

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA POLICE SERVICES BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

Thursday, May 19, 2022
Niagara Regional Police Service - Headquarters
Community Room 1st Floor, 5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls

PSB MEMBERS: B. Steele, Chair

H. D'Angela, Board Member B. Gale, Board Member K. Gibson, Board Member J. Lawson, Board Member

NRPS MEMBERS: D. Reid, Executive Director

D. Cichocki, Executive Assistant Chief of Police B. MacCulloch

Deputy Chief B. Flynn, Operational Services Deputy Chief B. Fordy, Support Services

Superintendent B. Ash, Emergency Investigative Services

Superintendent R. Frayne, Corporate Services
Superintendent M. Giannico, District Operations
Superintendent D. Meade, Executive Services
Inspector D. Gomez, Executive Officer to the Chief
D/Sergeant K. Fiddes, Executive Officer to Deputy Chief
D/Sergeant S. Rose, Executive Officer to Deputy Chief

A. Askoul, Director of Information Technology

L. Rullo, Finance Manager

S. Sabourin, Corporate Communications Manager A/Superintendent L. Greco, Operations Support Inspector L. Hughes, Professional Standards

OTHERS: P. Forcier, Chief of Police, Niagara Parks Police Service

D. Sprague, Policing Services Advisor, Ministry of the Solicitor General

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 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, April 21, 2022

Moved by: J. Lawson Seconded by: B. Gale

That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, April 21, 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 Duane Sprague to the meeting. Duane is with the Inspectorate of Policing at the Ministry of the Solicitor General and he serves as the back-up Policing Services Advisor to Zone 4 Police Boards in Ontario. Duane attended the meeting as part of his routine visits by Policing Services Advisors to Police Boards across the Province. Zone 4 Advisor Ron LeClair is away until June 6th and the Board is pleased that Duane can attend on his behalf to ensure the continued attendance of Police Advisors at our meetings.

Order of Merit – Deputy Chief Flynn, Superintendent Frayne And Director Askoul - On behalf of the Board, Chair Steele congratulated Deputy Chief Brett Flynn, Superintendent Richard Frayne and Director Akram Askoul for each being awarded the Oder of Merit of the Police Forces. The Order recognizes exceptional service or performance of duty over an extended period, with a primary focus on exceptional merit, contributions to policing, and community development. Their investiture into the Order of Merit of Police Forces reflects the high quality of policing services provided to the residents and visitors of the Niagara Region and it speaks volumes to the level of commitment to duty by the members of the Niagara Regional Police Service.

NRPS Presentations at Local City and Town Council Meetings - At its meeting held December 16, 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, Board members who represent or reside in the respective municipality also 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, West Lincoln Town Council, and Welland City Council. Upcoming presentations are scheduled with Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Council on May 30 at 6:00 pm and Wainfleet Town Council on June 21 at 7:00 pm.

Ontario Association of Police Services Boards - Zone 4 Quarterly Meeting - The Ontario Association of Police Services Boards held its Zone 4 Quarterly Meeting on May 11 with Zone 4 participants from 14 Police Services Boards 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 Steele, Vice Chair Eke, Member Gibson and the Board's Executive Director attended the event.

NRPS Annual Awards Ceremony - On May 9, the Niagara Regional Police Service, the Niagara Police Services Board, the Niagara Region Police Association, and the Senior Officers' Association hosted its Annual Awards Ceremony at the Americana Hotel in Niagara Falls. This event recognized outstanding Service Members 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. All Board members and Board staff attended the event.

CAPG – 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 May 17, the Board attended a webinar session entitled "Survivor Led Human Trafficking Detection Training for Law Enforcement". There are two upcoming webinars scheduled - one is being held later today at 12:00 pm to discuss "Data Driven Decision Making Strategies" and the other is being held on June 14 at 12:00 pm, entitled "Leaning on the Community - Community Engagement Plan". Connection details for today's webinar have been provided to Board Members and the details for the June 14 webinar will be sent closer to the date.

Wall of Honour Dedication - Today, the Service will be honouring the late Constable Joan VanBreda by placing a commemorative plaque on the Niagara Regional Police Service's "Heroes in Life" Wall of Honour. Constable VanBreda was struck by an impaired driver while investigating a traffic accident in St. Catharines on September 24, 1986. She suffered critical life-altering injuries and was only 22 years old at the time. She remained a Service member for many years and passed away on May 22, 2020 because of ongoing medical issues from the accident. Constable VanBreda will be remembered as a courageous and determined individual who had a strong will to overcome the many obstacles she faced from this accident. The special ceremony will take place at 11:00 am in the front lobby of Police Headquarters and all Board Members and Service members are invited to attend.

