



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
POLICE SERVICES BOARD
PUBLIC MINUTES

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

PSB MEMBERS:

D. Eke, A/Chair
H. D'Angela, Board Member
K. Gibson, Board Member
J. Lawson, Board Member

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

NRPS MEMBERS:

A/Chief of Police B. Fordy
Deputy Chief B. Flynn, Operational Services
Superintendent R. Frayne, Corporate Services
Superintendent D. Meade, Support Services
A/Superintendent S. Dowd, District Operations
A/Superintendent D. Forbes, Operations Support
A/Superintendent Leigh, Emergency Investigative Services
Inspector T. Waselovich, Professional Development/Labour Relations
A/Inspector S. Parrent, Executive Officer to the Chief of Police
D/Sergeant D. Biggar, Executive Officer to Deputy Chief
D/Sergeant S. Rose, Executive Officer to Deputy Chief
A. Askoul, Director of Information Technology
S. Sabourin, Corporate Communications Manager
M. Asher, Executive Assistant to the Chief

OTHERS:

R. Le Clair, Policing Services Advisor, Ministry of the Solicitor General

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board commenced at 9:02 am.

Acting Chair Eke welcomed attendees to the virtual meeting of the Board, which was broadcasted on Zoom and live streamed on You Tube.

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 Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas 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.

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict or pecuniary interest.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, October 28, 2021

Moved by: H. D'Angela

Seconded by: K. Gibson

'That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, October 28, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.'

3.2 Minutes of the Special Public Board Meeting held Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Moved by: H. D'Angela

Seconded by: K. Gibson

'That the Minutes of the Special Public Board Meeting held Wednesday, November 17, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.'

4. REPORTS FROM BOARD CHAIR

Welcome to Ministry Policing Services Advisor - Acting Chair Eke welcomed Ron Le Clair to the meeting. Ron is with the Inspectorate of Policing at the Ministry of the Solicitor General and he serves as a Policing Services Advisor to Police Boards in Ontario. He attended the meeting as part of his routine visits by Policing Services Advisors to Police Boards across the Province. The Board is pleased to see his continued attendance at our meetings.

CAPG – Webinar Session - 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 November 15, the Board attended a webinar entitled "Strategic Planning for Police Governing Authorities". Strategic Plans drive what policing activities will happen and what results are achieved. It is one of the top ways that Police Governing Authorities can influence policing in their communities. The Niagara Regional Police Service's 2022 – 2025 Strategic Plan will be presented for Board approval and under Item 8.1 on the agenda.

The next CAPG webinar will be held on December 7 at 12:00 pm, and discussions will focus on “Equity, Diversity and Inclusion”.

OAPSB Labour Conference - On November 18, Board members attended the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards virtual 2021 Labour Conference. The program provided learning opportunities about the labour relations landscape across Ontario, police executive contracts, discussion on employer challenges with WSIB, updates regarding the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, and insights into diversity, equity, and inclusion; and police hiring practices.

1 District Facility Project – St. Catharines Detachment - The Niagara Region and Police Service Joint Steering Committee meeting scheduled for November 23 was cancelled and is rescheduled for December at which time the Committee will be provided with a status update of the remaining project budget and members will discuss future dates and format for the facility grand opening ceremony and finalization of the time capsule.

To follow-up on a question raised at our last meeting regarding police signage at the new 1 District building, Acting Chair Eke advised that the building signage was reviewed and approved with the City of St. Catharines Site Plan Approval process. It was to be non-illuminated due to its proximity to the Welland Avenue overhead street lights that provide light around the front of the building. The Region advised that the only complaint from the public was communication of public parking off the rear of the new facility, accessed off North Street. To address this concern, the Region has installed a larger sign with this information at the front of the facility (facing Welland Avenue) to assist with the communication to the public.

CAPG Governance Summit - Community Safety & Well Being - Board members participated virtually in the CAPG Community Safety and Well-Being Governance Summit held on November 24. The Summit discussed the implementation of Community Safety and Well-Being Plans and focused on social innovation within Canada. Sessions covered how funding impacts our community safety and well being plans and examined new practices for coordinated service delivery.

Upcoming PSB Meetings - Due to the holiday season, there are no Committee Meetings scheduled in December and the Board will hold its next monthly meeting one week earlier, on Thursday, December 16th at 9:00 am. The meeting will be held by electronic participation through Zoom.

5. **REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

Operational Statistics:

Homicides - Reporting Period of October 26 to November 22, 2021

- 0 for this reporting period.

Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC) - Reporting Period of October 1 to October 31, 2021

- 0 for this reporting period.

Life Threatening Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC) - Reporting Period of September 1 to September 30, 2021

- 1 for this reporting period.

Serious Injury MVC – Incident of October 8, 2021 - At approximately 7:52 pm, officers responded to the report of a serious motor vehicle collision involving a motor vehicle and a trailer on Mountain Road in the Town of Grimsby. Investigations determined a 29-year-old female was travelling northbound on Mountain Road when it collided with a trailer attached to a pickup truck being reversed out of a driveway. A 40-year-old male operating the pickup truck was not physically injured. The female driver sustained life threatening injuries and was transported to hospital. This collision remains under investigation by Detectives from the Collision Reconstruction Unit.

Enforcement Initiatives:

Hit and Run Motor Vehicle Collision - On November 1, at 8:00 am, officers in Welland responded to the intersection of Niagara Street and Thorold Road regarding a hit and run motor vehicle collision involving a backhoe. Officers located the backhoe nearby and a traffic stop was conducted. The driver displayed signs of impairment and was subsequently arrested. The 44-year-old male was charged with several offences including impaired operation, possession of a Schedule I substance (crystal meth) and drive motor vehicle no licence.

