



**SMITHS FALLS POLICE SERVICES BOARD
MINUTES
TUESDAY MARCH 10, 2026
8:00 A.M.
TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Members Present: Chair/Provincial Appointee, Chris Saumure
Vice Chair/Council Representative, S Pankow
Council Representative, Councillor Chris McGuire
Provincial Appointee, Andrew Howard
Community Appointee, Rob Dopson

Staff Present: Police Chief, Jodi Empey
Deputy Police Chief, Chris Kettyle
Secretary, K Costello

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Vice Chair Saumure read the Land Acknowledgement.

Vice Chair Saumure called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM.

2. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Police Chief Empey advised of a couple internal promotions:
Staff Sergeant Dan King
Sergeant Brock Woods

Chief Empey advised of two newest recruits:
Probationary Constable Ryann Parent
Probationary Constable Hana Gazdik

The Polar Plunge took place over the past weekend. Thankful for everyone who supported. Over \$10,000 raised that goes to Special Olympics programming. Great turnout.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

In Camera Item F) Security of Property was added.

In Camera Item D) Education/Training Members of the Board was deferred.

New Business Item C) Budget 2026 and Budget 2026 was deferred.

Moved by: A Howard

Seconded by: S Pankow

THAT the March 10, 2026 Police Services Board Meeting Agenda be approved as amended.

Carried



4. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

5. IN CAMERA/CLOSED SESSION

A) Personal Matters about an Identifiable Individual, including Members of the Police Service or any other Employees of the Board (Chief)

Moved by: S Pankow

Seconded by: A Howard

That the Smiths Falls Police Services Board move In Camera at 8:13 AM to discuss items pertaining to intimate financial or personal matters or other matters may be disclosed of such a nature, having regard to the circumstances, that the desirability of avoiding their disclosure in the interest of any person affected or in the public interest outweighs the desirability of adhering to the principle that proceedings be open to the public in accordance with Section 44 of the Community Safety And Policing Act.
Carried

Moved by: C McGuire

Seconded by: S Pankow

THAT the Police Services Board revert back into open session at 8:24 AM.
Rise and Report: Chief Empey provided the Police Services Board with information.
Carried

B) Personal Matters about an Identifiable Individual, including Members of the Police Service or any other Employees of the Board (Chief)

Moved by: R Dopson

Seconded by: A Howard

That the Smiths Falls Police Services Board move In Camera at 8:25 AM to discuss items pertaining to intimate financial or personal matters or other matters may be disclosed of such a nature, having regard to the circumstances, that the desirability of avoiding their disclosure in the interest of any person affected or in the public interest outweighs the desirability of adhering to the principle that proceedings be open to the public in accordance with Section 44 of the Community Safety And Policing Act.
Carried

Moved by: R Dopson

Seconded by: A Howard

THAT the Police Services Board revert back into open session at 8:34 AM.
Rise and Report: Chief Empey updated the Police Services Board on an item and will work with Town staff to rectify. Will bring forward when/if appropriate.
Carried



C) Litigation or Potential Litigation Affecting the Board (Chief)

Moved by: C Saumure
Seconded by: A Howard

That the Smiths Falls Police Services Board move In Camera at 8:34 AM to discuss items pertaining to intimate financial or personal matters or other matters may be disclosed of such a nature, having regard to the circumstances, that the desirability of avoiding their disclosure in the interest of any person affected or in the public interest outweighs the desirability of adhering to the principle that proceedings be open to the public in accordance with Section 44 of the Community Safety And Policing Act.
Carried

Moved by: A Howard
Seconded by: R Dopson

THAT the Police Services Board revert back into open session at 8:42 AM.
Rise and Report: The Police Services Board was updated on a legal issue.
Carried

D) Education/Training Members of the Board (Police Services Advisor)

Deferred

E) Information Supplied in Confidence to the Board (Chief)

