

Board Report



Civilian Governance and
Oversight for the Niagara
Regional Police Service

A Newsletter from the Niagara Police Services Board

POLICE SERVICES BOARD

Chair

Regional Cllr. Henry D'Angela

Vice-Chair

Todd Shoalts

Members

Mayor Vance Badawey
Regional Chair Gary Burroughs
Kenneth Gansel
Bob Marshall
Vaughn Stewart

Executive Director

Deb Morton

Executive Assistant

Dawn Cichocki

Address

110 James Street, 2nd Floor
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7E8

Phone

(905) 685-0321

Fax

(905) 688-0036

Email

psb@nrps.on.ca

Web

www.nrps.com/psb

WHAT IS THE NIAGARA POLICE SERVICES BOARD AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

There is a lot of confusion around what a police services board actually does, and to whom it reports.

In Ontario, every municipality with a municipal police service must have a civilian police services board to govern the police service. Police services boards are independent bodies set up by the provincial legislation called the **Police Services Act**; the Act (section 31) also sets out the responsibilities boards must fulfill on behalf of the residents of their municipalities. The boards are accountable to the community, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, and the Ontario Civilian Police Commission. In Niagara, there is a seven-member board comprised of three members of Regional Council, three citizens appointed by the Province as community representatives, and one citizen appointed by Regional Council as a community representative.



(From left to right: Vice-Chair Todd Shoalts, Regional Chair Gary Burroughs, Member Ken Gansel, Deputy Chief Joe Matthews, Chief of Police Jeff McGuire, Deputy Chief Bryan MacCulloch, Board Chair and Regional Councillor Henry D'Angela, Member Bob Marshall, Port Colborne Mayor and Regional Councillor Vance Badawey, and Member Vaughn Stewart.)

The primary role of the board is to establish, after consultation with the Chief of Police, the overall objectives and priorities for the provision of police services and the safety and security of citizens. It is also responsible for approving annual operating and capital budgets for the Police Service; establishing policies and by-laws for the effective management of the police service; recruiting and appointing the Chief of Police and Deputy Chiefs of Police and annually assessing their performance; establishing guidelines for the administration of the public complaints system and receiving quarterly reports on complaints; negotiating collective agreements with the unions representing Police Service employees; and preparing a business plan for the Police Service every three years.

2014 NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE BUDGET

Preparation for the 2014 Niagara Regional Police Service budget process is well underway. The operating and capital budgets are compiled utilizing parallel in-depth analysis and prioritizations to those conducted by the Region. The resulting proposed budgets are reviewed and approved by the Board and forwarded to Regional Budget Review Committee and to Regional Council for approval of the overall Police Service funding. The timetable for the preparation of the 2014 Police Service operating and capital budgets is outlined below:

June 27th

July 8th

July 8th – August 1st

August 2nd

August 5th – 14th

August 16th

August 19th – 23rd

August 26th – September 3rd

September 4th

September 5th – 13th

September 18th

September 26th

September 27th

To Be Determined

- Direction from Police Services Board
- Budget Kick-Off
- Preparation by NRPS Program Managers
- Deadline for submission to Superintendents and Directors
- Review by NRPS Superintendents and Directors
- Deadline for electronic submission to Finance
- Consolidation and preparation of first draft
- Review by NRPS Executive Staff
- NRPS Executive Budget Review Meeting
- Budget revisions and preparation of consolidated budget package
- Presentation of draft budget to Police Services Board
- Public presentation of final draft to Police Services Board
- Deliver 2014 budget package to Regional Council – Corporate Services
- Presentation to Regional Council

MONTHLY EVENTS

July 11, 2013

Police Services Board
Committee Meetings
9:30 am – 11:30 am, PSB Boardroom,
1st Floor, 110 James Street,
St. Catharines, ON

July 22, 2013

NRPS Promotional Ceremony
Sergeants and Staff Sergeant
9:00 am, Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Road
St. Catharines, ON

July 22, 2013

Collision Reporting Centre
Grand Opening
1:00 pm, NRPS 3 District
5 Lincoln Street West, Welland, ON

July 25, 2013

Police Services Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
8:30 am, PSB Boardroom
1st Floor, 110 James Street,
St. Catharines

The Niagara Police Services Board is the civilian body established by provincial legislation that provides governance and oversight of the Niagara Regional Police Service. It is accountable to the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the Ontario Civilian Police Commission. If you are interested in viewing past issues of the "Board Report" newsletter or other information about the Niagara Police Services Board, please visit www.nrps.com/psb

REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE BOARD

The Board received reports on the following topics at the June 25th meeting that may be of interest to you.

