



**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

PUBLIC MINUTES

Thursday, March 27, 2008

**Niagara Police Services Board
Board Room 4th Floor, 110 James Street, St. Catharines**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. L. Iggulden, Chair
Mr. D. Martin, Vice Chair
Mr. B. Bentley
Mr. T. Shoalts
Mr. L. Tufford
Mr. M. Woodhouse

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chief of Police W.E. Southall
Deputy Chief of Police G. Beaulieu
Mr. G. Fuentes, Chief Administrative Officer
Superintendent D. Parrent, Central Region
Superintendent B. Wright, Eastern Region
Superintendent G. Dagenais, Western Region
Superintendent D. Kane, Emergency & Investigative Support
Inspector S. McLean, Executive Officer, Chief of Police
Inspector D. D'Amico, Labour Relations
S/Sergeant J. Maggiolo, Training Unit
Sergeant P. McCauley, Executive Officer, Deputy Chief
Sergeant L. Regnier, Issuer of Licences
P.C. J. Rotella, Executive Officer, CAO
Mr. A. Askoul, Director of Information/Communication Technology
Ms. M. George, Director of Business Services
Ms. L. DiDonato-DeChellis, Finance Manager

Ms. D. Morton, Executive Director
Ms. S. Taylor, Executive Assistant

Mr. P. DiSimoni, President, Niagara Region Police Association

PRESENTER:

Mr. Rob Janssen, Jordan Station

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST

Member Martin declared a Conflict of Interest with the Item 68, and as such, did not comment or vote on the matter.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

51. Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, February 28, 2008.

Moved by: M. Woodhouse
Seconded by: L. Tufford

That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, February 28, 2008 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

REPORTS FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Chair Iggulden reported the following:

Niagara Economic Forum

On April 4 Member Todd Shoalts will represent the Board at the Niagara Economic Forum, hosted by the Niagara Economic Development Corporation at the Four Points Sheraton in Thorold. The forum will bring together politicians, business people and community leaders across Niagara to update the Region's current Economic Growth Strategy. It will highlight specific actions that can be taken over the next 6-12 months to support that strategy.

Police Facilities

On March 21 the Board put out a call for a Request for Expression of Interest with respect to the property required for the Niagara Regional Police Service Central Headquarters. The Board will accept submissions to this call for Expressions of Interest up to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22. Further details are available on the Police Services and Regional websites, or can be obtained by contacting the Board office.

Auxiliary Recruit Graduation Ceremony

The Board has received an invitation to attend the NRPS Auxiliary Recruit Graduation Ceremony to welcome 18 new auxiliary officers to the Service. This event will be held on Tuesday, April 29 at 7:30 in Regional Council Chambers. Board staff will be contacting Members in the near future to confirm attendance.

Ontario Association of Police Services Boards Conference

The OAPSB will hold its Annual Conference and General Meeting in Stratford from April 24 – 26. Further details are included under Item 69 in today's Public Agenda. Any Board Members who plan on attending are asked to advise the Board's Executive Director as soon as possible.

Upcoming Meetings – PSB Boardroom

- Licencing Committee – Thursday, April 10 at 8:30 a.m.;
- Human Resources Committee – Thursday, April 10 at 9:30 a.m.
- Next Board Meeting – Thursday, April 17 at 8:30 a.m.

REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief of Police Southall reported the following:

Operational Statistics

Homicides

For the period January 1 through March 26, 2008:
1 compared to 1, same period 2007.

Robberies

For the period January 1 through March 26, 2008:
21 in the Region with 8 cleared, a 38% clearance rate this period.

Traffic Fatality Statistics

For the period January 1 through March 26, 2008:
4 compared to 7, same period 2007;

Serious Injury Collisions

For the period January 1 through March 26, 2008:
4 compared to 7, same period 2007.

Joint Forces Downtown Enforcement Project in St. Catharines

On February 29 the Niagara Regional Police Service in partnership with the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario and the St. Catharines Fire Department, initiated a project called "*Reduce the Risk*". The intention of the project was to address the problems that have plagued the St. Catharines downtown entertainment district for many years, with major goals being the elimination of related social problems and the educating of bar owners and patrons on acceptable conduct and activity.

With the support of the City of St. Catharines, and armed with the newly-created Public Nuisance By-law, the multi-agency initiative has been very successful in identifying problems associated to business operations and holding individuals responsible for their unlawful behaviour.

As of March 12 the project had resulted in:

- 6 arrests for criminal and provincial offences;
- 33 charges for liquor related offences;
- 21 charges under the Public Nuisance By-law;
- 3 prosecutions laid by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission, and
- 3 charges laid by the St. Catharines Fire Department.

This effort is a confirmation of the Service's commitment to ensure that the downtown core of St. Catharines is a safe and enjoyable place for all residents and visitors.

NRPS Partners with the Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre in a Public Education Program

The Niagara Regional Police Service's Sexual Assault Unit and the Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre have recently formed a partnership to provide educational presentations to senior law classes in Niagara high schools.

The educational series started as a pilot project in the fall of 2007, and was funded through the United Way of St. Catharines and District. The project is based on the principles of the "*Making a Difference Project*", which is designed to facilitate reform in the Canadian and U.S. legal systems, to more effectively prosecute adult sex offenders, and to dispel sexual assault myths. Eight Sexual Assault Review Teams, from eight Canadian and U.S. cities, have been working toward these goals.

A police officer and a Sexual Assault Centre public education staff member will deliver the presentation. The presentation is planned to be 70 minutes in length and will be provided to students in Grades 11 and 12. Commencing on March 31, the program will include both the public and Catholic school boards. Information will be presented in an interactive format, through a sexual assault myth and realities quiz, discussion about sexual assault laws, what to expect in court, and penalties for convictions.

Serious Attack on Senior in Port Colborne

On March 15 in the early morning hours, a seventy-five year old male was brutally attacked in his Port Colborne home. The victim suffered serious head injuries, numerous other injuries to his body, and a broken leg. Due to the severity of his injuries, he was transferred to the Hamilton General Hospital, where he remains in stable condition.

Initially, investigators were faced with the victim's opposition to assist and a lack of constructive information. Through persistent investigation and a commitment to task, members of the 3 District Detective Office, with collaboration from additional investigative units of the Service, were able to obtain several leads that led them to suspects in London, Ontario. To confirm the information, members of the London Police Service were contacted for assistance. An outstanding level of cooperation from London resulted in the prompt apprehension of two males. Both males are now facing multiple charges including attempted murder, the use of stolen credit cards, and theft.

The successful conclusion of this incident is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the 3 District Detective Office, in association with other internal and external agencies, to effectively identify and remove two violent criminals from our community.

PRESENTATIONS

52. **Mr. Rob Janssen, Jordan Station**

Mr. Rob Janssen, resident, Jordan Station, provided a presentation to the Board outlining his concerns regarding the major capital investment that the Region has committed to the Board for police facilities, and the subsequent tax burden on the citizens of Niagara. Mr. Janssen had been referred to the Board following a similar presentation made to the Region's Corporate Services Committee on March 12, 2008.

Moved by:	B. Bentley
Seconded by:	T. Shoalts

That the presentation be received.

Carried.

DEPUTATIONS

A. CONSENT AGENDA

53. **Regional Municipality of Niagara – CL 5-2008 February 28, 2008 CSC 3-2008 February 20, 2008**

The Board considered a letter dated February 29, 2008 from Janet Pilon, A/Regional Clerk, RMON, providing the Board with the February 29 approval by Regional Council of the Corporate Services Committee recommendation of receipt for Communication CSC 18-2008 from the Police Services Board (February 12, 2008) respecting Facilities – 110 James Street Project, St. Catharines – Tender 2008-T-101, Ground Floor Renovations.

54. **Niagara Parks Police – Fourth Quarter 2007 Report on Special Constables**

The Board considered Report 57/2008 dated January 3, 2008 submitted by Mr. John Kernahan, General Manager, Niagara Parks Commission, providing the Board with the Niagara Parks Police Service's fourth quarter 2007 report containing information relating to public complaints, use of force, discipline and arrests made by the Special Constables employed through the Niagara Parks Police, period October 1 to December 31, 2007.

55. **Brock University Campus Security Services – Quarterly Report on Special Constables**

The Board considered Report 61/2008 from Mr. Steven Pillar, Vice President, Finance and Administration, Brock University, providing the Board with information relating to complaints, use of force, discipline and arrests associated to the Special Constables employed through Brock University Campus Security Services during the 1st quarter of operations in 2008.

56. **Women's Place of South Niagara Inc.**

The Board considered a letter dated March 3, 2008 from Ruthann Brown, Executive Director, Women's Place of South Niagara Inc., acknowledging receipt of the Board's donation toward the successful 6th Annual 'Strike Out Violence' Bowling Tournament held February 29, 2008.

57. **Annual Report – Police Uniforms**

The Board considered Service report 58/2008 dated March 5, 2008 providing the Board with compliance by the Service relating to the procedures and processes developed by the Service relevant to the provision and use of standardized uniforms through General Orders, pursuant to Board By-law 259-2003.

58. **2008 Annual Awards Ceremony**

The Board considered Service report 54/2008 dated March 6, 2008 providing the Board with an invitation to the 2008 annual Awards Ceremony scheduled for May 28, 2008 to recognize citizens and police service members who have been recommended for commendations and long-service awards.

59. **Special Fund – February 1 - 29, 2008**

The Board considered Service report 66/2008 dated March 17, 2008 providing the Board with a summary of the transactions for the Niagara Regional Police Special Funds for the period February 1 to 29, 2008.

Moved by: L. Tufford
Seconded by: T. Shoalts

That the information be received.

Carried.

B. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

60. **Conducted Energy Weapon Statistics for 2007**

The Board considered Service report 65/2008 dated March 11, 2008 providing the Board with statistics relating to the usage of the Conducted Energy Weapon or 'Taser'; the training, inventory, injuries to subjects/officers and deployment of the taser within the Service, pursuant to the 2007 "Use of Force" report 42/2008 considered by the Board at its February 2008 meeting, Minute 37.2008.

Chief Southall confirmed that the NRPS follows policy and training standards set by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. With reference to the statistical numbers of injuries to officers, S/Sergeant Maggiolo reported that the numbers reflect injuries suffered as a result of the entire incident rather than strictly from the use of the taser during the particular incident.

Moved by: B. Bentley
Seconded by: L. Tufford

That the information be received.

Carried.

61. **Video Unit – Service Responsibilities**

The Board considered Service report 64/2008 dated March 13, 2008 providing the Board with an overview of the Video Unit's in-house, or non-Ontario Police Video Training Alliance, activities summarized for 2007, information requested by the Board at its December 2007 meeting, Minute 250.2007.

Moved by: B. Bentley
Seconded by: T. Shoalts

That the information be received.

Carried.

62. **Facilities – 110 James Street Project, St. Catharines - Ground Floor Renovations Update**

The Board considered Service report 69/2008 dated March 17, 2008 requesting approval to award Quotation 2008-Q-18, the retrofit of the ground floor washrooms at 110 James Street, St. Catharines, and to provide follow-up information relating to a relocation of the PSB boardroom to the first floor of the facility.

Chief Southall reported that this project is the finalization of the overall renovation program for the 110 James Street facility with completion scheduled for May 2008. The Chief added that the relocation change of the board room to the first floor as a multi-functional utility room is a positive move.

CAO Fuentes noted that the major reconstruction to accommodate the public accessible washroom area to meet current building code requirements will involve correction of the existing antigravity plumbing.

Moved by: L. Tufford
Seconded by: M. Woodhouse

That the Board:

1. **Approve ground floor washroom renovations as per Quotation 2008-Q-18 to the low bid from T.R. Hinan Contractors at \$74,952 plus GST;**
2. **And further, receive for consideration information on the feasibility of relocating the PSB boardroom from the 4th floor to the ground floor designated display/media area.**

Carried.

63. **Project ZPO0805 – Initiation of Microsoft Implementation**

The Board considered Service report 68/2008 dated March 12, 2008 requesting Board approval for the initiation of funds for capital account, Microsoft Implementation ZPO0805, to enable the Service to enter the planning phase necessary to migrate from the Novell environment to the Microsoft platform.

Moved by: D. Martin
Seconded by: L. Tufford

That the Board approve the initiation of Project ZPO0805, Microsoft Implementation, a capital expenditure budget of up to \$440,000 financing for the project to consist of Police Capital Levy approval of up to \$440,000.

Carried.

64. **Purchasing – Maintenance/Support Fees – Versadex Applications**

The Board considered Service report 67/2008 dated March 12, 2008 requesting the Board approve the payment of Invoice #0801-035 in the amount of \$160,502 plus applicable taxes to Versaterm for the annual Computer Aided Dispatch maintenance and support functions to maintain an operational CAD system, updates to licences, maintenance, after-hour support and on-going software updates.

Moved by: L. Tufford
Seconded by: B. Bentley

That the Board approve the Maintenance/Support fees for Versadex applications from Versaterm, Invoice #0801-035 in the amount of \$160,502 plus applicable taxes, funds budgeted in the Information Systems account 7412-1804 Repair and Maintenance.

Carried.

65. **NRPS Souvenir Display & Sales Program**

The Board considered Service report 53/2008 dated March 5, 2008 requesting the Board approve the establishment of an in-house sales program for souvenirs bearing the Niagara Regional Police Service crest with net proceeds toward local community improvement initiatives.

Chief Southall advised the Service may look at allocating portions of the sales initiatives to the United Way or Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund to further support the community.

The Board suggested the Chief explore utilizing the Regional displays for souvenirs. In addition the Board requested regular annual reports detailing sales activities.

Moved by: L. Tufford
Seconded by: B. Bentley

That the Board approve the founding of a Niagara Regional Police Service Souvenir Display and Sales Program.

Carried.

66. **Request for Sponsorship – NRPA Charity Golf Tournament (CACN)**

The Board considered a memorandum dated March 6, 2008 from Deb Morton, Executive Director, providing the Board with a letter received from Mr. Rick Gordon, Chair, Charity Golf Tournament, Niagara Region Police Association, requesting a donation to the 'Chip it for Charity' golf tournament in support of the Child Advocacy Centre Niagara (CACN).

Moved by: D. Martin
Seconded by: L. Tufford

That the Board authorize a donation in the amount of \$300.00 from the Special Fund to the Niagara Region Police Association for the 'Chip it for Charity' Golf Tournament in support of the Child Advocacy Centre Niagara.

Carried.

Member Woodhouse requested that he be recorded as opposed to the aforementioned motion.

67. **Funding Request - NRPS 2008 Tug-of-War Team**

The Board considered Service report 60/2008 dated March 4, 2008 requesting the Board consider a donation from the Special Fund to the 2008 Tug-of-War Team of the Niagara Regional Police Service to offset expenses incurred in the preparation for the annual cross borders' tug-of-war with the Niagara Falls, N.Y., Police Department team to be held Saturday, May 17, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the Rainbow Bridge, Niagara Falls. (Previous Board donations: 2004-\$250, 2005-\$300, 2006-\$250; 2007-\$300.)

Moved by: D. Martin
Seconded by: L. Tufford

That the Board authorize a donation in the amount of \$300.00 from the Special Fund to offset expenses incurred by members of the NRPS for participation in the annual Tug-of-War.

Carried.

Member Woodhouse requested that he be recorded as opposed to the aforementioned motion.

Member Martin declared a Conflict of Interest with the following item, and as such, did not comment or vote upon the matter.

68. **Funding Request – 2008 Heart & Stroke Foundation Big Bike Event – St. Catharines**

The Board considered Service report 55/2008 dated February 28, 2008 requesting the Board approve a donation from the Special Fund to the Heart and Stroke Foundation Big Bike for Stroke event on May 29, 2008 with a team of 29 NRPS members riding the Big Bike for donations during this notable event led by NRPS Constable Malcolm Scott as team captain. (*Previous Board donations: 2006-\$500; 2007-\$500.00*)

Moved by: L. Tufford
Seconded by: T. Shoalts

That the Board authorize a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from the Special Fund to the 2008 Heart and Stroke Foundation during the Big Bike event scheduled for May 29, 2008.

Carried.

Member Woodhouse requested that he be recorded as opposed to the aforementioned motion.

69. **Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) 46th Annual Conference – April 24 – 26, 2008**

The Board considered a memorandum dated February 21, 2008 from Deb Morton, Executive Director, providing the Board with Notice from Mr. Mike Fenchak, Secretary-Treasurer, Ontario Association of Police Services Boards, of the OAPSB's 46th Annual Meeting and Conference being held from April 24 – 26, 2008 in Stratford, Ontario.

Moved by: M. Woodhouse
Seconded by: L. Tufford

That the information be received;

And further, Board members are requested to advise the Executive Director if they wish to attend the Conference.

Carried.

70. **Proposed Amendments to the Board's Procedural By-law**

The Board considered a memorandum dated February 22, 2008 from Deb Morton, Executive Director, providing the Board with recommended amendments to the Board's current Procedural By-law to ensure the procedural rules are consistent with the Board's current practices.

Moved by: L. Tufford
Seconded by: T. Shoalts

That the Board's Procedural By-law No. 147-95 be repealed and replaced with the By-law appended to this report;

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

Carried.

71. **Ontario Association of Police Services Boards/Canadian Association of Police Boards – Resolution – *Canadian Military Reservists – Leaves of Absence* –**

Resolution for consideration by both the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards and the Canadian Association of Police Boards that both groups urge the provincial and/or federal governments to provide extended health care benefit coverage and assumption of responsibility for any costs associated with military deployment by reservist members of municipal police services.

Moved by: B. Bentley
Seconded by: L. Tufford

WHEREAS recent changes to the Ontario Employment Standards Act, 2000, S.O. 2000, c.41, under Part XIV, sections 50.2 and 51, now provide for job protected leaves of absences for military reservists serving on certain domestic operations and international deployments;

AND WHEREAS a similar legislative regime may exist in other jurisdictions across Canada;

AND WHEREAS there are considerable risks for disabling injuries or illnesses while deployed on Canadian Forces operations, some of which may not emerge for several weeks, months or even years after completion of military operations;

AND WHEREAS there are potential future liabilities that the Board will be required to bear in the unfortunate event that a member of police service becomes injured or ill as a result of their military deployment after their return to work with the police service;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards and the Canadian Association of Police Services Boards urge Provincial and/or Federal Governments to provide extended health care benefit coverage to members of police services serving as reservists and assume responsibility for any costs that may be associated with military deployment operations.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Chairperson

Executive Director