



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

PUBLIC MINUTES

Thursday, December 17, 2009

Niagara Police Services Board
Multipurpose Room 1st Floor, 110 James Street, St. Catharines

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board commenced at 8:33 a.m.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. L. Iggulden, Chair
Mr. D. Martin, Vice Chair
Mr. T. Shoalts
Mr. B. Smeaton
Mr. V. Stewart
Mr. M. Woodhouse

Mr. W.B. McKaig, Board Solicitor
Ms. D. Morton, Executive Director
Ms. S. Taylor, Executive Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chief of Police W.E. Southall
Deputy Chief of Police J. Matthews
CAO G. Fuentes
Superintendent R. Wright, Emergency & Investigative Support
Superintendent S. Kenney, Eastern Region
Superintendent G. Skafffeld, Central Region
Superintendent B. Symonds, Executive Services
Inspector J. McCaffery, Executive Officer
Inspector B. MacCulloch, Central Courts
S/Sgt. K. McAllister, Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief
P.C. N. Davé, Media Officer
Ms. M. George, Director of Business Services
Mr. A. Askoul, Director Information & Communication Technology
Dr. P. Divers, Corporate Analyst
Ms. L. DiDonato-DeChellis, Manager Finance
Ms. D. Stevenson, Manager, Information Services

PRESENTATION:

NRPS Civilian Staff Members:
Ms. J. Hiscoe, Supervisor C Unit, Communications Unit
Mr. F. Muraca, Telecommunications Voice Strategy,
Information Technology Unit

**NIAGARA REGION
POLICE ASSOCIATION:**

Mr. P. DiSimoni, President

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST

229. **Appointment to Police Services Board – Order in Council – Vaughn Stewart**

The Board considered Order in Council No. 1811/2009 dated December 2, 2009 signed by Lieutenant Governor David C. Onley, Province of Ontario, appointing Mr. Vaughn Stewart as a member of the Niagara Police Services Board for a period of three years, effective December 2, 2009.

Moved by: D. Martin
Seconded by: M. Woodhouse

That the information be received.

Carried.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

230. Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, November 26, 2009.

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

That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, November 26, 2009 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

REPORTS FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Chair Iggulden reported the following:

Official Welcome to Board Member Vaughn Stewart

Chair Iggulden officially welcomed Vaughn Stewart to the Police Services Board. Mr. Stewart was appointed by the Province for a three-year term commencing on December 2, 2009. He was sworn in December 11, and is now officially able to participate in Board business. Mr. Stewart fills the position held previously by Larry Tufford whose term expired in June of this year. On behalf of the Board, Chair Iggulden welcomed Member Stewart's participation and contribution to this Board.

NRPS 2010 Police Budget Presentation

On December 10 Chair Iggulden attended Regional Council's Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting with Chief Southall and Senior Executive staff to present the 2010 Police Operating Budget. The presentation was well received, and the Committee approved the Service's budget submission in principle for consideration by Regional Council. Chair Iggulden noted that the 2010 Police Operating Budget will be discussed at tonight's Council meeting.

NRPS Canine Graduation Ceremony

On December 16 the NRPS hosted a canine graduation ceremony for four police agencies. Member Smeaton attended the event and five Police Service dogs, along with their handlers, were officially sworn-in.

Niagara Regional Police Recruit Swearing-In Ceremony

Chief Southall will be hosting a swearing-in ceremony tonight for 29 new Niagara Regional Police recruits to be held at Club Italia in Niagara Falls at 7:30 p.m. Member Shoalts will bring comments on behalf of the Board.

OAPSB/OACP Zone 4 Meeting

The Ontario Association of Police Services Board and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police will hold their quarterly zone meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, and the joint meeting will be hosted by the Brantford Police Service. Further details of the meeting will be sent out to Board members closer to the meeting date.

NRPS United Way Christmas Breakfast

On December 3 Chair Iggulden and Board staff attended the NRPS United Way Christmas Breakfast. Special thanks are extended to members of the NRPS United Way Committee for their organizing efforts which resulted in over \$1,100 being raised in support of the NRPS United Way 2009 fundraising campaign.

