



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
POLICE SERVICES BOARD
PUBLIC MINUTES

Thursday, April 21, 2022
Niagara Regional Police Service - Headquarters
Community Room 1st Floor, 5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls

PSB MEMBERS:

B. Steele, Chair
D. Eke, Vice-Chair
H. D'Angela, Board Member
B. Gale, Board Member
J. Lawson, Board Member

W. McKaig, Board Solicitor
D. Cichocki, Executive Assistant

NRPS MEMBERS:

Chief of Police B. MacCulloch
Deputy Chief B. Fordy, Support Services
A/Deputy Chief B. Ash, Operational Services
Superintendent R. Frayne, Corporate Services
Superintendent M. Giannico, District Operations
A/Superintendent L. Hughes, Operational Support
A/Superintendent J. Leigh, Emergency Investigative Services
Inspector D. Masotti, Executive Officer to the Chief
D/Sergeant K. Fiddes, Executive Officer to Deputy Chief
Constable R. Campbell, Casino Patrol Unit
Constable B. Emmerson, Casino Patrol Unit
P. Divers, Corporate Analyst
L. Rullo, Finance Manager
S. Sabourin, Corporate Communications Manager
M. Asher, Executive Assistant to the Chief

OTHERS:

R. LeClair, Policing Services Advisor, Ministry of the Solicitor General
H. Zehr, Policing Services Advisor, Ministry of the Solicitor General

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board commenced at 9:04 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 Services 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, March 24, 2022

Moved by: B. Gale

Seconded by: D. Eke

That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, March 24, 2022 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. REPORTS FROM BOARD CHAIR

Welcome to Ministry Policing Services Advisor - On behalf of the Board, Chair Steele welcomed Ron LeClair and Hank Zerh to the meeting. Ron and Hank are with the Inspectorate of Policing at the Ministry of the Solicitor General and they serve as a Policing Services Advisors to Police Boards in Ontario. They attended the meeting as part of their routine visits by Policing Services Advisors to Police Boards across the Province. The Board was pleased that Ron and Hank attended the meeting and Board Members look forward to their continued participation at future meetings.

NRPS Presentation at Local City and Town Council Meetings - At its meeting held December 16, 2021, the Niagara Police Services Board passed a motion requesting the Service attend a Council Meeting for each of Niagara's local municipalities to address any local police related questions or concerns specific to each Municipal Council. In addition, any Board Members who represent or reside in the respective municipality attend the Council meeting as a Board representative for this important initiative.

To date, presentations have been made to Port Colborne City Council, Fort Erie Town Council, Niagara Falls City Council, Town of Lincoln Council, Thorold City Council and West Lincoln Town Council. Upcoming presentations have been scheduled as follows:

- Wainfleet Town Council on May 10 at 7 pm;
- Welland City Council on May 17 at 7 pm; and
- Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Council on May 30 at 6 pm.

Ontario Association of Police Services Boards Zone 4 Quarterly Meeting - The Ontario Association of Police Services Boards is holding its Zone 4 Quarterly Meeting on May 11 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Zone 4 consists of a total of 14 Police Services Boards, including municipal and OPP Contract Boards, and 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.

Canadian Association of Police Governance Webinar Sessions - The Canadian Association of Police Governance 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 April 7, Board Members attended a webinar entitled “The Impact of Hate Crimes on Your Community”, to examine the outbreak of hate crimes across Canada, within the scope of the current global health, economic and civil unrest crises. A webinar is also being held later this day at 12:00 pm entitled “Churn at the Top – Why is it so Hard to Get the Right Chief?” for discussion on the various aspects of recruiting and hiring the “right” choice as police chief, and on May 19 from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm, the CAPG is holding a Research Roundtable.

NRPS Annual Awards Ceremony - On May 9, the Niagara Regional Police Service, along with the Niagara Police Services Board, the Niagara Region Police Association and the Senior Officers’ Association will host its Annual Awards Ceremony. This event recognizes outstanding Service Members and fellow citizens who have demonstrated excellence or made invaluable contributions to the Niagara community, along with Service retirees and long-standing employees for their commitment to the Service. The ceremony is being held at the Americana Hotel in Niagara Falls at 5:00 pm and all Board members and staff will be attending the event.

Upcoming PSB Meeting - There are no Committee meetings scheduled next month; and the next Board Meeting will be held Thursday, May 19 at 9:00 am in the Community Room at Niagara Regional Police Headquarters.

6. REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

COVID-19 and the Niagara Regional Police Service - As previously outlined in the March 24, 2022 Board report, most COVID restrictions were lifted by the Provincial government and in keeping in step with the province, the Service lifted most of its workplace restrictions. While it was anticipated that all remaining provincial restrictions such as masking requirements in congregate care and living settings were to come to an end on April 27, 2022, with the expiry of all emergency orders and the rising number of COVID cases throughout the province, the future remains very much uncertain.

