



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
POLICE SERVICES BOARD
PUBLIC MINUTES

Thursday, March 25, 2021
Meeting Held By Electronic Participation Only
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

PSB MEMBERS:

B. Steele, Chair
D. Eke, Vice-Chair
H. D'Angela, Board Member
B. Gale, Board Member
K. Gibson, Board Member
J. Lawson, Board Member
T. McKendrick, Board Member

D. Reid, Executive Director
D. Cichocki, Executive Assistant

NRPS MEMBERS:

Chief of Police B. MacCulloch
Deputy Chief B. Flynn, Operational Services
Deputy Chief B. Fordy, Support Services
W. Shreve, General Counsel
Superintendent B. Ash, Emergency Investigative Services
Superintendent R. Frayne, Operations Support
Superintendent M. Giannico, District Operations
Superintendent J. Mackay, Operational Support
Superintendent D. Meade, Executive Services
Inspector D. Masotti, Executive Officer to the Chief
A. Askoul, Director of Information Technology
G. Holden, Records Manager
L. Rullo, Finance Manager
S. Sabourin, Corporate Communications Manager
M. Asher, Executive Assistant to the Chief

OTHERS:

P. Hebert, Director, Ontario Police College
D. Sprague, Police Services Advisor, Ministry of the Solicitor General

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board commenced at 9:01 am.

Chair Steele announced that during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critically important that the Board continues with its governance and oversight work. Since April 2020, the Board has held its monthly meetings virtually and will continue with this practice until we can safely resume our in-person meetings.

Chair Steele thanked Chief MacCulloch, his Executive Leadership Team, and the Uniform and Civilian Members of the Niagara Regional Police Service, who have been working diligently, and at times under difficult circumstances. He also thanked everyone for joining us today: Niagara Region residents, members of the media, and Niagara Regional Police staff who are watching online and for their support and staying connected.

Prior to proceeding with the agenda items, the Board acknowledged the lands on which the virtual meeting is taking place as the traditional territory of First Nations peoples. In particular, the Board recognized and thanked the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples for their stewardship of these lands over the millennia, as well as the Metis, Inuit and other Indigenous people, both in shaping and strengthening this Region in particular, and our Province and our Country as a whole.

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict or pecuniary interest.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, February 25, 2021

Moved by: H. D'Angela

Seconded by: D. Eke

That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, February 25, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

4. REPORTS FROM BOARD CHAIR

Welcome to Ministry Police Services Advisor - On behalf of the Board, Chair Steele welcomed Duane Sprague to the meeting. Duane serves as the Police Services Advisor to the Policing Inspections, Investigation, Audit and Compliance Management Branch, under the Inspectorate of Policing at the Ministry of the Solicitor General. He is attending the meeting as part of his routine visits to police boards across the province and will provide the Board with a status update on the recent activities at the Ministry following the Chair and Chief's comments.

PAO 2021 Employment Conference - On March 1 and 2, the Board participated in the Police Association of Ontario (PAO) Virtual Annual Employment Conference on labour relations. The conference sessions provided comprehensive updates on crucial issues from the perspectives of associations and management as well as discussions on emerging issues and legal developments.

Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT) & Crisis Outreach And Support Team (COAST) Information Session - On March 11, Board members participated in an information session that was held by the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) about the delivery of two very important services – the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT) and Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST). These programs work in partnership with the police and experienced mental health workers to respond to calls for service involving individuals in crisis, who are presenting symptoms of mental illness, behavioural disturbances or substance-abuse problems.

This session was extremely informative and highlighted the benefits of these programs to assist with the police response to mental health related calls for service, and the positive feedback from the community. At the conclusion of the session, the Board requested the Chief to provide a public report and presentation at a future meeting to Regional Council with the goal to educate the public about these services; and continue to expand on the advocacy work for additional funding through the Ministry of Health as well as alternative funding sources for program expansion.

1 District Facility Project Update - On March 23, Vice Chair Eke participated in the virtual Joint Region and Police Projects Steering Committee meeting. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for April 27. There is a full report on the agenda that details the progress made for the 1 District facility, as well as updates on the Headquarters parking lot expansion and the 911 Communications Backup Centre, listed under Item 7.18 and further updates will be provided as the project advances.