NRPS Auxiliary Graduation Ceremony - The Niagara Regional Police Service is holding an Auxiliary Recruit Graduation Ceremony on May 25 at 7:00 pm in the Community Room at Police Headquarters. Chair Steele will be joining Chief MacCulloch and his Executive staff in welcoming our 12 newest auxiliaries to the Niagara Regional Police Service.

OAPSB Annual Conference - The Ontario Association of Police Services Boards 2022 Spring Conference & Annual General Meeting will take place on May 26 and May 27 at the Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel. This year's conference theme is entitled: "Strategies for Better Communities". It will include timely and important sessions covering topics such as Inclusion and Diversity, Modernizing Police Governance, Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault, and the Cannabis Act. Chair Steele along with along with Vice Chair Eke, Members Gibson and Lawson, and the Board's Executive Director Deb Reid will be attending the conference.

NRPS Recruit Graduation Ceremony - The Service is holding a Recruit Graduation Ceremony on May 26 at 7:00 pm, in the Community Room at Police Headquarters. Vice Chair Eke will be joining Chief MacCulloch and Executive staff in welcoming Niagara's eight newest police constables to the Niagara Regional Police Service.

Upcoming PSB Meetings - There are no Committee meetings scheduled next month; and the next Board Meeting will be held Thursday, June 23, at 9:00 am, in the Community Room at Niagara Regional Police Headquarters.

6. REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

NRPS Marks Police Week - May 15 to May 21 marks Police Week 2022, with Services across Ontario celebrating the work of sworn and civilian police service members and with the community partnerships that help ensure a safer Niagara. This year's theme is "Your Police Services: Helping Build Stronger Communities". There has been a district-wide focus on sharing the work of members and spotlighting the proactive engagement that is happening on a daily basis – speed enforcement, ATV patrols, lock it or lose it campaigns and officers walking the beat and engaging with members of the community. As the Service's Community Oriented Engagement and Response (CORE) Unit continues with a refocused model of community policing, the NRPS is continuing to facilitate youth engagement, community outreach and placing a focus on problem-oriented policing to directly address community issues.

Operational Statistics:

Attempted Homicides - Reporting Period of April 19 to May 17, 2022

• 0 for this reporting period.

Homicides - Reporting Period of April 19 to May 17, 2022

• 1 for this reporting period with a total of 2 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 – April 30, 2022 - At approximately 11:40 pm, uniform officers were called to a home in the area of Division Street and Alexander Street in Welland following the report of a disturbance. Upon arrival police located three individuals: two with significant injuries. One male was pronounced deceased at the scene while the second victim was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. A suspect was located at the scene and placed under arrest by two uniform officers who sustained minor injuries during the arrest. Two citizens observed the officers struggling with the suspect and came forward to assist. The arrest was also witnessed by numerous members of the community who were in the area at the time.

The accused is 35-year-old Joel Dreaver who is currently being held in custody charged with Second Degree Murder; Aggravated Assault; and Assault Police (2 Counts). The NRPS Homicide Unit continues to investigate, and detectives can confirm the deceased male was 50 years of age. The second victim is 68 years of age and has been released from hospital. Investigation has revealed both victims and the accused were known to each other. Further identifying information and the cause of death is not being released at this time.

Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC) - Reporting Period of April 1 to April 30, 2022

• 1 for this reporting period with a total of 6 for 2022 to-date; 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 – April 14, 2022 - At approximately 9:55 pm, officers along with Niagara EMS and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire Service responded to reports of a single vehicle collision on Queenston Road near Concession Road 5 in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Investigation revealed a pickup truck was travelling west on Queenston Road before entering the ditch and striking a concrete culvert. The driver, a lone 42-year-old male from the Niagara-on-the-Lake, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The identity of the driver is not being released. Detectives from the Collision Reconstruction Unit continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the collision.

Life Threatening Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC) - Reporting Period of April 1 to April 30, 2022

1 for this reporting period.