Currently, the Service requires that masks be worn in the Prisoner Management Unit, however, it is anticipated that masks will no longer be mandatory as of April 27, nonetheless masking will still be recommended. The Service will continue to require all members and visitors successfully complete the COVID Daily Screener prior to, or immediately upon entering any work facility, at least for the foreseeable future. Additionally, as has been the practice for the last year and a half, the Service will no longer be submitting monthly “Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic” reports to the Board, as currently, with the lifting of restrictions and the impact of the pandemic on our organization, there is nothing significant to report. That said, the Board will be notified accordingly should the spectre of COVID begin to significantly impact the Service by way of re-introduced workplace restrictions, illness or staffing issues.

Consistent with the rising COVID cases throughout the province, the NRPS also saw an increase in members out of the workplace due to COVID-related illness or COVID self-isolation requirements. Despite this trend, the Service has been able to maintain adequate staffing levels and has not had to cancel any scheduled time off for members and staff will continue to monitor the ever-evolving situation and take necessary steps when required.

Despite the lifting of restrictions in the workplace, the Service continues to encourage physical distancing, proper hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette in the workplace as well as to maintain an adequate supply of PPE, including N95 and surgical masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and wipes. The supply chains for PPE continues to be monitored and assessed to ensure that the NRPS is well positioned for the future.

Members of the Service, sworn and civilian, continue to do an outstanding job during this unprecedented time. Their ongoing dedication and professionalism in serving the community is recognized and greatly appreciated.

Operational Statistics:

Attempted Homicides - Reporting Period of March 23 to April 19, 2022

- 2 for this reporting period with a total of 4 for 2022 to-date.

Homicides - Reporting Period of March 23 to April 19, 2022

- 1 for this reporting period with a total of 1 for 2022 to date, compared to year-end totals of 6 in 2021, 5 in 2020, 7 in 2019 and 2 in 2018.

Homicide – Incident of April 8, 2022 - At approximately 12:30 am, officers responded to multiple reports of a shooting near the Great Canadian Midway on Clifton Hill in Niagara Falls. Upon arrival, officers located three individuals that had been shot. One victim was pronounced deceased, while the other two victims were transported to out-of-town hospitals for further medical treatment and are currently listed as being in stable condition. All victims in this matter are under 18 years of age.

At the time of the incident, a blue 4-door Ford F-150 Super Crew Cab pick-up truck was observed leaving the area at a high rate of speed. The vehicle had dark tinted windows, a tri-fold tonneau cover, and a moonroof. The vehicle, which had visible damage and was missing a door handle and front licence plate, was last seen travelling west on Lundy's Lane toward the area of Montrose Road and Highway 420 in Niagara Falls. The Homicide Unit has carriage of this matter and the investigation continues.

Anyone with information or who may have been in the area with any dash-cam footage is asked to contact Detective Sergeant Knevel, Homicide Unit, at 905-688-4111, Option 4, Badge #9104. Members of the public who wish to provide information anonymously are encouraged to contact Crime Stoppers of Niagara online or by calling 1-800-222-8477(TIPS). Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards to persons who contact the program.

Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC) - Reporting Period of March 1 to March 31, 2022

- 2 for this reporting period with a total of 5 for the period of January 1 to March 31, 2022, compared to year-end totals of 21 for 2021, 16 in 2020, 13 in 2019, 13 in 2018 and 16 in 2017.

Fatal MVC – Incident of March 13, 2022 - Shortly after midnight, officers responded to a report of an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) collision on Garrison Village Drive in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Initial investigation determined that a 16-year-old male had lost control of his ATV causing it to overturn. The male was transported to an out-of-town hospital in critical condition. On March 24, 2022, the male succumbed to his injuries in hospital. The investigation into this matter continues by the Collision Reconstruction Unit.

Fatal MVC – Incident of March 29, 2022 - Shortly after 5:30 am, officers responded to a report of a head-on collision involving an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and a minivan on Caistorville Road in West Lincoln. Initial investigation determined that a 38-year-old male was operating an ATV northbound on Caistorville Road near Concession Road 3 when it collided with a minivan in the southbound lane. The operator of the ATV was pronounced deceased on scene. The minivan had four occupants, two sustained minor injuries and two received serious injuries and are expected to survive. The investigation into this matter continues by the Collision Reconstruction Unit.

Life Threatening Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC) - Reporting Period of March 1 to March 31, 2022

- 1 for this reporting period.