Vice Chair Eke provided a brief update on the discussions from the March 23 meeting. He announced that today, March 25, marks the move date of 1 District from 68 Church Street to 198 Welland Avenue in St. Catharines. In regard to the budget with Merit Construction, total expenditures are being realized in the amount of \$14,196,147, which is 97% of the budget. Contingencies are at 96% of the Service's 3% contingencies with 103 change orders. Landscaping and fencing remain to be completed due to weather conditions and it is anticipated that work will be completed the week of April 19.

With respect to the parking lot expansion at Police Headquarters, lighting in the lot has been improved and will be monitored to ensure there is adequate lighting in all areas. The asphalt will be laid and parking lines will be drawn as soon as weather permits.

The 911 Back-Up Centre at 3 District is now fully operational.

Vice Chair Eke advised that a decision was made to continue with the RMON/NRPS Joint Facilities Steering Committee meetings to monitor any issues that may arise regarding operations of the facility.

Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) – Monthly Webinar Sessions - The CAPG hosts monthly webinars as part of its educational strategy to keep police boards and police executives across Canada apprised of issues currently impacting the policing community.

On March 11, the Board participated in a webinar with Ontario's First Inspector General of Policing. The next webinar will be held on April 29 at 12 pm and the topic of the session is "Body Worn Cameras and the Policy Considerations for Police Governance".

Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) – 2021 Virtual Governance Summits - The CAPG will be holding two virtual Governance Summits on April 27 and June 30. The Summit on April 27 is entitled "Governance 101: A Refresher for Police Boards and Commissions".

It will explore the essentials of Police Governance, including core police governance concepts and best practices regarding accountability; community and government engagement; evaluations; communication; orientation procedures; and individual roles and responsibilities.

The June 30 Summit will focus on "Policy Development in Police Governance". Board Members have been pre-registered to participate in both Summits.

Upcoming PSB Meetings - There are no Committee Meetings scheduled in April. The next Board Meeting will be held Thursday, April 22, at 9:00 am, by electronic participation through Zoom.

5. REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

1 District Opening - Further to Vice Chair Eke's comments, Chief MacCulloch spoke to the transition of 1 District from 68 Church Street to 198 Welland Avenue in St. Catharines. While that building has served this Service well there is no denying that it is past its prime and the new facility has been eagerly anticipated.

Chief MacCulloch thanked the Service members involved in bringing this building to a reality as well as the Board and the stakeholders who provided support in making this new facility a reality that will help better serve the Niagara community for decades to come. Specifically, recognition is given to Superintendent Richard Frayne, Inspector Shawn Dowd, Inspector John Sawicki and Mr. James Berg who have been in constant contact with Region staff to ensure this process has been as seamless as possible. He also recognized former Board Chair Ken Gansel and Board Vice Chair David Eke for their support and oversight on this project.

Once final design pieces are in place, the Service will finalize a date and provide information for an official grand-opening ensuring that the ceremony will be held in keeping with COVID-19 restrictions.

SIU Case Closure - Incident of January 13, 2021 - Uniformed officers attended a call in Fort Erie in response to a request from EMS to assist with a 61-year-old male being transported in an ambulance. The male was being transported due to pain and light-headedness when EMS contacted police due to his extreme agitation. Officers attempted to calm the male but were not successful. Due to circumstances, the male was apprehended under the authority of the Mental Health Act and handcuffs applied. On route to the hospital, the male's condition deteriorated. Upon arrival, the male was quickly placed in the care of the emergency department. The male was pronounced deceased by medical personnel later that day. Given the interaction with police and subsequent passing of the male, the SIU was notified and invoked their mandate to investigate. One officer was designated as a Subject Officer and one officer was designated as a Witness Officer by the SIU. On March 10, the Service received notification from SIU Director Joseph Martino. In his closure letter he advised that the SIU had concluded their investigation and that there were no grounds for criminal charges against any officer.

Operational Statistics

Homicides

- 0 for this reporting period with a total of 2 for 2021 to-date compared to year-end totals of 5 in 2020, 7 in 2019, 2 in 2018 and 3 in 2017.

Attempted Homicides

- 0 for this reporting period with a total of 0 for 2021 to-date compared to year-end totals of 3 in 2020, 2 in 2019, 8 in 2018 and 3 in 2017.

