



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA POLICE SERVICES BOARD

PUBLIC MINUTES

Thursday, January 23, 2020

**Niagara Regional Police Service
Community Room 1st Floor, 5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls**

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board commenced at 8:34 am.

ROLL CALL

PSB MEMBERS: Mr. K. Gansel, Chair
Mr. B. Steele, Vice Chair
Mr. H. D'Angela
Mr. D. Eke
Mr. B. Gale
Mr. K. Gibson
Ms. T. McKendrick

Ms. D. Reid, Executive Director

NRPS MEMBERS: Chief of Police B. MacCulloch
Deputy Chief B. Flynn, Operational Support
Deputy Chief Fordy, Support Services
Ms. W. Shreve, General Counsel
Superintendent B. Ash, Emergency & Investigative Services
Superintendent D. Meade, Executive Services
Superintendent C. White, District Operations
A/Superintendent P. McCauley, Operational Support
Inspector M. Woods, Executive Services
Mr. A. Askoul, Director of Information and Technology
Ms. L. DiDonato-DeChellis, Director of Business Services
Inspector D. Masotti, Executive Officer to Chief of Police
Inspector T. Waselovich, Professional/Career Development, Labour Relations
A/Inspector L. Greco, Professional Standards
A/Inspector M. Lagrotteria, Operational Support
D/Sergeant N. Dave, Executive Officer to Deputy Chief Support Services
D/Sergeant S. Magistrale, Executive Officer to Deputy Chief Operational Support
Ms. S. Sabourin, Media Relations Specialist

MEDIA: Mr. B. Jones, Citizen

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict or pecuniary interest.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Executive Director called for nominations for the position of Chair.

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

That Ken Gansel be nominated for the position of Chair.

Carried.

Member Gansel agreed to let his name stand.

Moved by: H. D'Angela
Seconded by: T. McKendrick

That the nominations for the position of Chair be closed.

Carried.

There being no further nominations, the following motion was passed:

Moved by: B. Steele
Seconded by: H. D'Angela

That Ken Gansel be elected Chair of the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board for the year 2020.

Carried.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The Executive Director called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

Moved by: H. D'Angela
Seconded by: T. McKendrick

That Bill Steele be nominated for the position of Vice Chair.

Carried.

Member Steele agreed to let his name stand.

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

That the nominations for the position of Vice Chair be closed.

Carried.

There being no further nominations, the following motion was passed:

Moved by: D. Eke
Seconded by: T. McKendrick

That Bill Steele be elected Vice Chair of the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board for the year 2020.

Carried.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, December 12, 2019.

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

That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, December 12, 2019 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

REPORTS FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

(Chair Gansel reminded everyone in attendance that the Police Services Board meeting is being live streamed and the video recording of the meeting will be posted on the Board's You Tube channel.)

Tribute to Indigenous Lands – Chair Gansel began the meeting by acknowledging that the land on which this meeting is regularly held is the traditional territory of the First Nations peoples. In particular he recognized and thanked the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples for their stewardship of these lands over the millennia. A special thank you was also extended to all of the First Nations peoples in Canada for their ongoing and important roles in caretaking of the lands beneath our feet, whenever we stand on Turtle Island.

Moment of Silence - Words cannot express the tremendous grief our nation and many other countries are experiencing over the devastating plane crash in Iran earlier this month. Meeting attendees joined together for a moment of silence as a sign of condolence for the innocent men, women and children who lost their lives aboard Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752 on January 8th, 2020 in Tehran. The Board extended its deepest sympathies to all 176 victims, which included many Canadians, and to the victims' families and friends of all those who lost their lives in this horrific tragedy.

Community Safety & Well-Being Planning - On December 12th, Member McKendrick attended the Region's initial Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Advisory Committee meeting as the Board's representative who serves on the Advisory Committee. Member McKendrick spoke briefly to the meeting to advise that the development of the Plan is in the preliminary phase and that she looks forward to providing strategic feedback throughout the development of Niagara's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and reporting back to Board and the Service on the progression being made. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for January 30th and February 24th.

NRPS Communications Unit – Accreditation Ceremony - On December 16th, the Service hosted a ceremony to recognize the NRPS Communications Unit for being designated an Accredited Centre of Excellence by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch. This was a monumental achievement by the members of the Communications Unit. The NRPS recognition was the first in Ontario and only the second organization in Canada to achieve the accreditation. Chair Gansel, Members D'Angela, Eke, Gibson, McKendrick and Board staff attended this event.

