



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

**Thursday, July 25, 2024**  
**Niagara Regional Police Service - Headquarters**  
**Community Room 1st Floor, 5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls**

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**PSB MEMBERS:**

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

**NRPS MEMBERS:**

Chief B. Fordy  
Deputy Chief L. Greco, Support Services  
Deputy Chief T. Waselovich, Operational Services  
C. Gauley, General Counsel  
A. Askoul, Director of Information Technology  
Superintendent D. Forbes, Operational Support  
Superintendent D. Masotti, Emergency Investigative Services  
A/Superintendent P. Koscinski, Executive Services  
A/Superintendent R. LaPlante, District Operations  
Inspector N. Dave, Executive Officer to Chief of Police  
D/Sergeant N. Abbott, Executive Officer to Deputy Chief  
D/Sergeant M. Ryan, Executive Officer to D/C Support Services  
R. Audeh, Corporate Strategy and Innovation Manager  
L. Rullo, Finance Manager  
S. Sabourin, Corporate Communications Manager  
C. Woods, Financial Planning Co-ordinator  
M. Asher, Executive Assistant to the Chief

**OTHERS:**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board commenced at 9:35 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 Service Board stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.

### 3. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Member McKendrick declared a conflict of interest with respect to Item 8.10 due to her employment with the Canadian Mental Health Association Niagara and therefore took no part in the voting or discussion on this matter.

### 4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

#### 4.1 **Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, June 27, 2024**

Moved by: P. Chiocchio  
Seconded by: K. Gibson

**That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, June 27, 2024 be adopted as circulated.**

**Carried**

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

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

**CAPG Webinar Sessions** - The Canadian Association of Police Governance hosts monthly webinars as part of their educational strategy to keep Police Boards and Police Executives across Canada apprised of issues currently affecting the policing community. Webinars were held on June 27, entitled “Pros and Cons of School Resource Officers - What is the Board's role?”, and on July 10, entitled “Ontario's Inspectorate of Policing – Navigating the New Legislation & Implementing Regulations”. An upcoming webinar is scheduled for August 1 at 1:00 pm entitled, “Building Healthy Relationships with your Police Association”. Recorded copies of all webinars are sent to Board Members for their viewing.

**ETU Tour/Specialized Equipment Demonstrations - PSB Members** - On July 11, the Board attended the NRPS Emergency Task Unit for a tour of the Unit and a demonstration on the specialized equipment used by police, specific to the Emergency Task Unit, the Marine Unit, and the Canine Unit. The professional efforts put forth by the officers of these Units throughout the tour and demonstrations were greatly appreciated by the members of the Police Service Board and the Board thanks them for their hard work and dedication to keeping Niagara a safe place to live and visit.

**Diversity Tour - PSB Members** - On July 19, the Board joined members of the Service and their newest recruits for a tour of several local community and faith-based organizations within Niagara. The tour was hosted by the Service's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Unit to provide insight into the beliefs and traditions of various cultures that exist among those who live in the Niagara Region. All Board members deeply value and respect the EDI Unit's efforts in educating and equipping Service members and the public on the importance of promoting inclusivity within the police service and the Niagara Region.

**NRPS Recruit Swearing in Ceremony** - On July 24, the Niagara Regional Police Service held a Swearing-In Ceremony in the Community Room at Police Headquarters. Chair Lawson and Member Chiocchio attended the event along with Chief Fordy and members of the NRPS executive staff to welcome five (5) currently serving police officers and 15 new recruits to the Niagara Regional Police Service.

**CAPG Annual Conference** - The Canadian Association of Police Governance is hosting its 2024 Conference from August 8 – 11 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The theme of this year's conference is "Where Governance Meets Public Safety: Transforming Policing in Canada." The CAPG's Annual Conference is the largest gathering of police boards in Canada and serves as the principal vehicle for dialogue between the many different stakeholders in police governance. Delegates will engage in panel discussions, workshops, and roundtables with a focus on new ideas and problem-solving around key issues facing policing today. Chair Lawson, Vice Chair Kapisavanhu, Members Chiocchio, Gibson and Executive Director Reid will be attending the conference.