Life Threatening MVC Incident – April 25, 2022 - Officers along with Niagara EMS and the Niagara Falls Fire Service were dispatched to a serious collision on Ferry Street near Gladstone Avenue in Niagara Falls. Investigation determined that a 52-year-old male pedestrian who was kneeling in the roadway was struck by a cargo truck being driven by a 55-year-old male. The pedestrian received life-threatening injuries and was transferred to hospital. The driver of the cargo truck was not injured. The pedestrian remains in hospital with life-threatening injuries. Detectives from the Collision Reconstruction Unit continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the collision.

Enforcement Initiatives:

Two Men Facing Charges Following Drug Arrest - In March 2022, detectives with the Niagara Regional Police Service and the Biker Enforcement Unit commenced an investigation into the distribution of illegal drugs throughout the Region of Niagara. On April 22, officers executed three search warrants in Thorold and Lincoln and at the clubhouse of the Outlaws Motorcycle Club. Over 160 grams of cocaine was seized along with over \$22,000 in currency, a knife that was a prohibited weapon, and a conducted energy weapon (taser). The combined estimated street value of the drugs is \$15,000. Two men are facing several drug and weapons related charges as a result of this investigation.

Detectives Execute Search Warrant and Recover Firearm – Fort Erie - On April 23, as a result of an investigation into the possession of illegal firearms, 5 District detectives and 2 District Street Crime detectives received judicial authorization to search a residence in the area of Bertie Street and Douglas Street in Fort Erie. The warrant was executed by members from the Emergency Tactical Unit (ETU) and Canine Unit (K9). One suspect was arrested, and one firearm was recovered. A 50-year-old Fort Erie man was arrested and charged with several firearms related offences.

St. Catharines Detectives Investigating Violent Armed Robbery - On May 11, at approximately 11:30 am, officers responded to a report of an armed robbery at Karat Jewellers in the Fairview Mall in St. Catharines. Upon arrival, officers confirmed Karat Jewellers had been robbed at gun point. Two individuals inside the store were sprayed with a substance believed to be "bear spray". As the suspects fled the store, shots were fired, and an individual was struck. All three victims were transported to hospital. The suspects fled the scene on a motorcycle, believed to be a sports bike. The motorcycle was last seen on the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) travelling Toronto bound. Detectives continue to search for two suspects who are considered to be armed and dangerous.

Niagara Falls Investigation Leads to Drugs and Stolen Property Charges - On May 12, detectives from the 2 District Street Crime Unit conducted an investigation into the possession of stolen property. A 43-year-old Niagara Falls man was arrested and charged with several drug related charges. Detectives also seized 1 kilogram of Fentanyl, with an estimated street value of over \$100,000; 2.5 grams of Crystal Methamphetamine, with an estimated street value of over \$250; and over \$2,000 in currency.

7. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

8.1 Ministry of the Solicitor General - PSB Reappointment of Dave Eke

Letter dated April 20, 2022 from the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General of Ontario, confirming the reappointment of Dave Eke to the Niagara Police Services Board effective from June 20, 2022, for a period of six (6) months, or until such time as an appointment has been made by Order in Council, whichever occurs first.

8.2 Ministry of the Solicitor General - New Regulation Under the HTA to a Allow for a Large Quadricycle Pilot

Memorandum dated May 4, 2022 from Richard Stubbings, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Division, Ministry of the Solicitor General, to all Chiefs of Police and Board Chairs, sharing a communication regarding a new regulation under the *Highway Traffic Act*, O. Reg. 411/22: Pilot Project - Large Quadricycles, establishing a ten-year pilot project to allow the use of large quadricycles on Ontario roads, which came into effect on April 21, 2022.

8.3 Canadian Association of Police Governance - Police Strategic Plan Research Project

Letter dated April 22, 2022 from Jennifer Malloy, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG), advising of an opportunity for CAPG members to participate in a research project with Dr. Tarah Hodgkinson (Wilfrid Laurier University) and Dr. Tullio Caputo (Carleton University) that is being undertaken to assist Boards and Commissions in determining the nature of any identified gap that exists between the delivery of policing services and the way that they are carried out. Stage one of the project consists of a semi-structural interview process with senior members of the CAPG and their respective police service senior members (Chief, Deputies, etc.).

8.4 Niagara River Rescue and Recovery Operations

Service report dated May 4, 2022 submitted in response to Board direction provided at the January 27, 2022 Public Board Meeting requesting details related to rescue and body recoveries in the Niagara River basin, and including additional statistical information requested by the Board at the April 21, 2022 Public Board Meeting.

