



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Services Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Special Fund Request - NRPS Men and Women Tug of War Teams
Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Services Board
Report Date: 2023-03-03

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Services Board approves a Special Fund donation of \$1,400.00 for the NRPS Men and Women Tug of War Teams to assist with off-setting costs for expenses incurred by NRPS members participating in this event.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval for a \$1,400.00 Special Fund donation for the NRPS Men and Women Tug of War Teams for the Annual Cross Border Event to be held on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at 2:00 pm on the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls.
- There are approximately 25 to 30 members on each of the male and female teams consisting of civilian and sworn members participating in this event.
- In 2020, the Board approved a Special Fund donation of \$1,400.00 for the Tug of War teams; however, the 2020 Tug of War event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the funds were not spent.
- This year's event is a restart of this worthwhile annual event after it had been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic over the last 3 years.
- This donation will assist in offsetting costs incurred by members participating in this event.

Financial Considerations

The Board has a discretionary pool of funds, which it uses for grants and donations. Disbursements from the fund are in accordance with guidelines provided in the Police Services Act, and with Board By-Law 392-2021 Special Fund Administration, Limitations and Guidelines. Section 132(2) of the Police Services Act establishes that the Niagara Police Services Board has the sole authority for spending the proceeds from the sale of property which lawfully comes into the possession of the Police Service. The Act stipulates that "the Chief of Police may cause the property to be sold, and the Board may use the proceeds for any purpose that it considers in the public interest." These funds do not form part of the police operating budget and are separate from the Regional tax base.

The request for \$1,400.00 will cover the expenses for the team to participate in this community event. This request falls within the guidelines of the Police Services Board By-Law 392-2021 – Special Fund Administration, Limitations and Guidelines. If this request is approved by the Board, the cheque can be made payable to NRPS Tug of War Team Captain, Sergeant Tony Mummery.

Analysis

Over Fifty years ago, the City of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Police Department commenced an annual tug-of-war event with the City of Niagara Falls, New York, Police Department. This event has gained in popularity and over the years, attracting significant attention. For all but one of those years the Niagara Regional Police Service has put forth a team to compete against our American Law Enforcement partners.

In 2018, for the first time in the event's history, the Service put forth a female team to compete against an American female team from various Law Enforcement agencies. In 2019, there were approximately 60 NRPS civilian and sworn members that participated with approximately 25 to 30 members on each team. Both the male and female teams were successful in winning their events and bringing home a trophy.

Participation in an event of this magnitude does not come without hard work, self-sacrifice and some monetary expense. The Tug of War is a “one of a kind” spectacle where an international border is restricted to one lane so that neighbouring countries can participate in this special event. Family, friends and tourists from all over the world are in attendance to cheer on the teams and witness law enforcement officials represent their countries.

The Tug of War Teams (men & women) with the support of Chief MacCulloch and the Senior Leadership Team will be hosting a BBQ for all those who wish to participate on this special day including their families, friends and co-workers. Members of the Board are welcome to attend the BBQ and thereafter join the members of the Niagara Regional Police Service as they march behind the Niagara Regional Police Pipe Band and the Chief's Honour Guard to the center of the Rainbow Bridge.

The Tug-of-War team captains, Sergeant Tony Mummery, and Detective Constable Sara Mummery, are requesting that the Police Services Board continues its historical support, and they request a donation of \$1,400.00 be made to offset the costs incurred for participating in this annual event.

Over the years, the following organizations have benefited from the teams' participation in this event: Project Share, The Kidney Foundation, *Annual Beach Jam*; The Lung Association *Pull for Kids*; City of Welland *Rose Festival*; Niagara Falls *Blossom Festival*; Brock University *Walk for Cancer*; *Cops for Cancer*; and events against the St. Catharines Fire Fighters to raise money for the Wise Guys Charity Fund.

This year the Niagara Regional Police Tug of War Teams (men & women) will continue to sponsor local organizations by collecting non-perishable food donations at the event going to the local Project Share food bank in Niagara Falls, which assists those in need.

Alternatives Reviewed

To not support this request

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

This is a community engagement event that allows members of the Niagara Regional Police Service the opportunity to participate in public events that enhance the image of the Service and its members in our community. This event also aligns with the community engagement goals and objectives of the NRPS Business/Strategic Plans.

Relevant Policy Considerations

By-Law 392-2021 - Special Fund Administration, Limitations, and Guidelines.

Other Pertinent Reports

Minute No. 32.2020 – Special Fund Request – NRPS Cross Border Tug of War Competition.

This report was prepared by Dave Gomez, Inspector, Office of the Chief in consultation with Sergeant Tony Mummery, 1 District Uniform Patrol and Detective Constable Sara Mummery, Missing Persons, and reviewed by Bryan MacCulloch, Chief of Police.



Submitted by:
Bryan MacCulloch, M.O.M. #5835
Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable