



# **NISHNAWBE ASKI POLICE SERVICE BOARD MEETING**

**Via Zoom  
May 5, 2026**

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## **PRESENT:**

Frank McKay, Chair, Windigo First Nation  
Russell Kakepetum, Sandy Lake First Nation, Independent First Nations  
Stan Beardy, Muskrat Dam First Nation, IFNA (NAPS Board Office)  
Betty Bluecoat, Keewaytinook Okimakanak  
Richard Allen, Matawa First Nations  
Harold Gunner, Mushkegowuk Council  
Jason Batise, Wabun Tribal Council  
Barney Batise, Elder, Matachewan First Nation  
Fabian Batise, Board Liaison  
Terry Armstrong, Chief of Police, NAPS  
Brad Duce, Deputy Chief of Police, NAPS  
Jason Poliszczak, Director of Finance, NAPS  
Jeff Cooper, Inspectorate of Policing

## **REGRETS:**

DGC Mike Metatawabin, Nishnawbe Aski Nation  
Vacant, Shibogama First Nations Council

## **RECORDER:**

Kathleen Pilcher, Board Executive Assistant

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## **TUESDAY MAY 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Meeting Called to Order at 9:10 am.

### **1. OPENING PRAYER**

Barney Batise, Elder

### **2. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Frank McKay reviewed the draft agenda.

Fabian Batise requested Board and Staff remuneration be added after the Border Control presentation in-camera.



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**MOTION 2026 – 05 – 05 - #01:**

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To accept the draft agenda of May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, with the above noted addition.

**MOVED BY:** Harold Gunner, Mushkegowuk Council  
**SECONDED BY:** Richard Allen, Matawa First Nations Council  
**CARRIED.**

### **3. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT MINUTES:**

Minutes were emailed out and Fabian Batise reviewed the minutes on the google drive.

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**MOTION 2026 – 05 – 05 - #02:**

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To adopt the minutes of February 3 & 4, 2026, March 24, 2026, and March 31, 2026, as presented.

**MOVED BY:** Richard Allen, Matawa First Nations Council  
**SECONDED BY:** Harold Gunner, Mushkegowuk Council  
**CARRIED.**

### **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

**Long Lake #58 CSPA BCR:**

BCR has been forwarded to us and will get in touch with new Chief from Long Lake #58.

**Women's Group Advisory:**

**ACTION ITEM:**

- Fabian to reach out and clarify/formalize support structure for missing/murdered women visibility work.

### **5. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Jason Poliszczak reviewed his financial report up to February 28, 2026.

- There is an 11-month surplus of \$130,497,399, and projected annual surplus of \$142,360,798.

**Finance Report Summary**

**Overview**

The report presents an operational financial review comparing budgets, actuals (11 months), and projected annual results for the 2025–2026 fiscal year. It shows a significant projected surplus, driven largely by higher-than-budgeted revenue and unfilled staffing positions.



## Revenue

- Total Revenue (11 months actual): \$232.5M
- Projected Annual Revenue: \$253.6M

## Major Expense Areas:

### Salaries & Benefits:

- Officer and civilian salaries, overtime, remote pay, pension, payroll costs.
- Underspending noted due to incomplete staffing.

### Equipment:

- Vehicles, firearms, buildings, and other equipment.
- 24 vehicles were purchased in March 2026.

### Radio Project Maintenance:

- Bell service fees and maintenance.

### Aircraft & Travel:

- Plane leasing, charters, and staff travel.

### Building Costs:

- Rent, utilities, and maintenance.

### Training:

- Officer and recruit training.

### Other Programs:

- Intelligence program and Survivor Support program.

## Notable Explanatory Notes:

- Not all planned staffing positions are filled, contributing to salary savings.
- Northwest Region construction is underway; Northeast Region construction has not yet begun.
- Certain costs (e.g., RCMP Intelligence revenue) were fully expensed earlier in the fiscal year.

Auditors are scheduled for July 6, 2026, and require 3-4 weeks and should be wrapped up by end of July beginning of August.

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## MOTION 2026 – 05 – 05 - #03:

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To approve the financial report dated May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, as presented.

**MOVED BY:** Stan Beardy, Muskrat Dam First Nation, IFNA

**SECONDED BY:** Harold Gunner, Mushkegowuk Council

**CARRIED.**

## 6. CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

### Executive Summary – Chief of Police Report (Jan–Apr 2026)



**Overall Status:**

The Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) made steady progress toward strengthening frontline policing, improving community safety, and upgrading infrastructure. Significant effort is focused on workforce stabilization, reducing single-officer deployments, and enhancing training and support systems. Persistent challenges remain in staffing shortages, housing capacity, infrastructure delays, substance-related crime, and officer wellness.

**1. Workforce & Human Resources**

- Recruitment accelerated with 23 positions posted (17 officer, 6 civilian); 13 positions filled during the reporting period, with interviews ongoing for remaining vacancies.
- Continued progress toward eliminating single-officer deployments across regions, improving officer safety and response capability.
- Leadership and intelligence staffing gaps persist, particularly in senior supervisory and intelligence roles.
- Officer health and wellness remain a concern, with psychological injuries and WSIB exposure claims identified as pressure points; peer support capacity is in place and mental-health monitoring continues.

**2. Community Safety & Operational Pressures**

- Calls for service and major crime remain heavily influenced by substance abuse, mental health crises, and intimate partner violence, increasing workload across all regions.
- Community-based policing continues through outreach, youth engagement, cultural activities, and partnerships with education, health, and social services.
- Large-scale events and emergencies - most notably Kashechewan's long-term evacuation due to water contamination - placed additional strain on deployment and logistics.

**3. Regional Highlights****Northwest Region**

- Fully eliminated single-officer policing in our communities; multiple new recruits deployed.
- Drug trafficking remains a major concern; close coordination with Drug Enforcement continues.
- Infrastructure expansion underway at Sioux Lookout headquarters; fleet modernization ongoing.

**Central Region**

- Secured new detachment projects in Kasabonika Lake and Aroland, and new officer housing in Webequie and Eabametoong.
- Strong emphasis on proactive community policing, with extensive daily community service activity.
- Substance abuse remains a core driver of calls for service and serious incidents.

**Northeast Region**

- New and expanded detachments progressing, including Brunswick House; further builds planned (Attawapiskat, Taykwa Tagamou).
- Critical housing shortages for officers limit expansion despite growing complement.
- Continued major incidents related to drugs, alcohol, and public health emergencies.



#### **4. Crime, Intelligence & Specialized Units**

- Crime Unit shifted to improved scheduling and enhanced investigative training; cybercrime and major-case demand are increasing.
- Intelligence Unit delivered high-impact results, including major drug seizures and introduction of spectrometer technology and ALPR systems to strengthen intelligence-led policing.
- ISTU, ERT, and Canine Units expanded training capacity, re-established the Canine Unit, and introduced VR-based training, though trainer capacity remains strained.

#### **5. Professional Standards & Oversight**

- 21 new Professional Standards matters opened during the period; several remain active, including investigations overseen by LECA under the Community Safety and Policing Act.
- Governance and accountability processes are functioning, with continued oversight related to misconduct investigations.

#### **6. Infrastructure & Capital Projects**

- Project statuses are mixed: several projects are on track, while others are delayed due to contractor performance, governance gaps, and community-led site readiness.
- Fire Health & Safety, electrical, and mechanical upgrades remain on schedule toward 2026 completion.
- Detachment construction continues in multiple communities, though prioritization and project approval processes need clarification to avoid delays.

#### **7. Courts & Special Constables**

- Courts Section transitioned to a Special Constable-led model, improving consistency and efficiency.
- Training programs under the CSPA are being standardized; expansion is planned to support growing court and prisoner transport demands.

#### **Key Board-Level Takeaways**

- Positive trajectory in staffing, training innovation, intelligence-led policing, and community engagement.
- Primary risks: officer housing shortages, leadership and intelligence vacancies, contractor performance, and sustained mental-health pressures on members.
- Continued Board attention needed on capital governance, workforce sustainability, and wellness supports to maintain service effectiveness.

## **BREAK**

Fabian Batise:

- NAPS Administrative reports for the Board are coming out in quarterly formats and will be presented to the Board at the next available meeting. Interim reports will be provided as needed.

Frank McKay:

- Recruitment process – we need to start looking at how do we recruit our own First Nation people – long-term – requirements needed;
- Accommodations – there's a plan, but we need to be prepared to tell the Chiefs when they ask;
- Drugs coming into community remains the number 1 concern of our people – need to focus on giving information to our communities – possibly a bulletin?



- DM of SOLGEN – had a meeting in TO and asked him about culturally appropriate policing – is there funding for this? – said that’s our responsibility to develop.

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**MOTION 2026 – 05 – 05 - #04:**

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To approve the Chief of Police Report dated May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, as presented.