Chief MacCulloch advised of a change in the Attempted Murder statistics for 2018 as previously reported, stating that the number has risen from seven to eight. Due to a court ordered publication ban in a specific matter, detail as to why this number has changed will be reported in the confidential portion of the meeting.

Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC)

- 1 for this reporting period with a total of 2 for 2021 to-date, compared to year-end totals of 16 in 2020, 13 in 2019, 13 in 2018, 16 in 2017, 16 in 2016.

Life Threatening Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC)

- 0 for this reporting period.

Fatal MVC - Incident of January February 1, 2021 - Officers responded to a report of a motor vehicle collision involving a child on Greenlane near Garden Gate Terrace in the Town of Lincoln. Investigation determined that a 67-year-old male driver and sole occupant of a pick-up truck was proceeding on Greenlane when a 4-year-old child on a toboggan entered the roadway. The pick-up truck struck the child. The child was transported to West Lincoln Memorial Hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries. It was determined that speed was not a factor in this collision. This investigation continues by members of the Collision Reconstruction Unit however it has been determined that no charges will be laid.

St. Catharines Man Arrested for Online YouTube Threats - In February, the Service was contacted by INTERPOL in the United States regarding threatening comments on YouTube. The initial investigation by INTERPOL led them to believe the YouTube user was from St. Catharines. The local investigation was assigned to St. Catharines Detectives, who were assisted by Detectives from the Cyber Crime and Technical Crimes Units. The investigation revealed that a YouTube user had posted threats of violence in the comments section of videos in January and February. On March 9, investigators arrested a 41-year-old St. Catharines man with threat offences. A search warrant was executed at the residence and the investigation in this matter continues.

Two Roadside Suspensions issued During St. Patrick's Day R.I.D.E. Initiative - On March 17, members conducted R.I.D.E. spot checks in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines. Throughout the night, officers stopped approximately 650 vehicles and inquired if any of the drivers had consumed any alcohol or drugs earlier in the evening. In total, 18 drivers were required to provide a sample of their breath for analysis. Two of the drivers provided samples that resulted in an "alert" and subsequently had their licences suspended for a period of three days. Two other drivers were charged with operating a vehicle with a suspended licence and another driver was charged for operating a vehicle with no insurance. Several tickets were also issued for various traffic related offences.

NRPS Spring Food Drive – The Niagara Regional Police Service recently concluded its first ever week-long Spring Food Drive. The Spring Food Drive led by members of the Community Engagement Unit saw the Service partner with nine local food banks and 12 local grocery stores to help support the demand for food and donations within Niagara. Where food drives in the past centered on the holiday season, the NRPS Spring Food Drive hoped to support the community given the unprecedented challenges that have come from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the five days that donations were accepted, 20,274 pounds in food and \$13,354.30 in cash/gift cards was received. Post Foods in Niagara Falls donated 4,109 pounds of cereal products. Powell Drywall in Welland donated 630 pounds in chicken meals and a number of the grocery stores also provided food donations to the food drive. The food banks that were supported by the food drive include:

- Salvation Army – Fort Erie;
- Port Cares – Port Colborne;
- Hope Centre – Welland;
- Pelham Cares – Pelham;
- Project Share – Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake;
- West Lincoln Community Care – Smithville;
- Community Care – St. Catharines, Thorold;
- Grimsby Benevolent Fund – Grimsby, and
- Community Care of West Niagara – Beamsville.

Chief MacCulloch extended his thanks to the following participating grocery stores stating that without their support, this event would not have been possible:

- No Frills – Fort Erie;
- Sobeys – Port Colborne;
- No Frills – Welland;
- Zehrs – Welland;
- Food Basics – Pelham;
- Zehrs – Niagara Falls;
- Food Basics – McLeod Road, Niagara Falls;
- Foodland – Smithville;
- Superstore – St. Catharines;
- No Frills – Lake Street, St. Catharines;
- Superstore – Grimsby; and
- No Frills – Beamsville.

In closing, Chief MacCulloch recognized the outstanding support and generosity from the communities in Niagara during these challenging times. Chair Steele requested the Chief extend the Board's gratitude to all those who participated in this event.

