



**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**POLICE SERVICE BOARD**  
**PUBLIC MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 27, 2025**  
**Niagara Regional Police Service - Headquarters**  
**Community Room 1st Floor, 5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls**

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**PSB MEMBERS:**

P. Chiocchio, Chair  
N. Kapisavanhu, Vice Chair  
K. Gibson, Board Member  
L. Ip, Board Member  
J. Lawson, Board Member  
T. McKendrick, Board Member  
  
D. Reid, Executive Director  
D. Cichocki, Executive Assistant

**PSB REGRETS:**

B. Steele, Member

**NRPS MEMBERS:**

Chief B. Fordy  
Deputy Chief T. Waselovich, Operational Services  
A/Deputy Chief M. Lagrotteria, Community Services  
A/Deputy Chief S. Staniforth, Support Services  
C. Gauley, General Counsel  
A. Askoul, Director of Information Technology  
L. Blood, Director of Human Resources  
L. Rullo, Director of Finance and Asset Management  
Superintendent D. Forbes, Emergency Service  
Superintendent D. Masotti, Emergency Investigative Services  
A/Superintendent D. Gomez, Community Services  
A/Superintendent L. Hughes, Executive Services  
A/Superintendent C. Sirie, Operational Support  
Inspector S. Magistrale, Duty Office  
Inspector S. Parrent, Duty Office  
Staff Sergeant M. Casella, Training Unit  
D/Sergeant N. Abbott, Executive Officer to D/C Operational Services  
Sergeant J. Hicks, Training Unit  
R. Audeh, Corporate Strategy and Innovation Manager  
H. Perez, Corporate Analyst  
S. Sabourin, Corporate Communications Manager  
M. Asher, Executive Assistant to the Chief

**OTHERS:**

Mr. D. Tilley, Policing Services Advisor, Inspectorate of Policing, Ministry of the Solicitor General

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Service Board commenced at 9:29 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 Hattiwendaronk, 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, January 23, 2025**

Moved by: L. Ip

Seconded by: J. Lawson

**That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, January 23, 2025 be adopted as circulated.**

**Carried**

## **5. REPORTS FROM BOARD CHAIR**

**Welcome to Police Services Advisor** - On behalf of the Board, Chair Chiocchio welcomed Dave Tilley to the meeting. Dave is with the Inspectorate of Policing at the Ministry of the Solicitor General and he serves as a Policing Services Advisor to Zone 4 Police Boards in Ontario. Dave regularly attends the meetings as part of the routine visits by Policing Services Advisors to Police Boards across the Province. The Board is pleased to see his continued attendance at their monthly meetings.

**NRPS Recruit Graduation Ceremony** - On January 23, the Service held a Recruit Graduation ceremony in the Community Room at Police Headquarters. The ceremony recognized four new recruits and two currently serving police officers to the Niagara Regional Police Service as well as one Niagara Parks Police Special Constable to the Niagara Parks Police Service. Chair Chiocchio, Vice Chair Kapisavanhu and Member Lawson attended the event where they had the opportunity to congratulate the officers and meet with members of their families.

**NRPA Recognition Levee - President Pat McGilly** - On January 24, the Niagara Region Police Association hosted a Recognition Levee to celebrate the retirement of NRPA President Pat McGilly, who officially retired on February 1. Chair Chiocchio, Members Lawson, Gibson, McKendrick and Steele attended the event where they had the opportunity to thank Pat for his years of dedication to the members of the Niagara Regional Police Service.

**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. A webinar was held on January 29, and upcoming webinars are scheduled for February 27, March 4 and March 13. Session topics include staffing levels and response times, body worn cameras, hiring Chiefs of Police, and supporting the unhoused. All three webinars start at 12 noon and recorded copies are sent to Board Members for their viewing.

**Community Safety and Well Being Advisory Committee** - On February 3, Member McKendrick attended the Niagara Region's Community Safety and Well Being Committee as the Board's representative. These meetings bring together representatives from policing, paramedics, education, health care, social services and community-based agencies for a coordinated

approach to enhance the well-being of residents and communities that are vulnerable due to social, economic or health related risk factors.

**OACP/OAPSB Zone 4 Meeting** - On February 19, the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards held their Zone 4 Quarterly Meeting at Niagara Regional Police Headquarters. Zone 4 consists of a total of 14 Police Service Boards, including municipal and OPP Contract Boards or First Nations police governance bodies that are located within the regions or counties of Brant, Haldimand, Halton, Hamilton, Niagara, Norfolk and Oxford. These quarterly engagements allow Boards within a certain geographic area to meet for the purpose of discussing matters related to police governance. Chair Chiocchio, Member Lawson and Executive Director Reid attended the meeting on behalf of the Board.