**MOVED BY:** Stan Beardy, Muskrat Dam First Nation, IFNA

**SECONDED BY:** Russell Kakepetum, Sandy Lake First Nation, Independent FN’s

**CARRIED.**

## **7. COMMUNITY ISSUES:**

Stan Beardy:

Community is currently “very quiet,” with officers frequently patrolling and meeting incoming flights at the airport. Drug flow may be slowing due to a community search program and increased airport searches, noting drugs had been coming via the winter road and truck traffic has slowed. Emphasizes the value of officers participating in community events—especially giving school presentations—to build relationships and support, and concludes this should be addressed holistically.

Russell Kakepetum:

He expressed concern about potentially laced drugs entering the community—often from Thunder Bay—mainly via daily flights or through the mail. They note Chief and Council are taking action (including disposing of alcohol) and want officers engaged, and they call attention to ongoing drunk driving and request police checks. With the winter road closed and ice conditions changing, travel and drug routes are shifting to snowmobiles. Then he questioned Treaty 5 membership on the Board?

It was mentioned that this would need approval of the Chiefs at the AGM and consultation with the Inspectorate of Policing for addition of Board member seat.

### **ACTION ITEM:**

- Fabian Batise will contact Independent First Nations (Sandy Lake, Mishkeegogamang, Aroland) to schedule meeting on rotating director position; reach out to Pewanuck Chief Hunter.

Harold Gunner:

Things have been quiet because many residents were evacuated during a Level 6 (full evacuation) period as the ice started moving out, though people are now returning; the speaker stayed behind alone for three weeks. He praises the strong, visible presence of the NAPS officers around the clock and note that the drug trade has slowed somewhat due to recent warrants, even if it can’t be eliminated entirely. They also credit improved local structure and leadership, with community members willing to report concerns, and closed by congratulating Eldon Cheechoo (“Young Elder”) on his promotion, expressing pride in a homegrown officer.



Betty Bluecoat:

Was having technical difficulties in Fort Severn but mentioned that there wasn't a lot to report.

Frank McKay:

The Leadership in Windigo remain concerned about ongoing drug problems and are looking for ways to address them. They discuss efforts to work with NAPS to prevent drugs from entering the community, including airport searches, and note progress with the canine unit—now operational, with another team based in Sioux Lookout—which was received positively. However, they also raise a continuing challenge: drugs may still be getting through despite airport searches, potentially by being concealed internally, and is unsure whether canine units can detect substances hidden inside the body?

Terry Armstrong:

Noted that canine units have exceptional scent-detection capabilities (effectiveness depends on conditions and environment) and that increased cooperation between communities is helping reduce drug trafficking attempts, even though efforts to bring drugs in will continue.

Chief Allen:

The community is doing well now that it has nearly a full complement of officers, and that the drug and crime units are having a positive impact by helping reduce outside gang activity and strengthening the visible presence of NAPS. Deterrence measures such as plate readers and home cameras are welcome additions. Notes other communities in the Tribal Council still struggle with too few officers and argue larger communities should be prioritized for staffing. Also relayed Chiefs' concerns about what officers are legally allowed to do when enforcing local bylaws/BCRs—particularly entering homes and dealing with aggressive dogs. He suggests an AGM presentation to clarify roles and authorities. He closed by noting good collaboration with leadership and that new housing for incoming officers is ready, pending installation.

Fabian Batise:

(Supplemental points for Wabun Tribal Council)

Provided an update on a proposed new regional headquarters, noting that after a presentation the project team is returning to the drawing board because the initial design was overbuilt and came in about \$50 million over budget; they plan to produce a better-designed, more complete plan aligned with what has been done in the West, and progress is continuing. Been having difficulty arranging a meeting with Brunswick House due to current internal dysfunction and division within Council; the Chief prefers a session where NAPS, the NAN Executive, and others attend together so everyone hears the same information, with a possible visit in June when she is ready. He closes by noting Chief Batise of Matachewan is pleased with how things are going with the headquarters being considered on their land in Timmins.

## **LUNCH BREAK**



## **8. BOARD POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**

Alana Jones & Caitlin Brown, MNP

### **ACTION ITEM:**

- NAPS Board Policy Committee will review and bring back to Board

## **9. BOARD LIAISON REPORT:**

Fabian Batise reviewed his Board Liaison Report dated May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

### **Executive Summary – Board Liaison Report (Feb 3–May 5, 2026)**

#### **Overview**

The report outlines extensive Board Liaison activity focused on governance, funding negotiations, policy modernization, community engagement, and intergovernmental relations during the reporting period. Work was carried out through frequent meetings, consultations, and strategic planning sessions.