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Ministry of the Solicitor General - Police Services Advisor for Zone 4 Police Boards

Duane Sprague thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide a presentation on the recent activities at the Ministry of the Solicitor General. He advised that Paul Hebert, Director, Ontario Police College (OPC), is also in attendance today to provide the Board with an update on the COVID-19 outbreak at OPC.

Mr. Hebert advised that on February 22, 2021 the OPC was informed that an employee had contracted COVID-19 and measures were immediately put into place to mitigate exposure. A number of recruits were isolated pending next steps and over the next couple days the recruits were tested at an on-site health centre. As the positive case count went up, hard action was taken and on February 24 a pause was put into place with recruits required to return to their dorms until further notice.

On February 25, OPC arranged for mass testing of all 639 staff, students and recruits by Public Health. Individuals who tested negative were permitted to return home on February 26 and 27 to self-isolate and maintain proper protocols. Individuals who tested positive were held in isolation rooms separated from the student population and also given the option at the recommendation of Public Health to return home providing there was no risk imposed on any other individual or to the community. Literature was issued by Public Health with guidelines on what to do upon their return to their residence. On March 1, OPC retooled their training programs to upfront all the academy classes and provided virtual training for three weeks to all recruits. Therefore, when the recruits return they will only need to complete the practical skills and exam components.

Mr. Hebert advised that none of the positive cases were from a variant COVID-19 strain. Currently, there are 124 accumulative cases across the Province related to the outbreak, one remains outstanding and 123 are resolved. At OPC, 18 recruits tested negative and one tested positive and that individual will complete the 14-day isolation period by the weekend. The outbreak remains outstanding and OPC will be discussing with Public Health on March 29, the option to lift the outbreak should Public Health be satisfied that there are no more cases associated to the outbreak at OPC. The OPC will hold a briefing with the Minister to discuss the return of operations at the College. Pending approval, the OPC is looking at rapid testing of all staff and recruits as well as vaccine distribution at the College. The OPC will continue to communicate with Police Chiefs through the OACP and Ministry All Chiefs/Chairs bulletins.

Following report from the OPC Director, Mr. Sprague provided the following updates from the Ministry:

Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA) - Regarding the regulatory work that is currently underway with the Community Safety and Policing Act, there are approximately 50 to 70 matters for regulation that need to be developed to bring the Act into force. Despite having a temporary pause on the engagement due to the pandemic, the Ministry has continued to host virtual meetings with stakeholders to address these matters and to ensure the Act is proclaimed in early 2022.

Inspectorate of Policing - Duties of the Inspector General are set out in the new Act. The Inspector will carry out a range of functions including inspections, monitoring and advisory services to policing and community safety partners. There was an All Chiefs Memorandum ACM 20-0147, dated October 2, 2020, that provides detailed information about the Inspectorate of Policing, and CSPA, Part 7 on e-laws. He also suggested the Board may want to contact Inspector General Devon Clunis and Deputy Inspector General Ken Weatherill, for a future presentation about their new duties and responsibilities.

The Board requested that the Executive Director make arrangements for a future presentation.

Community Safety and Well-Being Plans - The deadline for municipalities to prepare and adopt their Community Safety and Well-Being Plans is July 1, 2021. The Police Services Act requires every municipality in Ontario to prepare and adopt these Community Safety and Well-Being Plans.

Chief MacCulloch is the co-chair on the Region's Committee working on the development of the CSWB Plan and anticipates a structured report with recommendations to Regional Council for approval in June 2021 to meet the required timelines.

Court Security and Prisoner Transportation - In September 2020, the Ministry hired an independent consultant, Goss Gilroy Inc., to conduct a review of court security and prisoner transportation in Ontario, including the design of the CSPT Program. This review is part of the Ministry's ongoing work to reduce court delays, leverage technology and improve public safety to build a more responsive and efficient justice system. Municipalities, police services and other justice sector partners were engaged during the review process. The Ministry will be reviewing findings and recommendations in the final report which is expected soon.