**Upcoming Police Service Board Meetings** - In keeping with meeting schedule practices for Regional Council, local area municipalities and Agencies, Boards and Commissions; as well as other Police Service Boards, there are no Board or Committee meetings scheduled during the month of August. The next Committee meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2024. The next regular monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 9:30 am in the Community Room at Police Headquarters.

## 6. REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

### Community Safety

The Canada Day long weekend saw a large number of people at Sherkston Shores which resulted with the NRPS Public Order Unit assisting uniform officers. Members worked diligently and effectively while dealing with a number of incidents. The Service recognizes the concerns of residents, and everyone impacted, as police continue to work with the City of Port Colborne and with Sherkston Shores. The NRPS ensures that these matters are addressed, including increased patrol presence in the area.

Last week the Service realized excellent work by the recently formed Golden Horseshoe Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU), led by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in collaboration with the Niagara, Hamilton, Brantford, and Six Nations police and the Canada Border Services Agency for an investigation that began in April. This investigation culminated in multiple arrests and warrants and the seizure of large quantities of street drugs, firearms, ammunition, ballistic vests, and currency. As commented by Deputy Chief Waselovich in a recent media release, "This investigation demonstrates our commitment to working with our policing partners to ensure the ongoing safety of our community. We will continue to work together to send a clear message that these weapons and dangerous drugs will not be tolerated on our streets."

July 21, 2024 - Pro-Palestinian demonstrators attended Niagara Falls. In preparation of a potentially large number of people attending, the NRPS utilized its resources including a contingent of its Public Order Unit and members of the Hamilton and Waterloo Public Order Units. The Service also worked with its partners in the Canadian Border Services Agency, OPP, Niagara Parks Police and Bridge Authority and the NRPS is extremely appreciative of the collaborative efforts. The demonstrators began at Stanley Avenue and the 420 and proceeded to the Clifton Hill area. In consideration of there being several individuals involved, Chief Fordy felt he would be remiss if he didn't mention the outstanding leadership of NRPS Staff Sergeant Matt Whiteley of Emergency Services Unit during this event.

July 25, 2024 - The Service will be issuing a media release regarding its auto theft strategy designed to educate and assist people in the prevention of this crime, which has risen in recent times. The NRPS is a part of a provincial strategy which includes a grant from the Ministry of the Solicitor General looking to influence a change and reduce rates of these incidents. Members of the public will be seeing a campaign including the use of social media platforms, digital billboards as well as the Service's initiative to have educational pamphlets and faraday bags (used to block signals from key fobs) available to the public at police Districts.

## **Community Engagement**

July 4, 2024 - Members of the NRPS Recruiting Unit attended a youth summer camp for 6- to 12-year-olds at St. Francis of Assisi School in Welland to talk to Niagara's community youths about policing to build on forming positive relationships between youths and the police.

July 8, 2024 - Members of the Service met with this summer's Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) Program students. This year the program has five (5) students enrolled, an increase from four (4) last year. The students are part of the Service's ongoing partnership with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and the program serves as a strategy to address the growing needs of youth in Niagara. It also provides an opportunity for these young people to gain an understanding of policing in our community and forge positive relationships by participation and exposure to a police environment through educational and productive work assignments with the Service.

July 9, 2024 - The Service kicked off another annual safety event with Wendy's. This initiative sees 10,000 coupons for Wendy's ice cream being made available to police officers to hand out when they see young people engaging in nice gestures or safe practices such as wearing helmets, life jackets and seatbelts. Also included were 500 bicycle helmets that were given out to young children. The helmet initiative is led by local Wendy's franchise owner, Kathryn Chayka as an annual engagement that creates positive interaction while encouraging the use of safety equipment by young people.

