



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
POLICE SERVICE BOARD
PUBLIC MINUTES

Thursday, June 27, 2024
Niagara Regional Police Service - Headquarters
Community Room 1st Floor, 5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls

PSB MEMBERS:

J. Lawson, Chair
N. Kapisavanhu, Vice Chair
P. Chiocchio, Board Member
K. Gibson, Board Member
L. Ip, Board Member
T. McKendrick, Board Member
B. Steele, Board Member

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

NRPS MEMBERS:

Chief B. Fordy
Deputy Chief L. Greco, Support Services
A/Deputy Chief M. Lagrotteria, Operational Services
C. Gauley, General Counsel
A. Askoul, Director of Information Technology
Superintendent D. Forbes, Operational Support
Superintendent S. Staniforth, Executive Services
A/Superintendent S. Magistrale, Emergency Investigative Services
A/Superintendent S. Parrent, Corporate Services
Inspector N. Dave, Executive Officer to Chief of Police
D/Sergeant N. Abbott, Executive Officer to D/C Operational Services
D/Sergeant M. Ryan, Executive Officer to D/C Support Services
L. Rullo, Finance Manager
S. Sabourin, Corporate Communications Manager
C. Woods, Financial Planning Coordinator
M. Asher, Executive Assistant to the Chief

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board commenced at 9:30 am.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Board began its meeting by acknowledging that the Niagara Region is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hatiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today. The Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Service Board stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict or pecuniary interest.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, May 23, 2024

Moved by: P. Chiochio

Seconded by: N. Kapisavanhu

That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, May 23, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. REPORTS FROM BOARD CHAIR

Pride Flag Raising Ceremony - On May 27th, the Service held a flag raising ceremony at Police Headquarters in recognition of the commencement of Pride Month beginning June 1st. Chair Lawson joined Chief Fordy, Board staff and numerous members of the Service outside Police Headquarters to raise the Service's Pride flag in solidarity with the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community.

NOTL Council Meeting – NRPS Presentation - On May 28th, Chair Lawson joined Chief Fordy and District Operations Superintendent Lagrotteria at the Niagara on the Lake Council Meeting. Superintendent Lagrotteria provided Council with a presentation on the police programs in Niagara, and the opportunity to discuss any issues of concerns relating to policing in Niagara on the Lake.

CAPG Webinar Sessions - The Canadian Association of Police Governance hosts monthly webinars as part of their educational strategy to keep Police Boards and Police Executives across Canada apprised of issues currently affecting the policing community. Webinars were held on May 30th, entitled "Improving the Health of the Policing Organizations", and on June 13th, entitled "Updates on the Mental Health Research and Treatments for Public Safety Personnel". The next webinar is scheduled for today, June 27th, at 12:00 pm, entitled "Pros and Cons of School Resource Officers - What is the Board's role?". Recorded copies of all webinars are sent to Board Members for their viewing.

OAPSB 2024 Spring Conference & AGM - The Ontario Association of Police Service Boards hosted its annual Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting at Blue Mountain Resort, Village Conference Centre, from June 3 - 5, 2024. The conference program featured a variety of guest speakers, networking opportunities and educational and learning sessions on issues that are currently impacting policing. Chair Lawson, Vice Chair Kapisavanhu, Members Chiochio and Gibson and Executive Director Reid attended the conference.

Canada Beyond the Blue - Ontario Police Suicide Memorial - On June 23rd, Chair Lawson and Vice Chair Kapisavanhu joined Chief Fordy, Deputy Greco, and members of the Service at the Canada Beyond the Blue Ontario Suicide Police Memorial at Queen's Park in Toronto. This was the first annual Ontario Police Suicide Memorial to honour and pay tribute to Ontario's Police Members who have died by suicide 'Because of the line of duty'. There were families of loved ones who died by suicide present from several police services throughout Ontario and the officer's names were read and honoured.

Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre - Donor Appreciation Reception - On June 25th, Chair Lawson attended the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre's Donor Appreciation Reception. This event is held annually to recognize and honour the organization's numerous donors, volunteers, board members and partners. The Board and the Service are proud to be long time supporters and partners with the Centre.