Moved by: S Pankow
Seconded by: C McGuire

That the Smiths Falls Police Services Board move In Camera at 8:43 AM to discuss items pertaining to intimate financial or personal matters or other matters may be disclosed of such a nature, having regard to the circumstances, that the desirability of avoiding their disclosure in the interest of any person affected or in the public interest outweighs the desirability of adhering to the principle that proceedings be open to the public in accordance with Section 44 of the Community Safety And Policing Act.
Carried

Moved by: A Howard
Seconded by: R Dopson

THAT the Police Services Board revert back into open session at 8:51 AM.
Rise and Report: To be brought forward to next meeting so more information can be brought forward.
Carried



F) Security of the Property of the Board

Moved by: A Howard

Seconded by: C McGuire

That the Smiths Falls Police Services Board move In Camera at 8:52 AM to discuss items pertaining to intimate financial or personal matters or other matters may be disclosed of such a nature, having regard to the circumstances, that the desirability of avoiding their disclosure in the interest of any person affected or in the public interest outweighs the desirability of adhering to the principle that proceedings be open to the public in accordance with Section 44 of the Community Safety And Policing Act.
Carried

Moved by: C Saumure

Seconded by: S Pankow

THAT the Police Services Board revert back into open session at 9:05 AM.
Rise and Report: K Costello to send out further information to the Board members.
Carried

6. CORRESPONDENCE

a) February 17, 2026, Resolution from the Town of Smiths Falls

Re: Financial Relief for Municipal-Policed Communities

Supporting Town of LaSalle Resolution.

ACTION: For information only.

b) Letter to Premier and Minister of Transportation

Re: Province-wide Regulatory Framework for Rideshare Programs

John Jordan has taken on a leadership role with this.

ACTION: Bring forward any items as they become available.

c) February 19, 2026, Email from Kelley Denham

Re: Disclosure of Policies, Bylaws, Directives or Governance Documents of the Board

S Pankow advised that the Board has a number of policies. S Pankow reviewed the policies and found ones related to Ms. Denham's correspondence. Consultant currently working up updating our policies. Copies of the policies that are relevant will be left at reception (or scanned and emailed).

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by: S Pankow

Seconded by: A Howard

THAT the February 10, 2026 Police Services Board Meeting Minutes be approved as circulated.



8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Lanark County Interval House/ Victim Advocate Role: Partnership with Police Services and Community in Prevention of IPV (Erin Lee)
Presentation attached as Appendix A

S Pankow noted that it is nice to see that 106 municipalities have declared Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) as an epidemic but there is still a large number that has yet to do so. Need to continue the effort to get all 444 municipalities on board. IPV is a huge concern in our community. What are the current challenges that were not there 5 years ago? E Lee advised that she is seeing less murders and less femicides in Ontario. This is significant. Public education – agencies are talking about IPV and this helps with the uptake of the calls for service. Challenge is to understand that there is a significant increase in the young and senior relationships. Social media is having a large impact on youth. The change in the gender spectrum also creates challenges. Justice system continues to fail victims. C16 and C21 are Bills that are trying to impact violence. Should not move bills into law too quickly. Ramifications can be detrimental to victims. Need to target our aging community. Need to shift our focus to youth and seniors.

- b) Town's IT Strategy (C McGuire)

Discussed in camera.

- c) Budget 2025 and Budget 2026 (J Empey)

Deferred. No information from the Town. Under budget for 2025. Had some maintenance done to the building as well as some health and safety items.

- d) Annual Report Overview (J Empey)

The Annual report is to be complete in April, 2026.

10. OPERATIONAL REPORT

- a) Operational & Training Update (C Kettyle)

Attached as Appendix A..

R Dopson commended police staff for their proactive policing. Thanked staff for all of their work.



11. DATE AND TIME NEXT MEETING
Meeting Date: April 14, 2026

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: A Howard

Seconded by: C McGuire

THAT the Police Services Board adjourn its proceedings 10:04 AM and stand so adjourned until the next duly called Committee meeting.

Carried

Chair

Secretary



Police Services and LCIHCS Working to serve.