Pandemic-Specific Supports - In terms of pandemic-specific supports, the Ministry continues to support the coordination of communications to Police Services regarding updates to public health measures. The Ministry has also been continuing to work directly with Police Services to support the provision of Personal Protective Equipment to supplement existing procurement efforts and assist in addressing urgent shortages. The Ministry has been engaging police services regarding a rapid COVID-19 testing pilot being implemented by the Ministry of Health to support employers and employee safety in a variety of workplaces, including essential services. It is a voluntary program that provides rapid COVID-19 antigen tests to employers to administer in the workplace on asymptomatic employees, in order to assist in the early identification of an individual with COVID-19 that could otherwise be missed. Participants must be able to perform repaid antigen testing in accordance with the requirements set out by the Ministry of Health and must provide limited data including the number of tests used, number of participating employees, and number of positive/negative results.

Training/Orientation for Police Services Board Members - Mr. Sprague encouraged all Board Members to attend PSB training/orientation, whether through the OAPSB e-modules on the OAPSB website or via the Police Services Advisor. The Advisor is available to provide training to members on their roles/responsibilities with respect to the Police Services Act and police services board governance.

Moved by: B. Gale

Seconded by: K. Gibson

That the presentation be received.

Carried

7. CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Monthly Report - Niagara Regional Police Service - Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic - March 2021

Service report dated March 23, 2021 providing the Board with a detailed monthly update regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Niagara Regional Police Service and the actions being taken to mitigate risks.

7.2 Quarterly Report - Overtime Activities Incurred by the Niagara Regional Police Service - October 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated March 4, 2021 providing the Board with a five-year uniform and civilian quarterly and year-to-date trend analysis to include summaries of the overtime hours by activity category, which continues to be predominantly driven by the need to meet minimums resulting from occupational and non-occupational illness, injury and staffing shortages.

7.3 Annual Report - Acoustic Hailing Devices - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated February 26, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 335-2013.

7.4 Annual Report - Child Abuse and Neglect - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated February 22, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 219-2000.

7.5 Annual Report - Child Pornography - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated February 22, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 333-2013.

7.6 Annual Report - Equipment - Body Armour - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated March 3, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 311-2011.

7.7 Annual Report - Illegal Gaming - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated February 25, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 224-2000.

7.8 Annual Report – Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated March 3, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 283-2008.

7.9 Annual Report - NRPS Tuck Shop - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated March 2, 2021 informing the Board that net proceeds in the amount of \$843.70 have been received from the sale of the Services' souvenir and display sales program for the year 2020 and that the funds have been transferred to the Board's Special Fund Account.

7.10 Annual Report - Parental/Non-Parental Abductions and Attempts - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Serviced report dated February 23, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 295-2010.

7.11 Annual Report - Safe Storage of Police Service Firearms - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated February 23, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 258-2003.

7.12 Annual Report - Sudden Death and Found Human Remains - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated February 23, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 229-2000.

7.13 Annual Report - Use of Force - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated March 1, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 346-2014.

7.14 Annual Report - Vehicle Theft - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated February 25, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 235-2000.

Members Gibson and Gale asked about the high volume of vehicle thefts reported and questioned if the Service could provide further details on the total cleared and total recovered, as well as the main "hot-spot" locations of these thefts. Deputy Chief Flynn provided clarification on the statistics and stated he will look into obtaining further details on "hot-spot" locations and follow-up with the Board.

7.15 Annual Report - Witness Protection - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated February 24, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 210-2000.

7.16 Short Hills Provincial Park - 2020-2021 Deer Harvest and Associated Policing Costs

Service report dated February 19, 2021 advising the Board of the policing activities and associated costs of the 2020-2021 First Nations Deer Harvest held at Short Hills Provincial Park in St. Catharines on November 3, 4, 26, 27, December 10,11,17,18, 2020, and January 7, 8, 27, 28, 2021, which resulted in 244 hours of regular on duty officer time and a further 131 hours of overtime, at an estimated total cost to the Service in the amount of \$23,578.36, a cost higher than in previous years.

7.17 Microsoft Office 365 (MS365-O365) Implementation Update

Service report dated March 2, 2021 advising that on January 1, 2020, the Service renewed the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (EA) as a subscription based MS365/O365 Platforms, which are being managed in a phased deployment approach in alignment with the NRPS Enterprise Information Management & Governance and Security best practices and policies.

7.18 1 District Facility Project Status Update - February 2021

Memo dated March 8, 2021 from Nicole Menard, Senior Project Manager, Facilities, Niagara Region, providing the Board with a project status update on the NRPS 1 District facility for February 2021.