ETU Tour/Specialized Equipment Demonstrations – PSB Members - On July 11th, the Board will be meeting with the NRPS Emergency Task Unit for a tour of the Unit and a demonstration on the specialized equipment used by police. The day will also include a visit to the Training Unit for a Hostage Rescue Team demonstration, and insight into waterway policing while touring aboard the Service's marine vessel, a small section of the body of water policed by the NRPS Marine Unit. An itinerary will be provided closer to the event date.

Diversity Tour – PSB Members - On July 19th, the NRPS Diversity and Inclusion Unit will escort Board Members on Diversity Tour for visits to several local community and faith-based organizations in Niagara. A confirmed schedule will be provided closer to the event date.

NRPS Recruit Swearing In Ceremony - On July 24th at 7:00 pm, the Service will be holding a Swearing-In Ceremony for new recruits to the Niagara Regional Police Service. The ceremony will be held in the Community Room at Police Headquarters. Board Members interested in attending the event are asked to confirm with Board staff.

Upcoming Police Service Board Meetings - There are no Committee meetings scheduled for July. The next regular monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 9:30 am in the Community Room at Police Headquarters.

6. REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Community Safety:

Chief Fordy outlined some of the excellent work by the NRPS Public Order Unit while assisting with keeping the peace, which included their attendance at the following gatherings:

- June 7, 2024 – Beach Day, which sees young people in the area congregate at local municipal beaches.
- June 8, 2024 - Pride in the Park in St. Catharines.
- June 9, 2024 – Israel/Palestine marches and protests in Toronto while assisting the Toronto Police and other Public Order Units.

May 30, 2024 – The NRPS welcomed members of the Ontario Police Video Training Alliance (OPVTA) for their Annual General Meeting at Police Headquarters. The Service's Video Unit is a key part of this police alliance and produces videos throughout the year regarding training, awareness and trends. These have included information on fentanyl, human trafficking, and the reintegration program.

June 17, 2024 - Constable Matt Tavano was the recipient of the Ontario Medal of Bravery in recognition of responding to an active fire resulting from a chemical explosion in Port Weller, and taking immediate action to help a male who was badly burned and in distress. While not knowing the extent of the fire, nor the hazards present, Constable Tavano risked his safety to enter the area, remove the male and ensure medical treatment was given without delay. His actions ultimately exemplified all the best qualities of a police officer and a citizen.

June 18, 2024 – Uniform officers from 2 District (Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake) attended a human trafficking call in Niagara Falls. Members of the Human Trafficking Unit collaborated with uniform officers leading to a 26-year-old male and 16-year-old female being arrested, and two victims being identified and assisted. Charges included trafficking in persons under 18 years of age, forcible confinement, and trafficking in person's by exercising control. This is a show of great work by NRPS members in their ongoing efforts to address this criminal activity that targets the vulnerable.

Community Engagement:

May 27, 2024 - Further to the NRPS flag raising comments by Chair Lawson, while celebrating Pride month in June, the Service recognized the strength drawn from diversity and from their relationship with PRIDE Niagara, whose Chair, Enzo DeDivitis, joined the Service at the ceremony.

May 28, 2024 – Further to Chair Lawson’s comments regarding the Service’s presentation at the Niagara on the Lake Council meeting, the NRPS met with the Mayors of Grimsby, West Lincoln, St. Catharines and Pelham in the first half of June and staff will continue to meet with elected officials and community leaders to discuss policing.

May 29, 2024 – There was an introductory meeting with Niagara Health to discuss Human Trafficking in the Region and the role of the NRPS to address the issue.

June 1 and 3, 2024 – The Service attended two separate Annual Ceremonial Reviews of the 126th “Flying Lancers” and 23rd Royal Canadian squadrons of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets. The NRPS were on hand for their annual awards ceremonies and to see Niagara’s potential future leaders, and perhaps police officers.

June 2, 2024 – The Service attended the Dedication Day and Memorial Service at Victoria Lawn Cemetery in St. Catharines to show support and respect for Canada’s Armed Forces. The Day marked the 80th year since the Normandy invasion which led to the end of World War II.

June 5, 2024 - Members of the NRPS attended the Pride Niagara Unity Awards to recognize those who have had a positive impact on the local 2SLGBTQ+ community.

June 8, 2024 – Members of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Unit attended the Pride in the Park event in support of the local 2SLGBTQ+ community.

June 9, 2024 - Members of the Women in Policing Internal Support Network participated in the Mud Girl Run obstacle course in Hamilton, which raised money for charities, supporting important causes and making a meaningful difference in the fight against breast cancer.