**PAO Employment Conference** - The Police Association of Ontario (PAO) held its annual Employment Conference on February 25-26 in Toronto. Discussions focused on a variety of topics including, the Community Safety and Police Act; collective bargaining developments, best practices, and challenges; the implications of Ontario's new statutory framework, and police disciplinary and human rights decisions. Chair Chiocchio, Member Lawson, Executive Director Reid, Board Solicitor McKaig and Service staff attended the conference.

**Gillian's Place - Breakfast to End Gender-Based Violence** - On March 25, Gillian's Place will host a breakfast event aimed at ending gender-based violence. The breakfast is being held in St. Catharines at Club Roma in the Starlight Room and registration will begin at 7:30 am with the event beginning at 8:00 am. Board members interested in attending are asked to confirm with Board staff by March 10.

**Special Recognition - King Charles III Coronation Medal** – Chief Bill Fordy has been selected to receive the King Charles “The Third” Coronation Medal in recognition of his outstanding contributions to public safety and crime prevention and community leadership. Director Akram Askoul has also been selected to receive this distinguished honour for his work in Information Technology. The King Charles Medal is awarded to those who have made a significant contribution to Canada or to a particular province, territory, region or community of Canada, or have made an outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada. A presentation ceremony will take place in Ottawa on March 26. This honour is a testament to the respect and admiration that Chief Fordy and Director Askoul have gained and the Board offered their congratulations.

**Upcoming Police Service Board Meetings** - There are no Committee Meetings scheduled for March. The next scheduled regular monthly Board meeting is Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 9:30 am in the Community Room at Police Headquarters.

## **6. REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

### **Community Safety:**

**January 27, 2025** – Members attended the Town and Gown in Thorold for discussions focused on current police and school issues.

**January 29, 2025** - Members attended a roundtable and workshop in Toronto involving many senior leaders and staff from numerous police services. Discussions focused on police response to calls involving persons in crisis, which were very informative and timely, given the large volume of mental health calls the NRPS is responding to as police continue to find better solutions and collaboration along with community service providers.

**February 18, 2025** - Senior leaders and members of our CORE Unit met with Welland Mayor Campion and his staff. A discussion was held regarding ongoing initiatives, including those related to Thorold's new shelter and their downtown core. These continued meetings are part of the Service's ongoing engagement with all municipalities in Niagara to work together and collaborate in finding solutions and addressing community concerns.

**February 19, 2025** – The Service hosted the OACP Zone 4 meeting at Police Headquarters, welcoming their police service partners from Zone 4 and members of the Board for ongoing collaboration and knowledge sharing as they work to keep their communities safe.

**February 25, 2025** – Members attended the Thorold Council meeting where discussions focused on working in partnership.

### **Community Engagement**

**January 23, 2025** – Members celebrated with four new recruits and two currently serving officers at the Recruit Graduation Ceremony.

**January 27, 2025** – Members of the EDI Unit and CORE attended Brock University for "80 Years Later, Living Archives", an International Holocaust Remembrance Day event.

**January 31, 2025** – Members attended a rebranding event at the former Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre, which is now known as "Bridges Niagara".

**February 4, 2025** – Members attended Mayor Siscoe's pancake breakfast in St. Catharines, raising funds to support homeless prevention programs at Community Care of St Catharines and Thorold.

**February 5 & 6, 2025** - As part of their continued efforts in building trust, the EDI Unit attended both Niagara on the Lake and Welland Niagara College campuses to meet and chat with international students. They fielded questions about policing in Niagara, responding to incidents of hate and tenant rights and responsibilities in Niagara.

**February 6, 2025** – Members of the EDI Unit met with Niagara Health System EDI staff to discuss possibilities for opportunities for cross-training and collaboration.

**February 11, 2025** - Members played an indoor soccer match against youth from Bridges Niagara at the Welland Sportsplex. The NRPS lost a close game with the final score being 3-2.

**February 12, 2025** - Members attended an event celebrating Black heritage and youth excellence hosted by the Welland Heritage and Multicultural Center.

**February 18, 2025** – Members welcomed Janet Madume, Executive Director of the Welland Heritage and Multicultural Center, as part of Black History Month. This was a learning event hosted at Police Headquarters. The Executive Director spoke on several topics; including her journey as a black female in a leadership role in Niagara and the overall importance of EDI in all aspects of professional and personal life.