PRESENTED BY:

ERIN LEE, ED, LCIHCS



"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal."

- HENRY FORD

LCIHCS program & Services

- 15 bed emergency shelter
- 24-hour crisis line
- Specialized safety planning
- Systems navigation support
- Basic needs support
- Transitional Housing Support Program
- Children's Program (Shelter)
- Family Court Support Program
- Child and Youth Program
- Sexual Assault Support Program
- Women's Program
- Public Education, Training, & Advocacy
- Volunteer & Fundraising Programs
- Victim Advocate Program
- Second Stage Housing

In the last 6 years:

- Beyond Second Stage Housing
- Housing Advocate role
- Perseverance Pantry Program
- AGAN Store & Suit Yourself Program Coordinator role
- Victim Advocate



Small steps make big change

- Cases created a path to working closer together
- Community response created a greater need to work closer
- Relationship building with a focus on victim support and outcomes
- Common goals; IPV, SA, HT

Working path:

- Starts with leadership
- Priority connections in strategic planning
- Community needs and consulting
- Murders (CKW, inquests, local femicides)
- Local political engagement/leadership
- International delegations
- Events (TBTN, DEC 6th, Violet Femmes etc.)
- Campaigns
- Program development; **Victim Advocate**



Let's talk collaboration: The Victim advocate

An initiative of the OPP, including SFPS, LCIHCS, VS, SADV Hospital Program, and VWAP

A victim centered approach to DV, SA and HT

Rooted in victim's experiences via survivor forums

Goal to increase victim experience toward more positive outcomes

Received the OPP accolade for community program in 2021

How do referrals happen?

What is a survivor forum?

How do we integrate survivors in training for members?

What's the impact? Feedback from victims?



I don't think that our County Council knew that a big move by a small community would create such momentum and impact province wide.

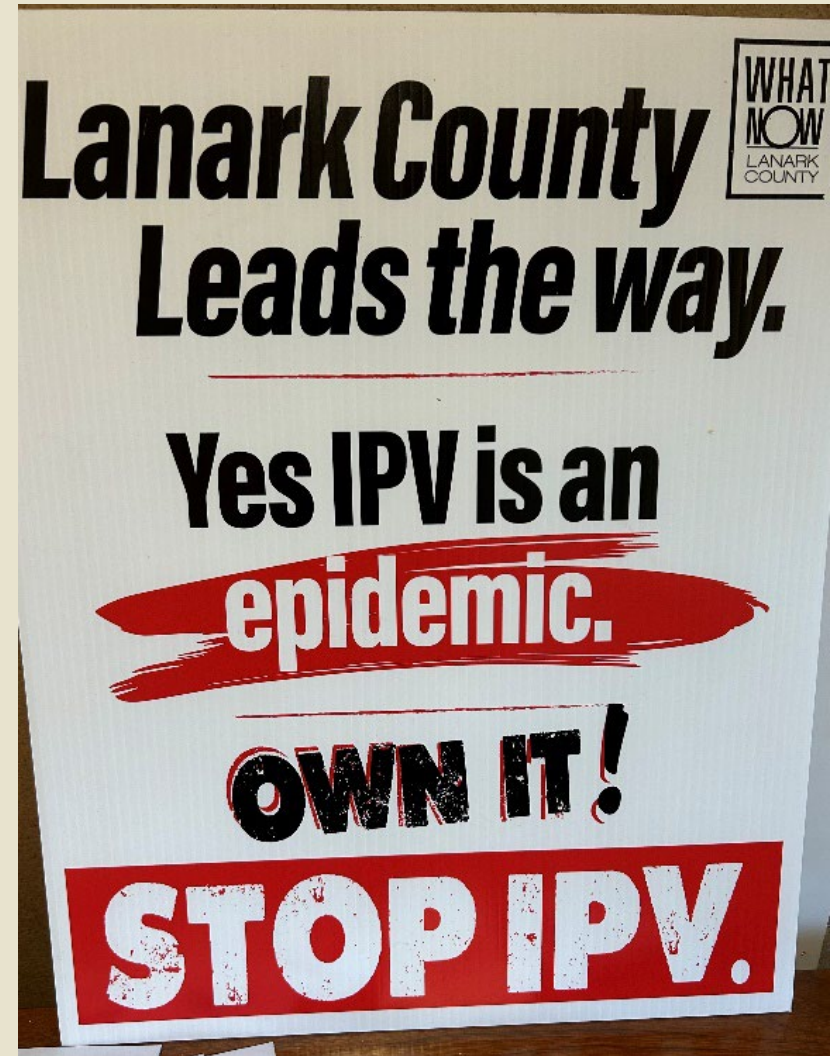
Today, 99 municipalities across the province of Ontario, in addition to AMO, have passed the declaration, declaring IPV an epidemic in Ontario.