Life Threatening MVC – Incident of March 28, 2022 - Officers responded to a report of a serious collision at Bowen Road and Pettit Road in Fort Erie. Initial investigation determined that a 78-year-old female was operating a Chevrolet motor vehicle eastbound on Bowen Road when it collided with a Freightliner truck being operated by a 53-year-old male. As a result of the collision, the driver of the Chevrolet received life-threatening injuries while an 81-year-old male passenger received serious injuries. The driver of the truck was not injured. The investigation into this matter continues by the Collision Reconstruction Unit.

Enforcement Initiatives:

Foot Patrol Initiative Results in Break and Enter Arrest - At approximately 6:00 am on March 23, officers were engaged in a foot patrol initiative in the area of Queen Street and Chrysler Avenue in the City of Niagara Falls. After hearing the sound of breaking glass, officers located a suspect exiting a restaurant through a broken glass window. The suspect was carrying stolen consumable goods and tools in the amount of \$700. A 30-year-old Niagara Falls man was arrested and charged with the offence of Break and Enter.

Loaded Firearm and Illicit Drugs Seized during Search Warrant - In January of 2022, Street Crime Unit Detectives from St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Welland commenced an investigation into the distribution of illicit drugs throughout the Region of Niagara. On April 6, officers executed a search warrant at a home in Thorold, resulting in the discovery of a loaded 9mm firearm, crystal methamphetamine, fentanyl, cocaine, and \$2,100 in proceeds of crime. The combined estimated street value is \$360,000. Four persons, all from Toronto, are facing 34 criminal charges pertaining to drug trafficking and weapons related offences.

Man Arrested Following Abduction Investigation in Niagara Falls - A Niagara Falls male is facing attempted abduction charges following an investigation at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre. Over the weekend of April 8-10, the Niagara Falls Convention Centre hosted the Canadian Cheerleaders All-Star National Championships. Officers arrived on scene and their initial investigation determined that on April 9, at approximately 11:00 pm, a male food service station employee completed his shift and entered the public area of the building. A coach observed this male approach a 9-year-old girl and try to remove her from the building. The coach intervened and a short time later, the male again attempted to remove a 10-year-old girl from the building. The suspect fled the scene when he observed concerned coaches approaching him.

Neither child was physically injured. The suspect and the child victims were not known to each other. The investigation was immediately assigned to Detectives for follow-up. As a result of the investigation the suspect's identity was determined. A 19-year-old suspect was arrested and charged accordingly on April 10 when he returned to work at the Convention Centre.

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 NRPS Bicycle Registry Program - "Garage 529" Initiative

Superintendent Richard Frayne and Constables Ryan Campbell and Brett Emmerson provided a presentation to formally launch the Niagara Regional Police Service's Bicycle Registry Program "Garage 529" initiative. This program will help ensure that stolen bikes that are recovered by police can be linked back to the owner and returned using information from the registration system and an owner-submitted police report. The program also incorporates a community-watch for bicycles so that when a bike is reported stolen, "Garage 529" users within a 15 kilometer radius receive a notification with details of the missing bike via the "Garage 529" application. Individuals can also report any suspected bicycle theft activity. In addition to the numerous advantages of this program, the bike registry is universal across jurisdictions for maximum effectiveness and an ease of not having to re-register when moving from one area to another.

Following Superintendent Frayne's slide presentation, Constables Emmerson and Campbell demonstrated how to register a bike using the NRPS website and mobile phone app. In addition, the Niagara Regional Police Service will be attending a variety of community events to assist members of the public with the registration process. The Board suggested that the NRPS Community Engagement Unit also consider reaching out to local municipalities about the program so that it can be promoted locally within each respective municipality in Niagara.

Moved by: J. Lawson

Seconded by: H. D'Angela

That the presentation be received.

Carried

8. CONSENT AGENDA

8.1 Niagara River Rescue and Recovery Operations

Service report dated April 5, 2022 submitted in response to Board direction provided at the January 27, 2022 Public Board Meeting requesting further details related to rescue and body recoveries in the Niagara River basin.

Moved by: B. Gale

Seconded by: J. Lawson

That the matter be deferred to the May 19, 2022 Public Board Meeting;

And further, that the Chief of Police of the Niagara Parks Police Service be invited to attend for consideration of this item.

Carried

8.2 Quarterly Report - Brock University Special Constables - January 1 to March 31, 2022

Report dated April 21, 2022 from Ken Chan, Vice-President, Administration, Brock University, providing a quarterly report about complaints, use of force, discipline and arrests associated to officers designated as Special Constables while employed with Brock University Campus Security Services.

8.3 Annual Report - Accessibility Standards for Customer Service/Accessibility Standards By-laws - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated March 8, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-laws 366-2017 and 367-2017.

8.4 Annual Report - Child Pornography - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated March 23, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 333-2013.

