



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 Wednesday April 16th, 2025 at 5:00pm

Present: Chair Katie Saunders, Audrey Schmidt, Tammy Braun, Archie Heinrichs, Gord Sawatzky, Joanne Wiebe, Police Chief Dan Defer

1. **Call to order** at 4:58pm and approval of agenda

Motion: Audrey Schmidt-moved-Archie Heinrichs that the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

2. **Approval** of the minutes of February 6th, 2025

Motion: Tammy Braun-moved-Audrey Schmidt to approve the February 6th minutes as circulated.

CARRIED.

3. **Chair's Report**

3.1 Reviewed benefits of Canadian Association of Police Governance membership (learning portal, webinars, forums, policy library).

3.2 **Motion: Audrey Schmidt Moved- Joanne Wiebe** to approve the purchase of a yearly membership with the Canadian Association of Police Governance for \$555.

CARRIED.

3.3 Discussed attending a Brandon Police Board meeting virtually to observe best practices. Katie will reach out to the Brandon police board to arrange this.

3.4 For med a subcommittee (Katie Saunders, Joanne Wiebe, Sandy Hutchison) to develop a community survey for feedback on policing and public safety. Survey to be hosted through the Town's website.

3.5 Joanne Wiebe was nominated and accepted the position of Vice Chair.

3.6 **Motion: Katie Saunders- Moved – Gord Sawatzky** to elect Joanne Wiebe to the position of Vice-Chair of the Altona Police Board.

CARRIED.

4. **Police Chief's Report**

Budget:

Training costs well-managed due to RCMP partnership.

Tactical training upcoming (\$5,000).



Equipment and uniform budgets on track; capital costs under control.
Expected sale of decommissioned vehicle to offset new vehicle cost.

Operations:

Continued challenge with mental health-related calls. 70+ staff hours spent on two incidents.

Advocating for Institutional Safety Officers and Mental Health Act reform.

Strategic plan updates and officer development ongoing.

New officers progressing well; increased focus on community visibility and traffic enforcement.

Equipment & Infrastructure:

License plate reader repair deferred (\$5,000).

Wall in rear building addition needs full rebuild (temporary fix planned for now).

New patrol vehicle ordered; costs within budget; old vehicle to be sold.

New equipment (e.g., tasers) pending final cost approval.

Delay in purchasing office desks pending final vehicle-related expenses.

Community Safety & Engagement:

Ongoing efforts with Forest Green on camera registry and kiosk for criminal record checks.

Emphasized value of community partnerships and feedback.

Interest in ride-alongs expressed by board; logistics and safety protocols discussed.

5. New Business

Discussion on identifying proactive approaches to community safety rather than reactive responses.

Community survey seen as an important step toward proactive engagement.

Board discussed potential value of supporting grassroots mental health initiatives, such as the peer-led addictions group at the Community Exchange.

Noted interest from board members in learning more about day-to-day police operations and exploring ride-alongs or building tours.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:35pm.

Next meeting: June 19th, 2025 at 5pm