NRPS Recruit Graduation/Swearing-In Ceremony - On December 19th, the Service held a Recruit Graduation/Swearing-In Ceremony for 10 new Niagara Regional Police Service constables and two new members to the Niagara Parks Police. Members D'Angela and Eke attended the event on behalf of the Board.

Chief's Charity Gala - On January 16th, the Niagara Regional Police Service hosted its 4th Annual Chief's Charity Gala at the Americana Conference Resort in Niagara Falls. This formal event is a major fundraiser for Victims Services Niagara and this year the featured guest speaker was Amanda Lindhout who is a New York Times Bestselling Author and Expert on Resilience, Survival and Optimal Mindset. Chair Gansel, Vice Chair Steele, Members D'Angela, Eke, Gibson, McKendrick, Mr. McKaig and Ms. Reid attended the event.

NRPS 1 District Facility Project - On January 17th, Chair Gansel attended the new 1 District police facility for a site visit. He reported on the progression that has been made since the December Board meeting advising that the structural steel installation is near completion. The roof deck is next to be installed and the second-floor metal deck is about 97% complete. There has been a lot of work done on the conduits both at the ground level and on the second floor. The stairs are in place within the rear stairwell and one set of steel stairs have been installed. The building's back-up generator has been delivered and the project's next phase will see the steel roof deck put into place.

Chair Gansel regularly attends the Joint Region and Police Facilities Steering Committee meetings in his role as Chair of the Board's Accommodation and Steering Committee. The 2020 meeting schedule will reconvene on January 28th and he will be attending that meeting as well as the meeting scheduled for February 25th. He will continue to provide further updates as the project advances.

Regional Chair's Address - On January 30th, Regional Chair Jim Bradley will provide an update in his Regional Address that is being held at the Americana Conference Resort in Niagara Falls from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. The moderated discussion will cover topics including the aftermath of non-amalgamation, the status of development in Niagara, and transportation. Chair Gansel, Vice Chair Steele, Members D'Angela, Eke, Gibson, Ms. Reid and Deputy Chiefs Flynn and Fordy will be attending the event.

OAPSB Zone 4 Meeting - On February 18th, the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police will be holding their Zone 4 Quarterly Meeting. The meeting is being hosted by the Halton Police Services Board.

Toronto Star News Paper Article – Issue of Homelessness - Member Eke requested that following the meeting, the Executive Director circulate a Toronto Star newspaper article to the Board and the Chief covering a story on street homelessness. He stated that the issue of homelessness throughout local communities has become very complex among so many agencies and the article is being submitted as a "food for thought" consideration of an alternative approach to resolving this issue. Chief MacCulloch advised the article can also be circulated to members of the Community Safety & Well-Being Planning Advisory Committee given that homelessness is a key issue being addressed for inclusion in Niagara's Community Safety & Well Being Plan.

Upcoming PSB Meetings

- **Next Committee Meetings** – Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 8:30 am in the Community Room at Police Headquarters.
- **Next Board Meeting** – Thursday, February 27th, at 8:30 am in the Community Room at Police Headquarters.

REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

4th Annual Chief's Gala - On January 16th, the 4th Annual Chief's Charity Gala in support of Victim Services Niagara took place at the Americana Resort in Niagara Falls. This event received over 350 attendees with a targeted fundraising goal of \$28,000. The event was very successful and the net profits raised were approximately \$36,000. Chief MacCulloch thanked the Service's community partners and its major sponsors Meridian, Niagara Casinos and the Americana Resort. He also extended thanks to the Service's Organizing Committee who did a stellar job arranging the event and to the Board in support of their donation approval and attendance.

SIU Notification – Incident of December 31, 2019 - The Special Investigations Unit is investigating the circumstances surrounding a police-involved shooting on December 31, 2019 that resulted in serious injury to a 56 year old male. Preliminary information suggests that Niagara Regional Police Service officers were dispatched to an address at 71 Rykert Street in St. Catharines after receiving a call regarding a male with a knife. Officers located the male and there was an interaction. Two officers discharged their firearms and the male was struck multiple times. The male was transported to hospital for treatment of serious injuries. Given the serious injury from gunshot wounds, the SIU was notified and invoked their mandate to investigate. NRPS members took necessary steps to preserve the scene and any potential evidence pending the arrival of SIU investigators. On January 1st, the injured male succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased. Three officers have been designated as Witness Officers and two officers have been designated Subject Officers by the SIU.