Chief of Police Paul Forcier, Niagara Parks Police Service, was in attendance to provide the Board with an overview of the duties, roles, responsibilities and scope of authority of the agencies that play a key role in rescue lifesaving efforts and body recoveries within the Niagara Falls basin. He responded to questions regarding contractual agreements and arrangements currently in place with Niagara EMS, the Niagara Regional Police Service, the Niagara Parks Police Service, Niagara Fire Services, Niagara City Cruises (formerly Hornblower) and the Maid of the Mist on the U.S. side of the border.

8.5 Quarterly Report - NRPS Authorized Strength as at April 1, 2022

Service report dated April 13, 2022 providing a summary of the actual versus the authorized strength by rank/salary band of the uniform and civilian complement of the Niagara Regional Police Service.

8.6 Quarterly Report - Administration of the Public Complaints System - January 1 to March 31, 2022

Service report dated April 13, 2022 submitted in accordance to the quarterly reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 301-2010.

8.7 Quarterly Report - Overtime Activities Incurred by the NRPS - January 1 to March 31, 2022

Service report dated April 28, 2022 providing the Board with a five-year uniform and civilian quarterly and year-to-date overtime trend analysis to include summaries of the overtime hours by activity category, which continues to be predominantly driven by the need to meet minimum staffing requirements, major investigation events, occupational/non-occupational illness, injury and staffing shortfalls.

8.8 Quarterly Report - Special Fund Activity - January 1 to March 31, 2022

Service report dated April 27, 2022 submitted in accordance to the quarterly reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 392-2021.

8.9 Annual Report - Acoustic Hailing Devices - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 13, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 335-2013.

8.10 Annual Report - Arrest - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated March 24, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 197-2000.

8.11 Annual Report - Citizen Rewards - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 27, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 390-2021.

8.12 Annual Report - Communicable Diseases - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 22, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 253-2003.

8.13 Annual Report - Community-Based Crime Prevention - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 22, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 192-2000.

8.14 Annual Report - Criminal Harassment - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated February 1, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 220-2000.

8.15 Annual Report - Criminal Investigation Management and Procedures - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated February 1, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 198-2000.

8.16 Annual Report - Domestic-Family Violence - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 21, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 336-2013.

8.17 Annual Report - Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 20, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 213-2000.

8.18 Annual Report - Fraud and False Pretence Investigations - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 20, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 230-2000.

8.19 Annual Report - Hostage Rescue - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 13, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 243-2000.

8.20 Annual Report - Officer Note Taking - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 28, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 214-2000.

8.21 Annual Report - Persons in Custody - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 29, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 208/225-2000.

8.22 Annual Report - Policing Aboriginal Occupations and Protests - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated March 30, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 324-2012.

8.23 Annual Report - Problem Oriented Policing and Community Patrol - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 26, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-laws 191-2000 and 193-2000.

8.24 Annual Report - Proceeds of Crime - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 21, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 233-2000.

8.25 Annual Report - Property Offences (Including Break and Enter) - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 25, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 222-2000.

8.26 Annual Report - Robbery Investigations - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated February 1, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 234-2000.

8.27 Annual Report - Suspect Apprehension Pursuits - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 20, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 338-2013.

Member Gibson referenced Suspect Apprehension Pursuit (SAP) Report Five: February 19, 2021, as detailed on Page 5 of the report, and he requested clarification on the comment of there being unknown damages associated to this event. Chief MacCulloch advised the he will review the incident and follow up with the Board as to the damages that were incurred during this suspect apprehension pursuit incident.

8.28 Annual Report - Tactical Units - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 13, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 242-2000.

8.29 Annual Report - Use of Force - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated April 20, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 346-2014.

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

That the information be received.

Carried

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Police Services Board - Revision to July Meeting Date

Memorandum dated April 8, 2022 from Deb Reid, Executive Director, Niagara Police Services Board, advising of a request made by Board Chair Steele to reschedule the July meeting date for the Police Services Board's regular monthly meeting from Thursday, July 21, 2022 to Tuesday, July 19, 2022.

Moved by: B. Gale Seconded by: K. Gibson That the Board amend its regular monthly meeting date from July 21, 2022 to July 19, 2022.

Carried

9.2 Police Services Board By-law Revision – Policy for Compliance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Memorandum dated May 5, 2022 from Deb Reid, Executive Director, Niagara Police Services Board, providing the Board with a revised by-law as required for compliance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and the Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General.