July 16, 2024 - Members of the Service's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Unit held discussions with teens and young adults as part of a meeting hosted by the Future Black Female organization to discuss topics relating to hate crimes and how the Unit operates and functions.

July 18, 2024 - Members of the Service's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Unit met with a representative for the Niagara Health System - Withdrawal Management Services for Mental Health & Addictions Program. Discussions related to mental health and addiction and the intersectionality with marginalized and equity-deserving and Indigenous people.

July 19, 2024 - The Service's new recruit class participated in a Diversity Tour that visited local faith groups and organizations, including the Chinmaya Hindu Mission, Cham Shan Buddhist Temple, Chabad Niagara Jewish Synagogue, Niagara Regional Native Centre, and the Sikh Gurdwara. This was a learning and educational day to promote understanding and inclusiveness.

Last week, NRPS Community Oriented Response & Engagement (CORE) Unit officers Jay McCarthy and Mitch Dumont and a NRPS Indigenous liaison officer participated in the Niigan Mosewak summer camp. This is a leadership/Indigenous based camp run by the OPP and the event also included students from Niagara. This was positive interaction between youth and police, with mentorship being at the heart of this great experience.

## **7. PRESENTATIONS**

A Service presentation was included with Item 9.2 on this agenda.

## **8. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **8.1 Regional Municipality of Niagara - Information Sharing Protocol between the Region and the Board**

Letter dated July 4, 2024 from Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of Niagara, advising of a resolution passed by Regional Council on June 27, 2024, specific to Regional Memorandum CL-C 56-2024, dated June 27, 2024, respecting the revised Information Sharing Protocol between the Regional Municipality of Niagara and the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Service Board that was updated to meet the requirements of the new Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019.

**8.2 Quarterly Report - Brock University Campus Security Services - April 1 to June 30, 2024**

Report dated July 3, 2024 from Jennifer Guarasci, Interim Vice President, Administration, Brock University, providing a quarterly report about complaints, use of force, discipline and arrests associated to officers designated as Special Constables and employed with Brock University Campus Safety Services.

**8.3 Quarterly Report - NRPS Authorized Strength as at July 2, 2024**

Service report dated July 2, 2024 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.

**8.4 Annual Report - Bail and Violent Crime - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated July 11, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 436-2024.

**8.5 Annual Report - Citizen Rewards - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated June 13, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 406-2024.

**8.6 Annual Report - Criminal Investigation Management and Procedures - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated June 25, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 442-2024.

**8.7 Annual Report - Electronic Monitoring of Employees - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated July 4, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 410-2024.

**8.8 Annual Report - Emergency Planning - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated June 19, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 476-2024.

**8.9 Annual Report - Investigations into Homicides - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated June 21, 2024, submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 481-2024.

**8.10 Annual Report - Police Response to Persons in Crisis, Mental Illness, Neurodevelopmental Disability - January 1 - December 31, 2023**

Service report dated June 18, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 456-2024.

Moved by: B. Steele  
Seconded by: P. Chiocchio

**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

**8.11 Annual Report - Policing First Nations Occupations and Protests - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated June 25, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 491-2024.

**8.12 Annual Report - Right to Disconnect from Work - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated July 4, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 422-2024.

**8.13 Annual Report - Safe Storage of Police Service Firearms - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated June 11, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 497-2024.

**8.14 Annual Report - Secure Holsters - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated June 27, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 498-2024.

**8.15 Annual Report - Skills Development and Learning Plan - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated July 3, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 423-2024.

**8.16 Annual Report - Speed Detection Devices - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated June 17, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 500-2024.

**8.17 Annual Report - Traffic Management, Enforcement and Road Safety - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated June 20, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 504-2024.

**8.18 Annual Report - Use of Auxiliaries and Volunteers - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated July 3, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 426-2024.

**8.19 Annual Report - Victims' Assistance - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated June 14, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 461-2024.

**8.20 Annual Report - Violence and Harassment Prevention in the Workplace - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated July 4, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 430-2024.

**8.21 Annual Report - Youth Crime - January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Service report dated June 26, 2024 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 463-2024.

Moved by: L. Ip

Seconded by: T. McKendrick

**That Items 8.1 to 8.9 and 8.11 to 8.21 be received for information.**

**Carried**

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

Before considering special fund request Items 9.5 to 9.9 Chair Lawson reminded members of the public that the “Special Fund” does not form part of the police operating budget and is separate from the Regional tax base. The “Special Fund” is a discretionary pool of funds, which is used for grants and charitable donations. Disbursements from the fund are made in accordance with guidelines provided in the Community Safety and Policing Act, and with Board By-Law 403-2024, Special Fund Administration, Limitations and Guidelines.

### 9.1 2024 Capital Project Close Out Report

Service report dated June 28, 2024 requesting Board approval to close completed capital projects and return the balance of the funds to their original source for use in the development of future funding strategies.

Moved by: B. Steele

Seconded by: P. Chiocchio

**That the Board approve the closure of the identified completed capital projects and the transfer of funds to the Police Capital Levy Reserve in the amount of \$20,353.02.**

**Carried**

### 9.2 2025 Capital Budget and 9-Year Capital Forecast

Service report dated June 27, 2024 requesting the Board approve the proposed 2025 Police Service Capital Budget and 9-Year Capital Forecast. *(A copy of the NRPS 2025 budget presentation is attached to the report.)*

Moved by: K. Gibson

Seconded by: L. Ip

**That, subject to approval by Regional Council of the consolidated Capital Budget, the Board approve the 2025 Capital Budget and Forecast as follows:**

- 1. That the 2025 Capital Budget of the Niagara Regional Police Service of \$6,771,000.00, as summarized in Appendix 1, be approved.**
- 2. That financing in the amount of \$6,771,000.00 be initiated upon approval of the 2025 Capital Budget and be allocated to the projects as summarized in Appendix 1. *(Financing for the 2025 Capital Budget is from the Police Capital Levy Reserve in the amount of \$2,555,000.00; Police Vehicles and Equipment Reserve Fund in the amount of \$2,214,000.00; Region Capital Levy Reserve in the amount of \$1,502,000.00 and Development Charges in the amount of \$500,000.00).***
- 3. That the 9-Year Capital Forecast be received as a guideline for the development of future Capital Budgets.**

**Carried**

### 9.3 2025 Budget – Service Partnership Funding Model Framework

Service report dated June 28, 2024, requesting the Board approve the NRPS funding model framework as presented, which was developed at the direction of the Board to establish policy on how the Board and Service will continue to fund Crime Stoppers of Niagara, Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre of Niagara, Victim Services Niagara, and Niagara Safety Village, in keeping with the practice that was established in 2009 and currently realizes direct funding by the 2024 budget of \$275,000 and additional resources of \$232,254 for a total commitment of \$507,254.

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

**That the Board authorize the Chief of Police to implement the funding model framework as presented;**

**And further, that formal agreements with the Service partnership agencies be developed for the 2025 budget cycle, and that the agreements be brought to the Board for consideration.**

**Carried**

**9.4 Purchase of New Replacement P25 Portable Radios**

Service report dated July 17, 2024 requesting Board approval to purchase 170 portable radios from Motorola to replace radios that are at the end of their physical life cycle and to ensure the reliability of radio and two-way communication, reduce the risk of radio failure, enhance officer and public safety and reduce the high cost of repairs. This capital project is part of the Service's 2024 capital program, funded by the Region's Capital Levy Reserve in the amount of \$773,500.00.

Moved by: P. Chiocchio  
Seconded by: B. Steele

**That the Board approve the Motorola Solutions QUOTE-2670724-NSMO for the purchase of 170 portable radios at an expected cost of \$784,724.28 net of HST rebates, as appended to the report.**

**Carried**

**9.5 Special Fund Request - Niagara Regional Fire Chiefs' Association - Annual Golf Classic**

Service report dated July 9, 2024 requesting a donation from the Special Fund for a golf foursome at the Niagara Regional Fire Chiefs' Association Golf Classic being held on September 26, 2024 at Peninsula Lakes Golf Course in support of Wellspring Niagara. *(This is a first-time Special Fund request.)*

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

**That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$800.00 from the Special Fund for the registration of a foursome of golfers at the Niagara Regional Fire Chiefs' Association Golf Classic.**

**Carried**

**9.6 Special Fund Request - Niagara Region Police Association - Annual Cliff Priest Memorial Golf Tournament**

Service report dated July 9, 2024 requesting a donation from the Special Fund for a golf foursome at the Cliff Priest Memorial Golf Tournament being held on September 26, 2024 at Bridgewater Country Club in support of the 'Survivors of Law Enforcement' (SOLE) group and worthy local community charities. *(This is a first-time Special Fund request.)*

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

**That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$600.00 from the Special Fund for the registration of a foursome of golfers at the Cliff Priest Memorial Golf Tournament.**

**Carried**



**9.7 Special Fund Request - Niagara Regional Police Service - Versaterm Re:Invent Users Conference**

Service report dated July 3, 2024 requesting a donation from the Special Fund to assist the Service, as the host agency, with the costs of welcome and appreciation attendee bags when hosting the Versaterm Re:Invent Users Conference being held in Niagara Falls from September 16–19, 2024. *(This is a first-time Special Fund request.)*

Moved by: P. Chiocchio  
Seconded by: T. McKendrick

**That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$1,500.00 from the Special Fund to assist the NRPS as the host agency of the Versaterm Re: Invent Users Conference.**

**Carried**

**9.8 Special Fund Request - Youth Resources Niagara - Wagner House**

Service report dated June 13, 2024 requesting a donation from the Special Fund to assist with the costs of hosting a BBQ at the Youth Resources Niagara (YRN) basketball game to support the purchase of household items for the YRN's Wagner House location. *(This is a first-time Special Fund request.)*

Moved by: L. Ip  
Seconded by: B. Steele

**That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from the Special Fund to assist with the costs of hosting a participation BBQ in support of the Youth Resources Niagara's Wagner House location.**

**Carried**

**9.9 Special Fund Request - Heather Winterstein Foundation**

Service report dated July 10, 2024 requesting a donation from the Special Fund in support of a concert event held July 8, 2024 to raise funds for the Heather Winterstein Foundation in support of scholarship opportunities for Indigenous students studying nursing, pathology, and other medical disciplines. *(This is a first-time Special Fund request. The item was pre-approved by the Board on July 8, 2024 and is before the Board for ratification.)*

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

**That the Board authorize a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the Special Fund to the Heather Winterstein Foundation.**

**Carried**

**10. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

There was no other new business or items discussed.

**11. IN CAMERA REPORTS**

**11.1 Special Investigations Unit – Case Number 23-OCI-377 – Incident of September 12, 2023**

Service report dated May 29, 2024 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 concluded that there are no identified policy/service/officer conduct issues.

**11.2 Special Investigations Unit – Case Number 23-OCI-397 – Incident of September 28, 2023**

Service report dated May 31, 2024 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 concluded that there are no identified policy/service/officer conduct issues.

Moved by: P. Chiocchio  
Seconded by: L. Ip

**That, in accordance with Board direction, the above noted in camera reports be made available to the public.**

**Carried**

**12. MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

Moved by: L. Ip  
Seconded by: T. McKendrick

**That the Board move into Closed Session for consideration of confidential matters pursuant to Section 44 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, namely for subject-matter related to potential litigation, human resources matters, information supplied in confidence by the Ministry of the Solicitor General and from vendors for contract awards, as well as legal matters that are subject to solicitor-client privilege.**

**Carried**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Meeting adjourned at 10:41 am.

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Jen Lawson, Chair

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Deb Reid, Executive Director