7.19 Regional Municipality of Niagara (RMON) - Resolution - P25 Voice Radio Capital Budget Adjustment

Correspondence dated March 1, 2021 from Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, RMON, providing notification of a resolution passed by Regional Council at its meeting held February 25, 2021 to approve and initiate the Board's recommended capital budget adjustment in the amount of \$2,402,810 respecting the P25 Voice Radio System Expansion Project.

7.20 City of Thorold - Resolution - Medical Cannabis Grow Operations - Public Safety Concerns

Correspondence dated February 18, 2021 from Donna Delvecchio, City Clerk, City of Thorold, advising that at its meeting held February 16, 2021, Thorold City Council received and supported correspondence from the Niagara Police Services Board pertaining to Medical Cannabis Grow Operations - Public Safety Concerns. *(The Board's November 4, 2020 letter is attached for reference.)*

As an update, Chair Steele advised that provinces across Canada have gained support from the Ministry of Health, who will be reaching out to local municipalities to seek input for recommended changes to the issuance of medical cannabis grow operations licences that would allow municipalities and local police services greater oversight. Chief MacCulloch advised that police services remain optimistic that the federal government will see fit to implement legislative changes that address the numerous loopholes and safety concerns that are negatively impacting local municipalities across the province as well as across Canada.

7.21 City of Welland - Resolution - Medical Cannabis Grow Operations - Public Safety Concerns

Correspondence dated March 4, 2021 from Tara Stephens, City Clerk, City of Welland, advising that at its meeting held March 2, 2021, Welland City Council received and endorsed correspondence from the Niagara Police Services Board pertaining to Medical Cannabis Grow Operations - Public Safety Concerns. *(The Board's November 4, 2020 letter is attached for reference.)*

Moved by: J. Lawson

Seconded by: T. McKendrick

That the information be received.

Carried

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Ministry of the Solicitor General - 2021 COVID-19 Relief Funding for Municipalities

Correspondence dated March 12, 2021 from Richard Stubbings, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Solicitor General, providing notification to Chiefs of Police and Board Chairs of the availability of additional provincial funding for municipalities to ensure the delivery of critical services and enable capital projects to stay on track in light of COVID-19. Specifically, the Ontario Government is providing an additional \$500 million through the 2021 Provincial COVID-19 Relief Funding for Municipalities program, which can include COVID-19 related operating pressures for policing.

Moved by: D. Eke

Seconded by: B. Gale

That the information be received,

And further, that the Service consult with Niagara Region to identify critical COVID-19 related operating pressures for policing that can be addressed through this funding initiative for 2021.

Carried

8.2 Annual Report - Missing Persons - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated March 1, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 386-2020.

Moved by: K. Gibson

Seconded by: J. Lawson

That the information be received;

And further, that the report be provided to the Ministry of the Solicitor General and posted on the Niagara Regional Police Service website, pursuant to Section 8 of the *Missing Persons Act, 2018*.

Carried

8.3 Police Services Board - Board By-law 389-2021 - Citizen Rewards

Correspondence dated March 1, 2021 from Deb Reid, Executive Director, Niagara Police Services Board, providing the Board with a revised by-law to establish policy for citizen rewards by the Niagara Regional Police Service.

Moved by: T. McKendrick

Seconded by: H. D'Angela

That the Board adopt By-law No. 389-2021 as appended to the report and authorize the Board Chair and Executive Director to execute the required documentation.

Carried

8.4 Special Fund Request - OAPSB Conference Sponsorship 2021

Correspondence dated March 4, 2021 from Deb Reid, Executive Director, Niagara Police Services Board, providing the Board with a copy of communication received from Mr. Patrick Weaver, President, Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB), requesting a donation to support the OAPSB 2021 Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting.

Moved by: D. Eke

Seconded by: J. Lawson

That the Board authorize a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the Special Fund to the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) in support of its 2021 Annual Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting.

Carried

9. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

There was no other new business.

10. IN CAMERA REPORTS

There were no in camera reports.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Police Services Board adjourned the public portion of the meeting and reconvene in-camera for consideration of confidential matters pursuant to Section 35(4) of the Police Services Act.

The Public Meeting adjourned at 10:19 am.

William C. Steele, Chair

Deb Reid, Executive Director