Member Gale advised receiving inquiries from the public about this incident. Chief MacCulloch advised that the matter currently falls within the investigative mandate of the Special Investigation Unit and that the police service and all of its members are not permitted to disclose, to any person, any information with respect to the incident or the investigation. The legislation is very prescriptive and it outlines that a police service may only disclose the fact that the SIU Director has been notified of the incident and that the SIU is conducting an investigation in relation to the incident. Based on that requirement, Chief MacCulloch advised that at this time it would be inappropriate to provide any comment. He also informed that in the interest of public transparency, the SIU Director routinely publishes the full investigative report detailing the findings of each investigation upon its completion.

Niagara Falls Attempt Homicide - On December 15th, police responded to a coffee shop located in the area of Murray Street and Stanley Avenue in Niagara Falls following the report of a stabbing. Further investigation revealed that a male approached a 35 year old male and stabbed him before fleeing on foot. A 33 year old suspect male was eventually located and arrested by officers. The victim was treated in hospital for non-life threatening injuries. The suspect has been charged with various offences including Attempted Murder. The investigation continues.

Incident of January 13, 2020 - Just prior to midnight, 1 District uniform officers responded to a residence on Queenston Street near Eastchester Avenue in St. Catharines regarding reports of a stabbing. When officers arrived it was discovered that a 38 year old male was suffering from life threatening injuries. The male was transported by EMS to the NHS – St. Catharines site where he was subsequently pronounced deceased in the early morning hours of January 14th. An investigation into this matter led to the arrest of a 24 year old male and a 26 year old male who have both been charged with 1st degree murder. The investigation is ongoing and now before the courts.

Operational Statistics:

Attempted Murders

- 1 for this reporting period (during 2019) with a total of 0 for 2020.

Homicides

- 1 for this reporting period with a total of 6 for 2019 to-date, compared to year-end totals of 2 in 2018 compared 3 to in 2017 and 1 in 2016.

There were no fatal motor vehicle collisions, however, one-life threatening injury motor vehicle collision in the month of December 2019.

For the period of January 1 to December 31, 2019 and Comparable Previous Year-End Totals:

Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions (MTO Reportable)

- 13 for 2019 compared to year-end totals of 13 in 2018, 16 in 2017, 16 in 2016, 15 in 2015 and 16 in 2014.

Chief MacCulloch reported on the life threatening collision that occurred during this reporting period.

Incident of December 30, 2019 - Police responded to a collision on Dorchester Road near Coach Drive in the City of Niagara Falls. Investigation determined that a 50 year old female was operating a Dodge motor vehicle north on Dorchester Road near Coach Drive. At this time, a 31 year old male was operating a Toyota motor vehicle south on Dorchester Road approaching the Dodge. Also, behind the Toyota was a Hyundai motor vehicle being operated by a 29 year old male southbound on Dorchester Road. The Dodge motor vehicle crossed into the southbound lane of Dorchester Road striking the Toyota causing a collision. The Hyundai behind the Toyota was unable to avoid this collision and struck the Toyota. Both drivers of the Dodge and Toyota vehicles had to be extricated by emergency services personnel. The driver of the Dodge was transported by EMS to an out of town hospital with serious injuries that were initially thought to be life threatening. However her injuries were downgraded to non-life threatening and she continues to recover in hospital. The driver of the Toyota was transported to a local hospital with serious injuries and is now at home recovering. The driver of the Hyundai was not injured. There were no passengers in any of the vehicles. The driver of the Dodge has been charged with Careless Driving, and Driving without a Licence contrary to the Highway Traffic Act.

Enforcement Initiatives:

Large Quantity of Fentanyl Seized - As a result of information received, Detectives with the 2 District Street Crime Unit began a narcotics trafficking investigation in the City of Niagara Falls. On December 10, 2019, Detectives with the assistance of the Emergency Task Unit, 3 District Street Crime Unit and the Guns Gangs and Grows Unit, executed search warrants at two residences in Niagara Falls and Thorold. Officers seized 1.5 kilograms of fentanyl, 1 kilogram of methamphetamine, and 0.5 kilogram of cocaine, along with over \$20,000 in currency and various drug paraphernalia. The street value of the drugs seized is approximately \$685,000. Five people, from Mississauga and the Wasaga Beach area are facing numerous drug related charges.

Hamilton Woman Charged Following Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL) Incident - A Hamilton woman is facing charges following an investigation into an altercation that occurred in a NOTL parking lot on December 26, 2019. The incident was reported to 2 District uniform officers and subsequent investigation revealed that there was an altercation between two females over a parking spot at the NOTL outlet mall. An investigation by uniform officers and Detectives resulted in the identification of a 51 year old female that was charged with assault and uttering threats as it pertains to this incident.