Lanark County Council continues to discuss how to move forward the rest of the inquest recommendations to continue to affect change in our community and beyond.

Never underestimate the power of a small community using their voice to speak out for meaningful change.

We will continue to use our small voices loudly in the name of ending violence against women, girls, and gender diverse people.

Investing in relationships demonstrates the best return. We are grateful for our relationship and our community and the local leadership that believes in change starting local.



SEE IT, NAME IT, CHANGE IT!

Originally stemming from a series of femicides in Rural Eastern Ontario in 2015, the SINICI concept is as simple as stop, drop, and roll. It is a multi-media campaign to start a conversation, offer help and resources, provide education about violence in relationships, and encourage healthy alternatives for all community members. It was re-launched in September 2022 in response to more recent local violence.



It is only through meaningful investment that change will happen.

You only have to see it in community to know that it is working.

We must continue to work alongside and keep victims at the center of our work.





DEPUTY CHIEF'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

CALLS FOR SERVICE – FEBRUARY 2026

For the month of
February, Police
registered **526**
occurrences

Down from **563**
occurrences in
January 2026

OVERALL CHARGES AND ARRESTS –FEBRUARY 2026

60 criminal
charges laid
in February

30 arrests
made in
February

BREACH
RELATED
CHARGES –
FEBRUARY
2026

Fail to Comply- Condition on Undertaking x 4

Fail to Comply with Release Order x 12

Fail to Comply with Probation Order x 10

Breach of Recognizance x 3

Total breach related charges – **29**

Total criminal charges for January – **60**

Percentage of total charges – **48%**

NOTEWORTHY CALLS FOR SERVICE – FEBRUARY 2026

IPV CASES- 26 (Up from 20 in Jan. 2026)

ASSAULTS- 5 (Down from 7 in Jan. 2026)

FAMILY DISPUTES- 4 (Up from 3 in Jan. 2026)

BAIL VIOLATIONS- 10 (Up from 5 in Jan. 2026)

BREAK AND ENTER- 2 (Same as Jan. 2026)

MISCHIEF- 3 (Up from 1 in Jan. 2026)

HARASSMENT – 6 (Down from 11 in Jan. 2026)

MENTAL HEALTH ACT INCIDENTS – FEBRUARY 2026

37 calls for service (Up from 29 in January 2026)

6 Apprehensions – 2 x arrest...4 x voluntary

Hospital Wait Time Range: 15 minutes – 5 ½ hours

Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) Nurse attended at 10 calls

PROACTIVE POLICING- FEBRUARY 2026

Foot Patrol- 12 hours

School Visits- 30 hours

Community Service – 45 hours

Bike Patrol – 0 hours

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT/COMPLAINTS

FEBRUARY 2026

Collisions – **24 total**
6 -Private Property
11 - Highway
7 - Fail To Remain

Charges issued related
to collision investigations
HTA- **5**
CC- **0** / Other -**0**

Traffic related
matters – **126**
Vehicle Stops - **98**

Vehicle Stops
Resulting in
Charges– **46**
Charges issued - **79**

Charges issued relating to
speeding, stop signs, traffic
light infractions, failing to
yield, drive under suspension,
careless driving, fail to
surrender permit, ETC.