June 12, 2024 – The Service presented on their “Stop the Hate” campaign at the Niagara Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) meeting where the NRPS is represented by its Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Unit.

June 14 and 15, 2024 – Members, including Sergeant Jason Myers on bike and Chris Lucy on motorcycle, rode in support of, and with, Vancouver police officer Sergeant Dayne Campbell who is riding across Canada raising funds for Cops for Cancer.

June 16, 2024 - Members attended the Muslim Eid prayer and celebration at Queenston Heights where they joined hundreds of people including those from four local mosques.

June 20, 2024 – The Service participated in the kickoff for Sirens for Life at Canadian Blood Services, an important initiative to help save lives. There is a friendly blood donation competition between Canada Border Services; Niagara Detention Centre; Niagara EMS, Niagara OPP; Niagara Falls, Thorold, Niagara on the Lake and St. Catharines Fire Departments and the CAA Roadside Heroes. Last year the Service came out with the most donations.

June 21, 2024 – The Service attended events at the Fort Erie Native Friendship Center and Niagara Regional Native Center to honour and celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day.

June 22, 2024 – Members participated in the 20th Annual Rob Gittings Memorial Baseball Tournament and BBQ. The event was very well attended and helped support NRPS Benevolent Fundraising efforts to ultimately assist police members.

Member Wellness:

June 23, 2024 - Members attended the inaugural ceremony for officers who have died 'Because of the Line of Duty'. The Ontario Police Suicide Memorial ceremony was held by Canada Beyond the Blue at Queens Park in Toronto. This was an important day recognizing the potential stressors of our profession on officers and their families and loved ones.

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 NRPS Finance Unit

The Service provided a presentation on its Finance Unit, to which assigned members work in partnership with the Chief of Police, Senior Leadership and all departments of the police service to provide operational and strategic financial management excellence for effective and responsible decision making. The mission of the Finance Unit is to develop and implement effective and efficient financial planning, reporting, and accounting systems that ensure proper oversight of all expenditures and revenue collections to successfully support the operations of the Service.

Moved by: L. Ip

Seconded by: T. McKendrick

That the presentation be received.

Carried

7.2 NRPS Video Unit

The Service provided a presentation on its Video Unit, to which assigned members are responsible for the development of e-learning and the production of training videos specific to the Niagara Regional Police Service, and to provide technical and investigative support service-wide and at community engagements and corporate communications/media related events. Members of the Unit also have an added commitment of time and resources to the Ontario Police Video Training Alliance (OPTVA) for the production of training videos, e-learning courses and support materials to a police audience of over 26,000 officers.

Moved by: B. Steele

Seconded by: K. Gibson

That the presentation be received.

Carried

8. CONSENT AGENDA

8.1 Special Fund Acknowledgement - Ontario Association of Police Service Boards

Joint correspondence dated June 14, 2024 from Patrick Weaver, Chair, and Lisa Darling, Executive Director, Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB), acknowledging the Board's sponsorship in support of the OAPSB Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting held at Blue Mountain Resort from June 2-5, 2024.

8.2 Financial Variance Overview - Period Ending March 31, 2024

Service report dated May 31, 2024 submitted in accordance with the quarterly reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 412-2024.

- 8.3 Quarterly Report - Overtime Activities Incurred by the Service - January 1 to March 31, 2024**
- Service report dated June 3, 2024 providing the Board with a five-year uniform and civilian quarterly and year-to-date overtime trend analysis for the first quarter of 2024.
- 8.4 Annual Report - Collection, Preservation and Control of Evidence and Property - January 1 to December 31, 2023**
- Service report dated June 3, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 469-2024.
- 8.5 Annual Report - Criminal Harassment - January 1 to December 31, 2023**
- Service report dated June 4, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 440-2024.
- 8.6 Annual Report – Hostage Rescue, Preliminary Perimeter Control and Containment, and Tactical Units - January 1 to December 31, 2023**
- Service report dated May 29, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-laws 480-2024, 492-2024 and 503-2024.
- 8.7 Annual Report – Internal Task Forces - January 1 to December 31, 2023**
- Service report dated May 17, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 450-2024.
- 8.8 Annual Report – Management of Police Records - January 1 to December 31, 2023**
- Service report dated May 31, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 516-2024.
- 8.9 Annual Report - Officer Note Taking - January 1 to December 31, 2023**
- Service report dated June 4, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 486-2024.
- 8.10 Annual Report – Ontario Sex Offender Registry - January 1 to December 31, 2023**
- Service report dated May 17, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 453-2024.
- 8.11 Annual Report – Police Response to High-Risk Individuals - January 1 to December 31, 2023**
- Service report dated May 27, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 489-2024.
- 8.12 Annual Report - Problem Oriented Policing, Community-Based Crime Prevention and Community Patrol - January 1 to December 31, 2023**
- Service report dated June 4, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-laws 493-2024, 472-2024 and 473-2024.
- 8.13 Annual Report - Robbery Investigations - January 1 to December 31, 2023**
- Service report dated June 4, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 496-2024.
- 8.14 Annual Report – Search and Seizure - January 1 to December 31, 2023**
- Service report dated May 29, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 458-2024.