Festive R.I.D.E. Campaign Concludes in Niagara Falls - On December 31, 2019, members of the Niagara Regional Police conducted R.I.D.E. checkpoints within the City of Niagara Falls during the New Year's Eve celebrations. In total, approximately 350 vehicles entered the checkpoint and each driver was questioned regarding any consumption of alcohol or drugs earlier in the evening. Officers were glad to see that there were many designated drivers out this night, as well as several other transportation services. In total nine drivers were requested to provide a sample of their breath for analysis. Of the drivers tested, one of them received a three day suspension when the result of their breath sample registered a warn on a roadside screening device. The completion of the New Year's Eve R.I.D.E. caps off another Festive R.I.D.E. season in Niagara. The Niagara Regional Police would like to remind all drivers to not drive impaired and find alternative means of transportation if they decide to consume alcohol or cannabis.

Five People Facing Charges - Drug Trafficking Investigation - Since November 2019, members of the 1 District and 3 District Street Crime Units have been investigating drug trafficking in St. Catharines, Thorold and Welland. On January 2nd, with the assistance of the Emergency Task Unit search warrants were executed at residences in the City of Thorold, the City of Welland and the City of Hamilton. As a result, investigators seized over \$34,000 in crystal methamphetamine, \$29,000 in fentanyl, over \$20,000 in cocaine, \$2,500 in hydromorphone, and \$39,000 in currency. Also seized were five firearms along with over 200 rounds of ammunition and brass knuckles. Five persons from Thorold and Welland are all facing numerous drug and weapons related charges.

NRPS Records Checks - Chief MacCulloch provided an update on the status of police record check wait times. The current wait time for vulnerable sector search checks is six days, which is well under the two-week waiting period threshold. Citizens requesting a criminal record background check are able to attend police headquarters and wait for their checks to be processed in real time. Chief MacCulloch advised that the Service is looking to an alternative solution to further streamline the records checks process at peak times given that police services in general are realizing a record number of police checks applications. He also commended the efforts of Records Manager Gary Holden and his team on this important endeavor.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Quarterly Report – Brock University Special Constables – October 1 to December 31, 2019

The Board considered report dated January 2, 2020 from Scott Johnstone, Senior Associate Vice President, Infrastructure & Operations, Brock University Campus Security, providing information relating to the complaints, use of force, discipline and arrests associated to officers designated as Special Constables employed through Brock University.

3. Quarterly Report – Administration of the Public Complaints System – October 1 to December 31, 2019

The Board considered report dated January 9, 2020 from the Service submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 301-2010.

4. Quarterly Report - NRPS Authorized Strength as at January 1, 2020

The Board considered report dated January 10, 2020 from the Service providing a summary of the actual versus authorized strength by rank/salary band of the uniform and civilian complement of the Niagara Regional Police Service.

5. Quarterly Report – Overtime Activities Incurred by the NRPS – July 1 to September 30, 2019

The Board considered report dated January 8, 2020 from the Service providing third quarter and year-to-date summaries of the Niagara Regional Police Service uniform and civilian overtime hours by activity for 2015-2019.

6. Quarterly Report – Special Fund Administration – October 1 to December 31, 2019

The Board considered report dated January 8, 2020 from the Service submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 376-2018 to provide a summary of the transactions for the Niagara Regional Police Service Special Fund.

7. Annual Report – Property Offences - January 1 to December 31, 2018

The Board considered report dated January 13, 2020 from the Service submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 222-2000.

8. Annual Report – Accessibility Standards - January 1 to December 31, 2019

The Board considered report dated January 8, 2020 from the Service submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 367-2017.

9. Annual Report – Promotion of Service Members - January 1 to December 31, 2019

The Board considered report dated January 10, 2020 from the Service submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 187-2000.

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

That the information be received.

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

10. Niagara Police Services Board – 2019 Annual Report on Board Activities

The Board considered correspondence dated January 15, 2020 from Deb Reid, Executive Director, Niagara Police Services Board, submitted in accordance with the Ministry of the Solicitor General's requirement for police boards to publicly release details about their activities.

Chair Gansel announced the retrofit to the Community Room walls to include historical recognition of past Board members and staff tenure with the Police Services Board, along with photos of the current Board membership. The memorial wall for fallen police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty will be redesigned and relocated to a more prominent and visible area in the front lobby at Police Headquarters. Chair Gansel commended Ms. Reid for the well-designed tribute and police staff members who assisted with the project.