**February 22, 2025** - Members of the Service, including the CORE Unit, attended the "Coldest Night of the Year" community walk in St. Catharines. This fundraising walk is held in over 100 communities across Canada to raise awareness and spread compassion for those dealing with homelessness and food insecurity. Start Me Up was chosen as the charity benefiting from the fundraiser this year.

**February 25, 2025** – Members of the EDI Unit met with faculty at Niagara College and discussed the role and function of the EDI Unit in assisting the community and scholastic institutions. The Service is restarting ride longs with students from Niagara College and Brock University after a hiatus due to the covid pandemic. This will give students in law adjacent programs an opportunity to experience frontline policing firsthand, with safety and privacy measures in place. Students will also experience two days with various units in a learning setting, including forensics, communications and courts. Sixteen students were selected from a competitive process for this opportunity as part of the ongoing work of the Recruiting Unit in attracting the best candidates.

### **Member Wellness:**

**NRPA President Retirement** - On behalf of the Service, Chief Fordy wished recently retired Niagara Regional Police Association President Pat McGilly all the best as he enters a new chapter in his life, thanking Pat for his many years of service.

**Hybrid Work Program** - The Service's Hybrid Work Program began on February 1. Members are now enrolled and are working under the program criteria with service delivery and community safety remaining a top priority.

**Member Wellness Challenge** - As reported last month, the Service's Member Wellness Committee invited members and their families to participate in an 8-week challenge, which is now underway and has participants utilizing healthy eating guides, recipes and physical activity options.

**February 18, 2025** - In anticipation of Mental Health Awareness Month in May, police staff are meeting with members of the Member Support Unit to begin talks about how best to collaborate and get members involved in the upcoming initiatives.

**February 25, 2025** - In recognition of the upcoming International Women's Day on March 8, the Service's Women in Policing ISN hosted a two-hour session featuring OPP Detective Constable Laura Empey. Discussions focused on Detective Constable Empey's 29 year career in policing and the session included an empowering panel discussion with Service members who shared experiences and perspectives.

## **7. PRESENTATIONS**

### **7.1 NRPS Training - Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)**

Presentation on the NRPS Training Unit and the operational and infrastructure demands as a result of the mandated training requirements under the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA).

Moved by: T. McKendrick

Seconded by: K. Gibson

**That the presentation be received.**

**Carried**

## **8. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **8.1 Quarterly Report - Niagara Parks Police Service Special Constables - October 1 to December 31, 2024**

Correspondence dated January 21, 2025 from Chief Paul Forcier, Niagara Parks Police Service, providing a quarterly report about complaints, use of force, discipline and arrests associated to officers designated as Special Constables and employed with the Niagara Parks Police Service.

### **8.2 Quarterly Report - Overtime Activities Incurred by NRPS - October 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated January 30, 2025 providing the Board with a five-year uniform and civilian quarterly and year-to-date overtime trend analysis.

### **8.3 Semi-Annual Report - Administration of the Internal Complaints Against Police Officers - May 24 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 6, 2025 submitted in accordance with the semi-annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 514-2024.

### **8.4 Annual Report - Administration of Internal Complaint System for Conduct of Special Constables - May 23 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 6, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 515-2024.

### **8.5 Annual Report - Administration of Public Complaints System for Conduct of Special Constables - May 23 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 5, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 509-2024.

**8.6 Annual Report - Appointment of Special Constables - Niagara Regional Police Service - April 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated January 27, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 465-2024.

**8.7 Annual Report - Appointment of Special Constables - Special Constable Employers - April 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated January 30, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 466-2024.

**8.8 Annual Report - Collection of Identifying Information- Prohibition Duties - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated January 22, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 468-2024.

**8.9 Annual Report - Conflicts of Interest of Police Service Members - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 5, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 510-2024.

**8.10 Annual Report - Criminal Intelligence Unit - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated January 23, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 441-2024.

**8.11 Annual Report - Drug Investigations - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 3, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 443-2024.

**8.12 Annual Report - Fundraising for Service Related Organizations - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated January 31, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 414-2024.

**8.13 Annual Report - Hate-Bias Motivated Crimes and Hate Propaganda Offences - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 4, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 447-2024.

**8.14 Annual Report - Informants and Agents - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated January 20, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 449-2024.

**8.15 Annual Report - Major Incident Command - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated January 27, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 482-2024.

**8.16 Annual Report - Marked Patrol Vehicles - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 10, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 484-2024.