8.15 Annual Report – Sexual Assault Investigations - January 1 to December 31, 2023

Service report dated May 16, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 499-2024.

8.16 Annual Report – Use of Force – January 1 to December 31, 2023

Service report dated May 16, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 506-2024.

Moved by: P. Chiocchio

Seconded by: L. Ip

That the information be received.

Carried

9. NEW BUSINESS

Before considering special fund request Items 9.6 to 9.10, Chair Lawson reminded members of the public that the “Special Fund” does not form part of the police operating budget and is separate from the Regional tax base. The “Special Fund” is a discretionary pool of funds, which is used for grants and charitable donations. Disbursements from the fund are made in accordance with guidelines provided in the Community Safety and Policing Act, and with Board By-Law 403-2024, Special Fund Administration, Limitations and Guidelines.

9.1 Annual Report - Niagara Regional Police Service - January 1 to December 31, 2023

Service report dated June 4, 2024 requesting Board approval of the Niagara Regional Police Service 2023 Annual Report submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 445-2024, and with Section 12 (1), Ontario Regulation 399/23 made under the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019.

Moved by: B. Steele

Seconded by: K. Gibson

That the Board approve the Niagara Regional Police Service 2023 Annual Report, as appended to the report;

And further, that in accordance with subsection 12 (2) of Ontario Regulation 399/23, the Annual Report be posted on the NRPS website;

And further, that in accordance with Section 41 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, the Board file the Annual Report with Regional Council.

Carried

9.2 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) International Police Peacekeeping and Police Operations Program - Memorandum of Understanding

Service report dated June 7, 2024 requesting the Board approve entering into a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of the Service's participation in the RCMP International Peacekeeping and Peace Operations Program (IPP), a program through which Canada deploys Canadian police officers and civilian experts to United Nations peace operations and other stabilization efforts across the world through the Canadian Police Arrangement (CPA).

Moved by: N. Kapisavanhu

Seconded by: T. McKendrick

That the Board approve the Deployment of Police Officers through the International Police Peacekeeping and Peace Operations Program Memorandum of Understanding between the Niagara Regional Police Service and the Royal Canadian Mounted/Police International Peace Operations, as appended to the report;

And further, that the Chief of Police be authorized to execute all required documentation.

Carried

9.3 Motorola Command Central Aware - Contract Award

Service report dated June 5, 2024 requesting the Board approve the renewal of annual maintenance and support services for the NRPS Command Central Aware System, a software application used in the Real-Time Operations Centre to tie together the Computer Aided Dispatch, Video and Mapping applications to Motorola Solutions Canada Inc.

Moved by: K. Gibson
Seconded by: B. Steele

That the Board approve the contract award for renewal of the Service's Command Central Aware (CCA) system's annual maintenance and support services to Motorola Solutions Canada Inc. (Motorola) in the amount of \$236,171.13, including HST.

Carried

9.4 Award of Formal Procurement to Lightning Equipment Sales Inc.

Service report dated May 17, 2024 requesting Board approve awarding Lightning Equipment Sales Inc. as the successful vendor of the T29-2024 bid contract for the installation of specialty equipment in Service vehicles; specific to light bars, prisoner barriers, and control boxes.

Moved by: T. McKendrick
Seconded by: K. Gibson

That the Board approve awarding the contract to purchase specialty equipment installed in Service vehicles for a maximum of \$400,000.00 CAD, including HST, to Lightning Equipment Sales Inc., under the formal Procurement Bid Contract T29-2024.