Moved by: D. Eke
Seconded by: K. Gibson

That the information be received and forwarded to Regional Council for information purposes.

Carried.

11. Ontario Police Video Training Alliance (OPVTA) - 2020 Business Plan

The Board considered report dated January 7, 2020 requesting the Board approve the 2020 OPVTA Business Plan, which reinforces both the Service's and the Board's commitment to public safety and organizational excellence through the continuance of developing police training materials for over 26,000 police officers representing nearly 90 OPVTA member agencies.

Chair Gansel referenced Appendix 'B' of the report specifically the authorized strength number of 705 reflected for the Niagara Regional Police Service. Chief MacCulloch stated that he will clarify the reasoning for the authorized strength being reported at that number with members of the Video Unit and provide an update to the Board.

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

That the Board approve the 2020 Ontario Police Video Training Alliance Business Plan as outlined in the report.

Carried.

12. Special Fund Request – International Police Hockey Tournament – NRPS Women's Team

The Board considered report dated January 2, 2020 from the Service requesting the Board approve a donation to cover the registration fee for the team to participate in the 2020 International Police Hockey Tournament being held in Ottawa, Ontario on February 27-28, 2020. *(The Board has approved annual donations for NRPS hockey teams in the amount of \$500 since 2006.)*

Moved by: K. Gibson
Seconded by: D. Eke

That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$700.00 from the Special Fund to the NRPS Women's Hockey Team competing in the 2020 International Police Hockey Tournament.

Carried.

- 13. Special Fund Request – International Police Hockey Tournament – NRPS Men's Team**
The Board considered report dated January 2, 2020 from the Service requesting the Board approve a donation to cover the registration fee for the team to participate in the 2020 International Police Hockey Tournament being held in Ottawa, Ontario on February 27-28, 2020. *(The Board has approved annual donations for NRPS hockey teams in the amount of \$500 since 2006.)*

Moved by: K. Gibson
Seconded by: D. Eke

That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$700.00 from the Special Fund to the NRPS Men's Hockey Team competing in the 2020 International Police Hockey Tournament.

Carried.

- 14. Re-Appointment to Police Services Board – Order in Council – Tara McKendrick**
The Board considered an Order in Council No. 94/2020 dated January 17, 2020 executed by Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Province of Ontario, re-appointing Ms. McKendrick as a member of the Niagara Police Services Board for a further one-year term, effective February 21, 2020.

Moved by: B. Steele
Seconded by: H. D'Angela

That the information be received.

Carried.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Niagara Region Licensing Appeals Committee – Member Gale spoke to a report that was considered at the Region's Corporate Services Committee meeting held January 15, 2020, specifically Report CSD 4-2020, requesting Council's approval to appoint citizen members to the Licensing Appeals Committee. He asked if the Board and/or Service provided input on the development and implementation of the Committee given its historical oversight and involvement in the adult entertainment industry and vehicle for hire industry.

It was confirmed that the Board and Service were not contacted about the Licensing Appeals Committee. However, Chief MacCulloch stressed that the Police Service maintains carriage of any matters involving illegal/criminal wrongdoing that may occur in these industries. Specific to the adult entertainment, the NRPS Intelligence Unit is aware of the issues that impact the industry and police work closely with other agencies within the province to address organized crime. He also advised that the Service maintains strong, open lines of communications with the Region's Business Licensing Unit. The Board concluded that its representatives on Regional Council can discuss the matter further at the Region's Corporate Services Committee Meeting.

NRPS Tug of War Cross Border Competition – Vice Chair Steele talked about his experience in attending the 2019 NRPS Tug of War Competition event that takes place in May of each year on the Rainbow Bridge in the City of Niagara Falls. He spoke to the march/parade that travels down Clifton Hill with the tug-of-war team members and police representatives, led by the NRPS Pipe Band. Vice-Chair Steele acknowledged the many spectators that attended the event and he suggested that the Service provide the City of Niagara Falls with advance notification of the 2020 event at their earliest opportunity so that the Niagara Falls tourism office could promote the event. Chief MacCulloch advised that he is scheduled to meet with the team captains in next couple weeks that the Service will ensure notification is provided to the City of Niagara Falls once a date is confirmed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Public Meeting adjourned at 9:31 am.

Kenneth A.W. Gansel, Chair

Deb Reid, Executive Director