11 charges under
the Compulsory
Automobile
Insurance Act issued

CRIMINAL/
ALCOHOL/
DRUG
CHARGES VIA
PROACTIVE
TRAFFIC STOPS
FEBRUARY
2026

- **7 CRIMINAL / ALCOHOL / DRUG CHARGES LAID RELATED TO PROACTIVE TRAFFIC STOPS**
- **OPERATION WHILE IMPAIRED / EXCEED 80 MG OF ALCOHOL IN BLOOD (X 1 EACH)**
- **FLIGHT FROM POLICE (X1)**
- **DANGEROUS OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE (X1)**
- **OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE PROHIBITED (X3)**

STRATEGIC
ENFORCEMENT
TRAFFIC
PRIORITY
(S.T.E.P.) –
FEBRUARY
2026

- S.T.E.P. INITIATIVE FOR FEBRUARY 2026 WAS WINTER DRIVING SAFETY (SPEEDING/FOLLOW TOO CLOSELY/OBSTRUCTED VIEW)
- **21** CHARGES WERE ISSUED RELATED TO THE S.T.E.P INITIATIVE
- IMPAIRED DRIVING CHARGES CONTINUE TO BE A PROACTIVE FOCUS – **7** BREATH TESTS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN 2026 – RESULTING IN **6** PERSONS BEING ARRESTED AND CHARGED ACCORDINGLY.
- THE S.T.E.P. TARGET FOR MARCH 2026 WILL BE INTERSECTION SAFETY – STOP SIGNS / IMPROPER TURN/TRAFFIC LIGHT INFRACTIONS/FAIL TO YIELD)
- TOP TRAFFIC ENFORCERS IN FEBRUARY WERE CONSTABLES SLY / ROBIDOUX / B. KEOGAN



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE BRANCH/CISO - FEBRUARY

- LEAD INVESTIGATOR ON MISSING PERSON FILE (BERTRIM) – ASSISTING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BRANCH (O.P.P.)
- SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATION INVOLVING A CHILD
- IDENTITY FRAUD INVESTIGATION REGARDING VEHICLE LOANS
- HISTORICAL IPV RELATED INVESTIGATION – CHARGES EXPECTED
- 2 X PRODUCTION ORDERS AUTHORED RELATING TO SIGNIFICANT FRAUD FILE
- CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION – WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH CHEO AND CAS AGENCIES
- ASSISTED GANANOQUE POLICE WITH FRIDAY THE 13TH OMG EVENT
- COVERT OPERATIONS HANDLERS COURSE TAKEN
- PRODUCTIONS ORDERS FOR GOOGLE AND BELL DRAFTED AND SERVED IN REGARD TO A SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE
- ONGOING INTELLIGENCE GATHERING RELATED TO DRUG TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES



COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER- FEBRUARY 2026

- NUMEROUS SCHOOL VISITS CONDUCTED THROUGHOUT MONTH
- PRACTICE LOCKDOWN DRILLS CONDUCTED AT CHIMO, DUNCAN J AND SFDC
- JOB FAIR PRESENTATION AT ST. JOHNS HIGH SCHOOL -PERTH
- ATTENDED VAN HORNE MANOR NURSING HOME TO PROVIDE PROJECT LIFESAVER INFORMATION TO RESIDENTS AND STAFF
- CRIMESTOPPERS ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION MEETING
- 2 X SITUATION TABLE, 3 X FILTER 4 MEETINGS, 2X POLAR PLUNGE PLANNING MEETING, EQUITY FOR ALL X1
- MEDIA RELATIONS – 4 X INTERVIEWS WITH LAKE 88 RADIO / 1 X YOUR TV APPEARANCE
- HANLEY HALL COMMUNITY LUNCH APPEARANCE
- TRAINING – PROVIDED INSTRUCTION ON LIDAR / RADAR OPERATIONS TO 10 OF OUR NEWER OFFICERS – ALL ARE CERTIFIED NOW
- ATTENDED THE COMMITTEE OF YOUTH OFFICERS (C.O.Y.O.) CONFERENCE IN NIAGARA FALLS