SOA Annual Christmas & Retirees Night

On December 4 the Senior Officers' Association hosted its Annual Christmas and Retirees Night at the Whirlpool Golf Course. Chair and Mrs. Iggulden attended the event, and extended their appreciation to the members of the SOA for inclusion at this festive event.

NRPS Annual Food & Toy Drive

In December many of us turn to giving – our time to others, to others, to our family and friends, and to those in need. This year it is well known that many have been affected by the changing economic situation and are impacted in various ways. The Board is thankful for the opportunity to participate in the Service's Annual Food and Toy Drive, and hopeful that contributions will make the holidays a little extra special for those less fortunate.

By means of a self-crafted poem, Chair Iggulden thanked Chief Southall, her Executive staff and Service members who give their time, ideas and hard work to make the Niagara community a better, safer place for all to live in and enjoy. Chair Iggulden continued by extending the Board's best wishes to each and every one for a wonderful holiday season and a safe, happy and healthy New Year.

Upcoming Meetings – 1st Floor Boardroom, 110 James Street, St. Catharines

- Licencing Committee – Thursday, January 14 at 8:30 a.m.;
- Human Resources Committee – Thursday, January 14 at 9:30 p.m.;
- Next Board Meeting – Thursday, January 28 at 8:30 a.m.

REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Southall reported the following:

2009 Year End & Welcome to Newly Appointed Member Stewart

Chief Southall commented that 2009 has been unprecedented, with achievements for the Service and its members, aided and abetted through the leadership and direction of the Board. She commented on the onerous duties of a Board member. On behalf of the Service and its members, Chief Southall welcomed newly appointed Board Member Vaughn Stewart.

Sergeant Dave Brennan – Annual NRPS Holiday Food & Toy Drive

On December 1 Chief Southall noted that the 19th Holiday Food and Toy Drive began under the leadership of Sergeant Brennan continues the appeal for non-perishable food items and toys for those less fortunate.

2009 CopShop, Pen Centre, St. Catharines

On December 16, fifty police officers from the Niagara Regional Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police, CN police and the Niagara Parks Police as personal shoppers accompanied 40 specially chosen children as part of a special initiative called CopShop, descended upon the Pen Centre, St. Catharines, for some Christmas shopping. Each child received a \$200 gift card donated by the Pen Centre, and following a pizza party, the children and their escorts fanned out to purchase toys, winter clothing and Christmas gifts.

The children were chosen by a variety of sources including Community Care and their school principals because of need, recognition of specific academic or sports achievement, or because of outstanding volunteer efforts in the community.

The project, which originated at Halifax Shopping Centre in 2005, is going national for a second year with nine other 20 VIC Management shopping centres in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia holding their own CopShop events in December, with an approximate 350 Canadian children benefiting from this year's event.

Chief Southall said the Service is extremely proud of its members' efforts.

Awards for NRPS Video Unit

In Fort Worth, TX, the NRPS Video Unit has won the top award for its public safety cycling video at the 2009 Law Enforcement Video Association Shield Awards Competition which recognizes excellence in video production within the public safety community.

The NRP video won the best overall entry and the Gold Shield first place award in the technical/safety category for the IPMBA Fundamental Skills for Public Safety Cycling video. It also garnered the Award of Excellence and Honour, making it the first time that a single agency won the top three awards. IPMBA is a non-profit association that promotes the use of bikes for public safety, provides resources and networking opportunities.

The NRP Video Unit is the production arm of the non-profit Ontario Police Video Training Alliance which produces training programs for more than 90 member police services in Ontario.

Operational Statistics

Marihuana Grow Operations

For the period January 1 through December 17, 2009:
Total street value seized \$12,439,000 compared to \$21,014,000 for 2008;
Total equipment seized \$538,000 compared to \$728,688 for 2008.

Homicides

For the period January 1 through December 17, 2009:
6 compared to 6, same period 2008.

Robberies

For the period November 26 through December 15, 2009:
16 with 2 cleared, a 12% clearance rate this period.

Traffic Fatality Statistics

For the period January 1 through December 15, 2009:
24 collisions (26 deceased), compared to
27 collisions (29 deceased), same period 2008.

Life-Threatening Injury Collisions

For the period January 1 through December 15, 2009:
30 compared to 32, same period 2008.

Introduction of Civilian NRPS Members

Chief Southall reported that throughout the recent year she has taken pride in introducing to the Board, members of the Service's sworn compliment that have either been recently promoted or involved in community events. Too often the accomplishments of the civilian team have been neglected, and continued that two members of the Service civilian team were introduced.

i. Ms. J. Hiscoe, Communications Supervisor

On December 13 Ms. Hiscoe who was promoted to the Supervisor position within the NRPS Communications Unit. During her twenty-five year career in the Communications Unit Ms. Hiscoe has been successful in numerous courses continuing to upgrade her skills as a Communicator and as an Acting Supervisor.

In 2007 Ms. Hiscoe joined the Drive Safe Team, a successful program put on by Niagara Regional Police Service attending several schools within the Region discussing safe driving and 911 Awareness. She also volunteers her time to speak with young elementary school students regarding 911 as well.

In May 2009 the Drive Safe Team was nominated by Chief Southall for Best Teamwork for the Ontario Women in Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony. In 2009 Janet was certified by the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch in EPD (Emergency Police Dispatch) and as well received a manager's certificate in Police Quality Assurance, presently only a few in the Province have this Certification. With this promotion Ms. Hiscoe will be assigned as the Supervisor of "C" Platoon. Congratulations!

ii. Mr. F. Muraca

The newest member of the Information Technology team, Mr. Muraca is a lifelong resident of Niagara Falls, and a 1987 graduate from DeVry Institute of Technology as an Electronics Engineering Technologist.

Prior to joining the Niagara Regional Police Service, Mr. Muraca was a member of the Brock University Technology team with over 15 years of Telecommunication and Networking experience with extensive experience and working knowledge in a large scale enterprise environment providing voice and data support for local and wide area networks. Mr. Muraca has practical firsthand knowledge of analog, digital and Internet Telephone technology.

As part of his commitment to the community during the summer months, Mr. Muraca coaches youth soccer in the Home for Girls Soccer League. In 2008, he successfully became a member of the Niagara Regional Police Service as an Auxiliary Police Constable and is currently stationed out of 2 District.

Excited about joining the Service and becoming a member of the Information and Communications Technology team, Mr. Muraca is looking forward to moving the approved Telecommunications Voice Strategy forward in order for the Service to start taking advantage of the voice and data integration.

Chief Southall noted with pride Ms. Hiscoe and Mr. Muraca, and all the members of the Service's civilian team, and stated that she looks forward to the opportunity to work together with them to meet the needs of the community, the membership and the residents to the Niagara Region.

Arrest in Double Homicide, Niagara Falls

On December 1, members of the Service responded to a call for assistance at 6315 Pine Grove Avenue in the City of Niagara Falls where a deceased female and a male in need of urgent medical attention were discovered. The critically injured male was transported to hospital and passed away shortly thereafter. Members of the Major Crime Unit, Niagara Falls Detective Office, Forensic Services and uniform patrol, undertook the investigation.

Following the post mortem examinations of the victims and early forensic assessment of the scene, investigators determined that both were victims of homicide. On December 3 following an extensive investigation, officers arrested 38 year old Paul Mellor of Niagara Falls at his residence for two counts of 1st degree murder. Mellor was a known acquaintance of the victims. The Major Crime Unit of the Niagara Regional Police Service led the investigation with assistance from many other units of the Service.

PRESENTATIONS

DEPUTATIONS

A. CONSENT AGENDA

231. Ministry of Transportation

The Board considered a letter dated November 23, 2009 from Jim Bradley, Minister of Transportation, acknowledging receipt of the August 20, 2009 letter from Chief of Police Southall concerning proposed methods through provincial legislation to curtail the activities of unlicensed taxicabs in Niagara.

232. Regional Municipality of Niagara – CL 16-2009 December 3, 2009 BRCOTW 5-2010 November 19, 2009 CSC 15-2009 November 15, 2009

The Board considered a letter dated December 4, 2009 from Kevin Bain, Regional Clerk, RMON, providing the Board with the December 3 action by Regional Council relating to its BRCOTW and Corporate Services Committee recommendations:

Receipt:

BRCOTW C 2-2009 relating to the 2010 Police Service Capital Budget and 9-Year Capital Forecast and BRCOTW C 4-2009 relating to the Service 2010 DRAFT Current/Operating Budget; and CSC 15-2009 CSC 42-2009 – Police Service Capital Projects Update; CSC 44-2009 – Niagara Police Service Board Facilities – 5 District Fort Erie Project PO0702.

Approval:

CSD 160-2009 – Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality – Town of Fort Erie.

233. Annual Report - Exposure to Communicable Diseases

The Board considered Service report 293/2009 dated December 1, 2009 providing the Board annually with information relevant to the exposure by Service members to communicable diseases including a summary of written procedures concerning occupational exposure to communicable diseases, a brief overview of the history of exposure to communicable disease within the Service; the production of additional resources for assistance; a successful audit of Service policies by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services of the Service in 2007; relevant training provided to Uniform and auxiliary members as well as on-going training to all uniform members for requalification purposes, pursuant to Board By-law 253-2003.

234. Annual Report – Police Uniforms

The Board considered Service report 294/2009 dated December 1, 2009 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.

235. **Special Fund – October 1 - 31, 2009**

The Board considered Service report 292/2009 dated November 27, 2009 providing the Board with a summary of the transactions for the Niagara Regional Police Special Funds for the period October 1 through 31, 2009.

Moved by: D. Martin
Seconded by: V. Stewart

That the information be received.

Carried.

B. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

236. **Donation Request – 2009 NRPS United Way Campaign**

The Board considered Service report 299/2009 dated December 4, 2009 requesting the Board authorize a donation from the Special Fund to assist with the costs of the NRPS in-house 2009 United Way Campaign initiatives to better its 2008 total. *(The Board authorized in 2008 - \$500, 2007 - \$500, 2006 – denied, 2004 – time-off incentives, 2003 time- off incentives.)*

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

That the Board authorize a donation from the Special Fund in the amount of \$500.00 to the 2009 NRPS in-house United Way Campaign.

Opposed:
M. Woodhouse

Carried.

237. **Sponsorship – NRPS Female Hockey Team – 2010 International Police Hockey Tournament**

The Board considered Service report 295/2009 dated December 7, 2009 requesting the Board approve a donation from the Special Fund to offset expenses for the NRPS female hockey team to participate in the 2010 International Police Hockey Tournament in Kingston, Ontario. *(The Board authorized \$500 donations in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.)*

Moved by: V. Stewart
Seconded by: T. Shoalts

That the Board authorize a donation from the Special Fund in the amount of \$500.00 to offset expenses to the NRPS Female Hockey Team for participation in the 2010 International Police Hockey Tournament.

Opposed:
M. Woodhouse

Carried.

238. **Sponsorship – Hockey for Heart**

The Board considered a memorandum dated December 7, 2009 from the Board's Executive Director providing the Board with a letter received from retired Sergeant Frank Grivich requesting a donation from the Special Fund for a fundraising event in support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

Moved by: D. Martin
Seconded by: B. Smeaton

That the request for funding be denied.

Opposed:
M. Woodhouse

Carried.

239. **Board – By-law No. 292-2009 – Traffic Management, Enforcement & Road Safety – Repeal of By-law No. 209-2000**

The Board considered a memorandum dated December 8, 2009 from the Board's Executive Director requesting the Board approve the repeal of Board By-law No. 209-2003, and further, approve the enactment of By-law No. 292-2009, Traffic Management, Enforcement and Road Safety.

Moved by: T. Shoalts
Seconded by: D. Martin

That the Board's Traffic Management, Enforcement and Road Safety By-law No. 209-2000 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.

240. **Board – By-law No. 293-2009 – Framework for Business Planning – Repeal of By-law No. 249-2000**

The Board considered a memorandum dated November 29, 2009 requesting the Board consider a revised by-law respecting the framework for business planning for the Police Services Board and the Niagara Regional Police Service to address requirements under provincial regulations.

Moved by: D. Martin
Seconded by: M. Woodhouse

That the Board's Business Planning By-law No. 249-2000 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.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

Chairperson

Executive Director