Carried

9.5 2024 Operating Budget Amendment - Training Unit

Service report dated June 5, 2024 requesting the Board approve a budget amendment to the 2024 operating budget in the amount of \$385,000 to facilitate the staffing needs of the NRPS Training Unit in order to meet the training requirements of police officers as mandated under the new Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019.

Moved by: B. Steele
Seconded by: P. Chiocchio

That the Board approve a 2024 operating budget amendment in the amount of \$385,000.00, funded by a transfer from the Police Contingency Reserve Fund, to fund one-time expenditures related to the implementation of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA);

And further, that the report be submitted to Regional Council for approval of the budget amendment funded by the Police Contingency Reserve Fund.

Carried

9.6 Special Fund Request - Canada Beyond the Blue Gala

Service report dated May 16, 2024 requesting the Board approve the purchase of a table for police representation at the Beyond the Blue Champions of Change Awards Gala being held in Toronto at the Palais Royale Ballroom on September 5, 2024. (Previous donation: 2023 - \$1,537.50)

Moved by: L. Ip
Seconded by: N. Kapisavanhu

That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$1,500.00 from the Special Fund for the purchase of a table at the Beyond the Blue Champions of Change Awards Gala.

Carried

9.7 Special Fund Request - Canadian Police Memorial 'Ride to Remember'

Service report dated April 24, 2024 requesting a donation to assist with costs incurred by Service members participating in the annual Canadian Police Memorial 'Ride to Remember' while cycling from the Ontario Police College (OPC) to Parliament Hill from September 25-28, 2024, to raise funds used to maintain police memorials and to provide programming and support for families of fallen officers. (Previous donations: 2008-2012 - \$500, 2013-2018 - \$1,000, 2019 - \$1,500; 2023 - \$3,600)

Moved by: T. McKendrick
Seconded by: B. Steele

That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$6,000.00 from the Special Fund to support the participation of NRPS Members in the Canadian Police Memorial "Ride to Remember" (R2R).

Carried

9.8 Special Fund Request - National Peace Officers' Memorial 'Run to Remember'

Service report dated June 4, 2024 requesting a donation from the Special Fund to assist with costs incurred by Service members participating in the annual National Peace Officers' Memorial 'Run to Remember', a 460 kilometer relay starting from the Police Memorial site in Toronto and ending at the National Memorial on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, to bring about awareness of the Memorial Service and to raise funds to help maintain the memorials and build on trust fund contributions. (Previous donations; 2014-2015 - \$500; 2016 and 2018 - \$1,000; 2019 - \$1,500; 2023 - \$2,000)

Moved by: K. Gibson
Seconded by: T. McKendrick

That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$2,000.00 from the Special Fund to help offset expenses incurred for registration and accommodations by members of the Service participating in the National Peace Officers' Memorial 'Run to Remember'.

Carried

9.9 Special Fund Request - Regional Chair's Golf Tournament

Service report dated June 7, 2024 requesting the Board approve a donation to cover the registration of a NRPS golf foursome at the Regional Chair's Charity Golf Tournament being held August 23, 2024 at Legends on the Niagara golf course, to raise funds for contributions to various Niagara charities. (This is a first-time funding request.)

Moved by: P. Chiochio
Seconded by: T. McKendrick

That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$1,700.00 from the Special Fund for the registration of a NRPS golf foursome at the Regional Chair's Charity Golf Tournament.

Carried

9.10 Special Fund Request - Wise Girls Tee Party

Service report dated June 5, 2024 requesting the Board approve the purchase of a "Red Tee" corporate sponsorship for the Wise Girls Tee Party golf tournament being held August 12, 2024, to raise funds to various community organizations in Niagara. (Previous donation: 2023 - \$1,000)

Moved by: K. Gibson
Seconded by: B. Steele

That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the Special Fund for the purchase of a "Red Tee" sponsorship at the Wise Girls Tee Party golf tournament.

Carried

10. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business raised or discussed.

11. IN CAMERA REPORTS

There were no in camera reports.

12. MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Moved by: P. Chiochio
Seconded by: L. Ip

That the Board move into Closed Session for consideration of confidential matters pursuant to Section 44 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, namely for subject-matter related to potential litigation, human resources matters, information supplied in confidence by the Ministry of the Solicitor General and legal matters that are subject to solicitor-client privilege.

Carried

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.

Jen Lawson, Chair

Deb Reid, Executive Director