8.5 Annual Report - Hate/Bias Motivated Crimes and Hate Propaganda Offences - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated March 23, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 199/200-2000.

8.6 Annual Report - Illegal Gaming - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated March 1, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 224-2000.

8.7 Annual Report - Marine Unit - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated March 28, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 227-2000.

8.8 Annual Report - Stolen or Smuggled Firearms - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated March 23, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 211-2000.

8.9 Annual Report - Underwater Search and Recovery - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated March 28, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 273-2005.

8.10 Annual Report - Vehicle Theft - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated March 23, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 235-2000.

Moved by: D. Eke

Seconded by: J. Lawson

That the information be received.

Carried

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 City of Port Colborne Resolution - Catch and Release Justice

Correspondence dated March 4, 2022 from Amber LaPointe, City Clerk, City of Port Colborne, addressed to the Niagara Police Services Board and the Niagara Regional Police Service advising of a resolution passed by Port Colborne City Council requesting additional information about a resolution passed by the Township of Perth South in support of the City of Sarnia's resolution calling on Federal and Provincial Governments to make improvements to the release of offenders known as "Catch and Release Justice".

Moved by: H. D'Angela

Seconded by: D. Eke

That the matter be referred to the Chief of Police for a report back to the Board for further submission to the City of Port Colborne Council Members.

Carried

9.2 Police Services Board - Transitioning to Hybrid Meeting Format

Report dated April 5, 2022 from Deb Reid, Executive Director, Niagara Police Services Board, providing the Board with additional information about transitioning to a hybrid meeting format that has both a physical "in-person" format and a "virtual" online component for remote attendees.

Moved by: J. Lawson

Seconded by: D. Eke

That the Board receives the report for information purposes;

And further that, the Board fully transition to a hybrid meeting format that has both a physical "in-person" format and a "virtual" online component for remote attendees to participate by Zoom Video/Audio Conferencing, this includes Board Members, Board Staff, Police Service Members, and Members of the Public for Delegations and Presentations.

Carried

9.3 Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Annual Maintenance and Support - March 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023

Service report dated March 16, 2022 requesting approval of payment for continuation of the Computer Aided Dispatch annual maintenance and support services being provided to the Niagara Regional Police Service by Versaterm as indicated in the attached invoice and included in the 2022 Technology Services Operating Budget.

Moved by: H. D'Angela
Seconded by: D. Eke

That the Board approve payment in the amount of \$282,826.86, including HST (net of rebates), to Versaterm for annual maintenance renewal, CCY22-23 Budgetary Support Quote CAD System, for the Service's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System.

Carried

9.4 Records Management System (RMS) - Annual Maintenance and Support - June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023

Service report dated March 16, 2021 requesting approval of payment for continuation of the Records Management System annual maintenance and support services being provided to the Niagara Regional Police Service by Versaterm as indicated in the attached invoice and included in the 2022 Technology Services Operating Budget.

Moved by: J. Lawson
Seconded by: H. D'Angela

That the Board approve payment in the amount of \$197,840.45, including HST (net of rebates), to Versaterm for annual maintenance renewal, CY22-23 Budgetary Support Quote RMS System, for the Service's Records Management System (RMS).

Carried

9.5 Special Fund Request - Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (OWLE) - Annual Awards Banquet

Service report dated April 6, 2022 requesting the Board approve a donation in support of the Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (OWLE) 22nd Annual Awards Banquet and further endorse the Service's support of being the host agency, in partnership with OWLE, of the International Association of Women Police (IAWP) 59th conference in Niagara Falls, September 12-16, 2022. (*Previous donation: 2019 - \$250*)

Moved by: D. Eke
Seconded by: J. Lawson

That the Board approve a Special Fund donation in the amount of \$500.00 to support the Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (OWLE) 22nd Annual Awards Banquet.

Carried

9.6 Special Fund Request - NRPS Cuffs on Cancer Team - Rankin Cancer Run

Service report dated March 28, 2022 requesting the Board approve a donation for the NRPS Cuffs for Cancer Team participating in the event and to offset costs incurred by Members for fundraising initiatives prior to the Annual Rankin Cancer Run which is being held virtually throughout the month of May 2022. (*Previous Board donations: 2017-2019 - \$500*)

Moved by: H. D'Angela
Seconded by: D. Eke

That the Board authorize a donation from the Special Fund in the amount of \$500.00 for the NRPS Cuffs on Cancer Team to offset costs incurred by members participating in the annual Rankin Cancer Run.

Carried

10. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

There was no other new business.

11. IN CAMERA REPORTS

There are no in camera reports.

12. 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 9:57 am.

William C. Steele, Chair

Deb Reid, Executive Director