Altona council chambers on Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Present were: Chair Katie Eyre-Saunders, Vice Chair Joanne Wiebe, Tammy Braun, Gord Sawatzky, Sandy Hutchison, Audrey Schmidt, Police Chief Dan Defer, S/Cst. Julie Seniuk

Zoom: Sumit Benipal- Assistant Director Policing Standards- Department of Justice

Regrets: Archie Heinrichs

1. **Call to order** at 5:00 and approval of agenda

Motion: Audrey Schmidt- moved- Tammy Braun - seconded- that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

2. **Approval** of the minutes of April 16, 2024

Motion: Gord Sawatzky-moved- Joanne Wiebe- seconded- to approve the April 16th minutes as circulated.

CARRIED.

3. **Chairs Report**

- 3.1 Canadian Association of Police Governance Membership update:

- Each member should have received an email with your log in credentials to utilize the CAPG learning portal. It was sent on July 12th, if you did not receive the email check your spam folder and let Katie know so that it can be re-sent.
- This portal has many learning opportunities and available resources. Please take a look and see what would be applicable to our police board to use.

3.2 Brandon Police Board meeting:

- Katie will send out the virtual meeting link prior to the meeting for those who wish to observe.

3.3 Altona Police Board email address:

- The Police Board now has its own email address which Katie will monitor. This email address is also posted on the Town of Altona website for the public to access.
- policeboard@altona.ca

4. Police Chief report

4.1 General Operational update

- New police truck should be arriving mid-July. It will then go for decaling and install of emergency equipment. Should be on the road and operational end of August. We will not be selling the old one, it will be given to Public Works
- Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS) is a new system to share all of our disclosure to other police agencies, court units, prosecutions.
- This is a provincial initiative that is being rolled out to all police agencies in the Province of Manitoba and training for this system will begin in August.
- Assessments have been completed on all members. Chief Defer will sit down with each member and create a training plan.
- Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund: no update on our application yet. In speaking with other police agencies, everyone is still waiting for a response as well. Our application was for a generator to be installed in the Plum Coulee police office/fire hall and public works building. Total request was for \$168,000.00

4.2 Monthly reports- highlights

- Spring started off slow. Comparatively from 2024 we are down 21 files.
- Mental health calls are still causing issues when it comes to the amount of time that is spent guarding the patient in the hospital. In April we spent 70 hours guarding the patient.
- In May we had 5 mental health files.
- Meetings with all regional managers have been held to come up with a solution for the long hospital wait times. Next step will be to have a meeting with Southern Health and to hopefully sit down with administration at Boundary Trails Health Centre to find a solution.
- Public education on scams and how to avoid being frauded is ongoing. We still receive calls of people who have been scammed almost weekly.

4.3 Strategic Plan- targets and highlights

Target 1:

- Members continue to work with Forrest Green to roll out the safe neighborhood camera registry. We should be able to go live in the next few weeks.
- Cpl. Legal and Cst. Funk attended and presented at Ag Safety Day for grade 5 students. Cst. Funk is the organizer for this event.
- Cst Tabunar & Cst Giesbrecht both attended Kindergarten classes to talk about what a Police Officer does.

Target 2:

- Chief attended both the Canadian Chiefs of Police and Manitoba Chiefs of Police conferences in Winnipeg
- Cst Tabunar and Cst Krahn both completed one week of training in Brandon hosted by the RCMP. This week was spent training on all aspects of traffic stops and traffic legislations.
- Cpl Legal advanced to team leader rank on the RSTT

Target 3:

- Meetings with the Department of Justice and Shared Health continue in hopes to find a solution with wait times in the hospital due to mental health calls for service.
- Chief Defer attended and participated in the dunk tank at the block party at The Community Exchange

- Chief Defer has joined a provincial alerting committee. This is in regards to alerts such as the Amber alert, silver alert and those policies and procedures for the province.

Target 4:

- Budget remains on track. No concerns at this time.

Target 5:

- Field training for both new recruits is done on July 1st. Don't anticipate any extensions on that as both members are performing well and have already worked a few solo shifts already.
- There is a possible internal applicant for the Chief of Police rank when Chief Defer is ready to retire.
- One member is looking at obtaining his law degree from Dalhousie University.

Target 6)

- Meet and greet coffee nights with community members will continue this summer.
- Police provided discreet security for a religious event in the park.
- Looking at different options on how to present bike safety to students. The bike rodeo format we have used for many years seems dated and needs a new approach.
- Traffic stats are increasing compared to 2024 as we are participating in the MPI Road Watch program again this year. Last year we did not participate due to being short 2 officers.

5. New Business:

- None

Adjournment at 6:20pm

Next meeting is September 11, 2025 at 5pm