Armed Robbery at Convenience Store - On November 10, at 8:00 pm, uniform members responded to an armed robbery at a convenience store located in the area of Scott Street and Vine Street in St. Catharines. Two suspects entered the store, one armed with what was believed to be a firearm and the other with a knife. Prior to running from the store on foot, a demand was made to the cashier to surrender money from the register. The two suspects were observed by uniform officers as they were arriving on scene. The suspects split-up, prompting a high-speed foot pursuit. One suspect was arrested nearby, while the other suspect was successfully tracked and arrested with the assistance of Police Service Dog Kona of the K9 Unit. A replica firearm was recovered and determined to be a replica pistol.

Community Engagement Initiative:

Niagara's Mobile Closet - The Service is proud to partner with Niagara's Mobile Closet, a program overseen by the Niagara Furniture Bank, a not-for-profit charity, seeking to make clothing more accessible for those in a clothing crisis. This new initiative is beginning in St. Catharines, where a closet has been installed and offers an inventory of clothing for those in need. Should a member of the Service engage with an individual and determine they are in a clothing crisis, proper seasonal attire will be offered, as supplied by Niagara's Mobile Closet.

6. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) - Mental Health Service Calls

Joint correspondence dated October 21, 2021 from Chair Patrick Weaver and Interim Executive Director Bruce Chapman, OAPSB, addressed to The Honourable Michael. A. Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, applauding the efforts of the Police Association of Ontario (PAO), Ontario Provincial Police Association (OPPA) and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) for their support toward mental health among police employees, and to bring attention to the request of the OAPSB, with support of the Big 12 Police Services Boards, for the Province to consider establishing a

working group to look at developing a province-wide persons in crisis strategy, and for the Province to convene/establish a collaboration table to provide solutions that address the rise in calls for service within the mental health framework.

7.2 Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) - Provincial Grant Funding / Community Safety and Policing Act

Joint correspondence dated October 22, 2021 from Chair Patrick Weaver and Interim Executive Director Bruce Chapman, OAPSB, addressed to The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General, endorsing the recent request of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) to the Government of Ontario to ensure continued provincial grant funding for the Community Safety and Policing Grant and the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program Grant; and that the Ministry provide resources to support Boards to become compliant with the new *Community Safety and Policing Act* (CSPA).

7.3 Special Funds Specified Auditing Procedures Report

Service report dated November 1, 2021 providing the results of the audit for the NRPS Special Fund accounts, specifically the General Operating and Special Operating accounts, for the year ending December 31, 2020, as conducted by Deloitte LLP in March 2021 in accordance to the procedures set out in the Board's Administration, Limitations and Guidelines of the Special Fund By-law 392-2021.

7.4 Quarterly Report - Special Fund Activity - July 1 to September 30, 2021

Service report dated October 25, 2021 submitted in accordance to the quarterly reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 392-2021.

7.5 Annual Report - Communications and Dispatch - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated November 4, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 194-2000.

7.6 Annual Report - Supervision - January 1 to December 31, 2020

Service report dated November 8, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 217-2000.

7.7 Financial Variance Overview - January 1 to September 30, 2021

Service report dated November 9, 2021 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 384-2019, Financial Reporting, Control and Procurement of Goods and Services, specifically to provide the Board with a synopsis of the combined financial operations for the Service and the Board for the period ending September 30, 2021, including net COVID unbudgeted costs.

7.8 Monthly Report - Niagara Regional Police Service - Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic - November 2021

Service report dated November 25, 2021 providing the Board with a detailed update regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Niagara Regional Police Service and the actions taken to mitigate risks.

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

'That the information be received.'

Carried.'

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 2022 - 2025 Strategic Plan - Niagara Regional Police Service

Service report dated November 1, 2021 requesting the Board approve the 2022 - 2025 Strategic Plan for the Niagara Regional Police Service as prepared by the Board in participation with the Chief of Police to address the core business functions of the police service and how it will provide adequate and effective police services, specifically in the areas of Public Safety; Community Engagement and Collaboration; Continuous Improvement and Organizational Continuity and Member Wellness and Resiliency, which have been identified as the four goals of this strategic planning cycle.

Moved by: K. Gibson
Seconded by: H. D'Angela

'That the Board approve the Niagara Regional Police Service 2022 - 2025 Strategic Plan;

And further, that compliant with the Adequacy Standards Regulation, the 2022 - 2025 Strategic Plan be submitted to Regional Council for its information.

Carried.'

8.2 PSB Bursary Awards - Updated Terms of Reference - Brock University and Niagara College

Correspondence dated November 8, 2021 from Deb Reid, Executive Director, Niagara Police Services Board, providing the Board with a copy of the updated Terms of Reference for the Police Services Board bursary awards in support of Brock University and Niagara College.

Moved by: K. Gibson
Seconded by: J. Lawson

'That the Board approve the updated Terms of Reference for the Niagara Police Services Board Bursary in support of Brock University and Niagara College as appended to the report;

And further, that the Board Chair and Executive Director be authorized to execute the required documentation.

Carried.'

9. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

There was no other new business raised or discussed at the meeting.

10. IN CAMERA REPORTS

There were no in camera reports.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Meeting adjourned at 9:29 am.

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

William C. Steele, Chair

Deb Reid, Executive Director