#### **Meetings & Engagement**

The Board Liaison participated in over 20 meetings, including:

- Board meetings, executive sessions, and policy review discussions
  - Intergovernmental and partner meetings (NAN, MNP, FNIPP, CAPG)
  - Community consultations and external conferences (Treaty #3, PAGC, OAPSB)
- These activities supported governance oversight, operational updates, and relationship-building.

#### **Key Issues & Strategic Priorities**

##### **Tripartite Negotiations**

- Progress has been made with provincial and federal partners toward renewing the policing agreement.
- A one-year extension with a 2.75% escalator was secured, along with capital funding supporting two new regional office builds.
- Negotiations for a new three-year agreement are expected to begin in June 2026, with Ontario proposing the week of June 22.

##### **Board Policies & Governance**

- Existing Board policies, updated hastily in 2024 to align with CSPA legislation, require refinement.
- MNP is engaged to conduct a comprehensive policy and bylaw review and will present recommendations to the Board on May 5, 2026.
- Plans are also underway to modernize the Chief of Police annual performance review, support succession planning, and address future leadership transition needs.



### **NAPS AGM Planning**

- Preparations are beginning for the September 22–24, 2026 AGM.
- The established three-day format involving NAPS, NAN Legal, and NAN will continue, with coordinated travel support for participating leadership.

### **Community Consultations**

- Consultations were held in Kingfisher Lake and Kasabonika Lake First Nations.
- Kingfisher Lake discussions focused heavily on youth suicide, mental health, and social challenges, with commitments to continued engagement and support.
- Kasabonika Lake meetings addressed policing presence, drug enforcement, airport security, and future infrastructure, including planning for a new police detachment aligned with community expansion.

### **External Relations & Advocacy**

- Presentations were delivered to the Prince Albert Grand Council on governance and policing under the CSPA, supporting Saskatchewan First Nations exploring their own service delivery models.
- Participation is planned at the OAPSB AGM (June 1–3, 2026/Niagara Falls), with Board representation being finalized.
- Indigenous Director at large position available for the Police Governance Ontario (PGO) to sit quarterly and AGM – looking for name of someone interested.

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### **MOTION 2026 – 05 – 05 - #05:**

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To appoint Harold Gunner to represent NAPS as the Director at Large position on the Police Governance of Ontario.

**MOVED BY:** Stan Beardy, Muskrat Dam First Nation, IFNA

**SECONDED BY:** Betty Bluecoat, Keewaytinook Okimakanak

**CARRIED.**

### **Financial Update**

- Approximately \$50,000 remains unexpended from the prior fiscal year, though pending legal costs may reduce this balance.
- The Board budget has increased by over \$735,000, helping offset rising travel and consultation costs.
- The 2026–27 budget has been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee.

### **Conclusion**

The reporting period was marked by strong engagement, meaningful progress on funding and governance reforms, responsive community outreach, and prudent financial oversight. The work positions the Board well for upcoming negotiations, policy modernization, and long-term organizational stability.



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**MOTION 2026 – 05 – 05 - #06:**

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To approve the proposed 2026-27 budget dated May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, as presented.

**MOVED BY:** Harold Gunner, Mushkegowuk Council  
**SECONDED BY:** Richard Allen, Matawa First Nations Council  
**CARRIED.**

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**MOTION 2026 – 05 – 05 - #07:**

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To approve the Board Liaison Report dated May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, as presented.

**MOVED BY:** Stan Beardy, Muskrat Dam First Nation, IFNA  
**SECONDED BY:** Harold Gunner, Mushkegowuk Council  
**CARRIED.**

**10. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

August (will confirm after FNCPA Conference)

**11. IN-CAMERA PORTION (Solicitor Client Privileged):**

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**MOTION 2026 – 05 – 05 - #08:**

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To go into an In-Camera session for the purpose of receiving legal advice.

**MOVED BY:** Harold Gunner, Mushkegowuk Council  
**SECONDED BY:** Betty Bluecoat, Keewaytinook Okimakanak  
**CARRIED.**

**Livestream Concluded**

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**MOTION 2026 – 05 – 05 - #09:**

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To come out of In-Camera session.

**MOVED BY:** Betty Bluecoat, Keewaytinook Okimakanak  
**SECONDED BY:** Richard Allen, Matawa First Nations Council  
**CARRIED.**

**12. CLOSING PRAYER:**

Barney Batise, Elder

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm

