



Protective Services Standing Committee Meeting June 3rd, 2025

MINUTES

The Protective Services Standing Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025 @ 6:30 pm within the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Cr. Benwell, Cr. Heaton, Cr. Karasiuk, Cr. Bathe, D/M Keizer, Mayor Fergusson, Cr. Tuckey, Cr. Cr. Cox, and Cr. Couvrette

Regrets:

Staff Present: Tracy Thomas, Senior Administrative Officer
Raveena Brown, Executive Secretary
Adam McNab, Director of Protective Services
Sham Jayakodige, Acting Director of Corporate Services

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fergusson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, confirmed quorum and handed the Chair to Cr. Couvrette. Cr. Couvrette read the acknowledgement of First Nations.

B. DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

C. REVIEW

a. Agenda

Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk
Seconded by: Cr. Cox

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

PASSED

b. Minutes

Moved by: Cr. Cox
Seconded by: Mayor Fergusson

The minutes from the Protective Services Standing Committee Meeting on May 6th, 2025, be adopted as presented.

PASSED

c. Vision and Mission

D. DELEGATIONS

RCMP – Policing Report for the month of May

In May, the RCMP investigated 204 occurrences, which is 50 more than the previous year. Key highlights include:

- 73% decrease in reported drug offenses
- Focused on road safety through targeted enforcement and check stops
- Continued efforts on reconciliation and community engagement
- Increase in certain types of incidents:
 - Break and enters: 15 year-to-date (compared to 19 total last year)
 - Mental health calls: 13 this month
 - Theft and disturbing the peace incidents are up.



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Corporal Doucet noted that the increase in reported crimes might actually be positive, as it indicates more community members are willing to report incidents. They're also working on proactive approaches, such as victim services, referrals, and potential youth engagement programs. The report emphasized a desire to be more community-oriented and less purely reactive in their policing approach.

E. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. The Protective Services Director Report for May

Emergency Services responded to 37 calls in May. Key highlights include:

Firefighter Training:

- Continuing 10-month structural firefighter training program
- Firefighters recently completed their first exam

Wildfire Preparedness:

- Working on wildland urban interface program
- Deployed structural protection equipment on a recent wildfire
- Preparing for potential fire scenarios, especially near Fort Fitzgerald

Training and Community Safety:

- Conducted 10 training events in the past month
- Fire smart programming is ongoing
- Completed refresher training for 7 fire smart assessors

Emergency Management:

- Monitoring wildfires in the Portsmouth area
- Working with Alberta and local agencies on fire response
- Preparing water supply and structure protection strategies

IT and Operational Upgrades:

- Completed IT upgrades
- Transitioned to SharePoint for better remote access
- Acquired laptops for improved mobility

The report also touched on community concerns about ATV usage and potential safety education initiatives.

F. ADMINISTRATION

a. Briefing Note – DPA-026-25 Home Occupation Sweetgrass Healing Centre Inc.

Moved by: Cr. Cox

Seconded by: Mayor Fergusson

That DPA-026-25, submitted by Kristielyn Jones, to operate a virtual-based counselling, wellness, consulting, and coaching services - Sweetgrass Healing Centre Inc., from Lot 359, Plan 207, 13 Poppy Cres., Fort Smith, be approved.

PASSED



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b. Briefing Note – DPA-028-25 Home Occupation Smokelicious

Moved by: Cr. Tuckey
Seconded by: Cr. Cox

That DPA-028-25, submitted by Raphael Jeansonne-Gelinas, to operate the production of smoked meats, fish and cured meats and sausages, from Lot 306, Plan 207, 25 McDougal Rd, Fort Smith, be approved.

PASSED

c. Briefing Note – DPA-030-25 Home Occupation Rooted Resilience

Moved by: Cr. Cox
Seconded by: Cr. Benwell

That DPA-030-25, submitted by Leah Mercredi, to operate gardening workshops & consulting business, from Lot 20, Plan 14, 56 Pelican St., Fort Smith, be approved.

PASSED

G. OTHER BUSINESS

H. EXCUSING OF COUNCILLORS

I. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Protective Services Standing Committee Meeting will be on July 8th, 2025.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk
Seconded by: D/M Keizer

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:41 pm.

PASSED