Moved by: J. Lawson Seconded by: B. Gale

That the Board adopt By-law No. 395-2022 as appended to the report and authorize the Board Chair and Executive Director to execute the required documentation.

Carried

9.3 Police Services Board Draft By-law - Right to Disconnect from Work Policy

Memorandum dated May 11, 2022 from Deb Reid, Executive Director, Niagara Police Services Board, requesting the Board approve the draft Board By-law to "Establish Policy for the Right to Disconnect From Work", in accordance with the mandated legislation of Bill 27, the *Working for Workers Act, 2021*, which introduces a new requirement for employers in Ontario with 25 or more employees to have a written policy on disconnecting from work for all employees covered by the *Employment Standards Act, 2000*.

Moved by: B. Gale Seconded by: J. Lawson

That the Board adopt By-law No. 396-2022 as appended to this report and authorize the Board Chair and Executive Director to execute the required documentation.

Carried

9.4 Niagara Regional Police Service - Update to Schedule of Fees and Charges

Service report dated April 28, 2022 providing an updated Schedule of Fees and Charges for the Niagara Regional Police Service, which forms part of the Board's By-law "Imposition of Charges for Police Services", and requesting that subject to Board approval, the Service implement the recommended changes to its fee structure.

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

That the Board approve the following:

- 1. The revised fee of zero (\$0) dollars for police Criminal Record Checks (CRC), and police Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Checks (CRCJMC) for volunteers as set out by legislation; and
- 2. The establishment of a \$20 fee for police record checks for students completing an uncompensated placement for academic credit.

Carried

9.5 Special Fund Request - Motorcycle Ride for Dad

Service report dated April 9, 2022 requesting the Board consider a donation to the Motorcycle Ride for Dad campaign to raise money for prostate cancer awareness, research and education through the local Ride for Dad – Niagara Chapter fundraising initiative that will take place in multiple cities throughout Canada, including the Niagara Region. (*Previous Board donations: 2010-2012 - \$300, 2014-2019 - \$500*).

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

That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from the Special Fund as a contribution to the 2022 Motorcycle Ride for Dad Campaign.

Carried

10. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR)

Member Gale spoke to a matter regarding the Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) program. He questioned expansion of the program and if the Service will be acquiring additional devices. He also questioned the requirement to renew licence plate tags and clarification as to whether licence plate sticker/tag renewal is still a Ministry of Transportation requirement. He advised that there seems to be some confusion around this requirement as a result of the fee for this service being waived by the Ministry of Transportation and the subsequent announcement made in March 2022 that individuals who have already renewed their licence plate sticker/tag would be reimbursed by the Ontario Government.

Chief MacCulloch advised that on April 27, 2022 the Service received notification from the Ministry of the Solicitor General about grant funding opportunities for police services regarding automated licence plate recognition technology and that based on the allocation from the province, the Niagara Regional Police Service is eligible for an allocation of up to \$2,756,000. The Service is currently preparing an application seeking additional ALPR units, for submission to the Ministry by no later than June 3, 2022. Chief MacCulloch advised that as part of the information shared by the province, a procurement has been obtained by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), which supports that there is pricing available to other police services who can piggyback on the acquired pricing.

In regard to licence plate sticker renewal, Chief MacCulloch confirmed that registered vehicle owners are still required by the Ministry of Transportation to renew their licence plate sticker/tags annually, even though there is no longer a fee associated with the renewal process. He advised that the Service will utilize its social media platforms to assist with getting this messaging out to the residents of Niagara so that people are aware that this requirement is still in place.

11. IN CAMERA REPORTS

11.1 Special Investigations Unit - Case Number 21-OFD-007 - Incident of January 5, 2021

Service report dated March 30, 2022 advising that the SIU concluded their investigation in this matter and found no grounds for criminal charges against any police officer, and also advising that in compliance with S.32 of Ontario Regulation 268/10 made under the Police Services Act, the Service completed its review and investigation into this matter and determined there were no issues with respect to officer conduct, policies or services provided by the Niagara Regional Police Service.

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

That, in accordance with Board direction, the above noted In Camera report be received for public information.

Carried

12. ADJOURNMENT

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.

The Public Meeting adjourned at 10:16 am.

William C. Steele, Chai
Deb Reid, Executive Director