COURSES
AND
WORKSHOPS
– FEBRUARY
2026

- GAUTHIER, KARINE – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INVESTIGATOR (FEB 04-13, 2026 – OPC)
- BRETT, TYLER – COVERT OPERATIONS HANDLER COURSE (FEB 09-13, 2026 – CISO OPC)
- KEOGAN, SEAN – YOUTH OFFICERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE (FEB 18-20, 2026 – NIAGARA FALLS)

CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK STATS

2026 CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK STATS							
MONTH	VS VOLUNTEER	VS EMPLOYMENT	NON-VS VOLUNTEER	NON-VS EMPLOYMENT	TRITON	WALKIN	BROAD RECORD
1-Jan	21	27	3	22	36	37	
1-Feb	24	21	1	14	19	41	2
1-Mar							
1-Apr							
1-May							
1-Jun							
1-Jul							
1-Aug							
1-Sep							
1-Oct							
1-Nov							
1-Dec							
TOTALS	45	48	4	36	55	78	2

Alzheimer Society


LANARK LEEDS GRENVILLE





Project Lifesaver

The premier search and rescue program operating internationally and is strategically designed for “at risk” individuals who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering.



WHAT IS IT?

Project Lifesaver is a tracking device worn by vulnerable people who have a tendency to wander. It is a watch-sized bracelet that emits a unique FM radio frequency signal every second. Police use a satellite receiver, and when someone goes missing, it's tuned to pick up their frequency. It uses an FM frequency, not GPS, so it works even when a person is in a building or tunnel.

With Project Lifesaver, the average rescue time to locate a missing person is 30 minutes - this timely response reduces potential for injury and may save a life.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

All participants are added to their local Police Service's Vulnerable Person's Registry.

When caregivers notify 911 that their loved one is missing, a specialized law enforcement Search and Rescue Team responds to the area where the participant was last seen and utilizes the mobile-location tracking system to assist in search efforts.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The program is suitable for vulnerable people of any age. Examples of vulnerable people include those with Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Acquired Brain Injury, or a mental health condition.

Project Lifesaver

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNSnAs7kVy8>

CAMSAFE PROGRAM



- COMMUNITY-POLICE VOLUNTARY SECURITY CAMERA REGISTRY
- PROGRAM CREATED BY BELLEVILLE POLICE -HAS QUICKLY SPREAD TO MANY COMMUNITIES
- PROVINCE WIDE ENGAGEMENT ALLOWING RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO REGISTER ONLINE
- PRIVACY BASED – ONLY REGISTER BASIC CONTACT INFORMATION AND CAMERA LOCATIONS / ANGLES
- PROVEN RESULTS - SUPPORTS MORE TIMELY AND FOCUSED INVESTIGATIONS
- NO COST TO PUBLIC OR POLICE – NOT FOR PROFIT PROGRAM THAT SIMPLY PROVIDES A COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR POLICE AND PUBLIC TO WORK TOGETHER TO ENHANCE OVERALL COMMUNITY SAFETY

SMITHS FALLS POLICE COMMUNITY FIRST

POLICE

COMMUNITY FIRST

CAMSAFE

CAMSafe is a CCTV and security video registry aimed at keeping our community safe and assisting police solve crime.



REGISTER **ADD** **PROTECT**

- Volunteer registry of security cameras, CCTV systems & doorbell camera
- Delete your information or account at any time
- CAMSafe does not have access to footage or cameras
- Only basic contact information & address required to sign up
- Only police have access to the registry information

CAMSAFE

Your participation helps to provide a stronger defence against

**THEFT
ARSON
VANDALISM
FRAUD
STALKING
KIDNAPPING**



OR VISIT CAMSAFE.CA