**8.17 Annual Report - Occupational Health and Safety - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated January 24, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 419-2024.

**8.18 Annual Report - Police Action at Labour Disputes - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 5, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 487-2024.

**8.19 Annual Report - Public Order Units - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated January 27, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 495-2024.

**8.20 Annual Report - Solicitation and Acceptance of Public Donations, Sponsorships or Private Sector Funding Arrangements - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated January 31, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 424-2024.

**8.21 Reserve Fund Continuity Schedule - Period ending December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 7, 2025 submitted in accordance with the Board's Financial Reporting, Control and Procurement By-Law (No. 412-2024) and the Region's Reserve and Reserve Fund Policy (C-F-013) to provide a status report outlining the appropriate use and funding of all Niagara Regional Police Service and Board reserves.

Moved by: L. Ip

Seconded by: N. Kapisavanhu

**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**9.1 Financial Variance Overview - Year Ending December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 7, 2025 submitted in accordance with the Board's Financial Reporting, Control and Procurement By-Law (No. 412-2024) to provide an analysis of the 2024 year-end financial results for the Niagara Regional Police Service and Board, and including the Service's recommended reserve transfers to offset the one-time costs associated with the implementation of the Community Safety and Policing Act (CPSA) 2019 and the Ontario Police Video Training Alliance (OPTVA) operating expenses.

Moved by: J. Lawson

Seconded by: T. McKendrick

**That subject to the approval by the Regional Council of the Consolidated Regional Year End Transfer Report, the Niagara Police Service Board approve the following transfers:**

- 1. \$38,801.00 from the Ontario Police Video Training Alliance (OPVTA) Reserve Fund mitigating a deficit in the current year operations in accordance with the Niagara Region Reserve and Reserve Funds Policy C-F-013; and**
- 2. \$501,663.58 from the Police Contingency Reserve Fund to fund one-time 2024 expenditures related to the implementation of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA).**

**Carried**

**9.2 Renewal of TELUS Corporate Customer Agreement - Wireless Services**

Service report dated February 4, 2025 requesting the Board approve renewing the Wireless Services Customer Agreement with TELUS for the provision of wireless voice and data services, discounted mobile smartphone devices, and premium support services.

Moved by: K. Gibson  
Seconded by: L. Ip

**That the Niagara Police Service Board approve the Wireless Services Corporate Customer Agreement with TELUS, at an annual cost of \$399,000.00 plus HST (net of rebates) as attached to the report and authorize the Chief of Police to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.**

**Carried**

**9.3 Annual Report - Missing Persons - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated January 20, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-Law 485-2024.

Moved by: N. Kapisavanhu  
Seconded by: J. Lawson

**That the report be provided to the Ministry of the Solicitor General and be posted on the Niagara Regional Police Service website, pursuant to Section 8 (2) of the Missing Persons Act, 2018.**

**Carried**

**9.4 Quarterly Report - Special Fund Activity - Period of October 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated January 30, 2025 submitted in accordance with the quarterly reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 403-2024, and recommending the account's excess funds be donated to the Niagara Regional Police Foundation.

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

**That the Niagara Police Service Board waive section 8.1 of Board By-Law 403-2024, Administration, Limitations, and Guidelines of the Special Fund, and approve a transfer in the amount of \$77,920.90 to the Niagara Regional Police Foundation.**

**Carried**

**9.5 Special Fund Requests**

Service and Board reports requesting Board authorization of the following Special Fund donations:

1. Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB) Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting - \$1,000;
2. Socks for Change Program - \$1,500;
3. Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce Women in Niagara - International Women's Day Event - \$903.89;
4. Communications Unit/Telecommunicator Week - \$2,000;
5. NRPS Men's Jimmy Williams Hockey Team - \$1,500;



6. NRPS Women in Police ISN Lunch and Learn Initiative - \$3,000;
7. NRPS FilmFest - \$5,000; and
8. United Way Campaign Celebration Breakfast - \$400.

Moved by: L. Ip  
Seconded by: J. Lawson

**That the Board authorize the Special Fund donations and approve payment as outlined in the reports.**

**Carried**

**10. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

There was no other new business raised or discussed.

**11. IN CAMERA REPORTS**

There were no in camera reports.

**12. MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

Moved by: N. Kapisavanhu  
Seconded by: T. McKendrick

**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 from vendors for contract awards, as well as legal matters that are subject to solicitor-client privilege.**

**Carried**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.

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Pat Chiochio, Chair

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Deb Reid, Executive Director