- **Downtown St. Catharines Association** – Presentation on behalf of the St. Catharines Downtown Association about the location of the 1 District (St. Catharines) police facility.
- **Regional Council Resolutions** – Notification of resolutions passed by Regional Council on police-related matters at the May 9, 2013 meeting.
- **Child Advocacy Centre Niagara (CACN)** – Letter from the Regional Chair to encourage continued support of CACN from the Board and Service.
- **NRPS 2012 Annual Report** – Final approval of the 'draft' copy of the NRPS 2012 Annual Report to be published and distributed in the near future.
- **St. Catharines Parking Lot Enforcement** – Notification of the City's enforcement of the Raymond Street and William Street parking lots to ensure availability to authorized police personnel only.
- **R.I.D.E. Grant** – Approval for continued participation in the Provincial R.I.D.E. Grant Program to assist the NRPS with initiatives to reduce drinking and driving related offences.
- **Special Fund** – Monthly report summarizing the transactions and fund activities.
- **Police Sponsorship** – Donated \$100 to support the annual Tournament of Kindness to benefit the Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre Child Assault Prevention Program.
- **Records Management System (RMS) Maintenance and Support** – Approval of annual maintenance renewal for the Records Management System of the Niagara Regional Police.
- **Voice Radio System (VRS) Consultant Award** – Approval to award the consulting contract to Lapp-Hancock Associates Limited to assist the Service with the investigation and analysis of the options for the development and migration to a new interoperable industry-wide 700 MHz Voice Radio System platform.
- **2013 Vehicle Replacements** – Approval to purchase 19 vehicles for deployment in the final half of 2013 through the Police Purchasing Cooperative Tender.
- **2014 Budget – Police Interim Facilities Funding** – Public notice that the Service has completed a review of the interim accommodation costs and requested the 2014 budget interim accommodation costs be adjusted in the amount of \$1,436,930 as presented to the Region on June 6, 2013.
- **Financial Impact of Arbitration Award** – Notification that there will be an estimated \$4.6 million deficit in the 2013 operating budget as a result of the Arbitration Award issued for the 2012 Uniform and Civilian Collective Agreements.
- **NRPS Special Duty Rates** – By-law amendment to increase the payments to Service members who perform special duty assignments in accordance with the Arbitration Award of the 2012 Uniform and Civilian Collective Agreements.
- **Adequacy Standards/Annual Reports** – The Service provided the Board with a total of 16 reports on various adequacy standards and annual reports as required by Board policy to ensure compliance with both the regulation and adequacy and effectiveness guidelines:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Officer Note Taking | • Witness Protection |
| • Emergency Planning | • Stolen or Smuggled Firearms |
| • Criminal Intelligence Unit | • Child Abuse and Neglect |
| • Drug Investigations | • Fundraising |
| • Illegal Gaming | • Proceeds of Crime |
| • Explosives Disposal Unit | • Vehicle Theft |
| • Property Offences (Break and Enters) | • Child Pornography (Internet Child Exploitation) |
| • Hate/Bias Motivated Crimes & Hate Propaganda Offences | • Parental and Non-Parental Abductions and Attempts |

If you would like to obtain copies of any of the above noted reports, please contact the Board office or visit our website at www.nrps.com/psb

BOARD SUPPORTS CHANGES TO ONTARIO INTEREST ARBITRATION SYSTEM

Earlier this year, the Board approved a resolution in support of changes to the interest arbitration process proposed by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Emergency Services Steering Committee (ESSC) – the latter is a committee comprised of representatives from AMO, the Large Urban Mayors Caucus (LUMCO), the Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO), and the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB). The resolution also calls on the three provincial parties to work together to make the interest arbitration system more efficient, transparent and accountable.

As noted in the AMO literature on the topic, for more than a decade, cumulative wage increases for police, fire and paramedic employees have exceeded growth in Canada's Consumer Price Index by between 50% and 80%.

The intent of the proposed changes is to have local realities and economic conditions play a role in arbitrator's awards that are comparable to negotiated collective bargaining contracts, with a view to reining in ever increasing wage and benefit costs for emergency services including police. For example, the changes would amend the interest arbitration criteria to include:

- The employer's ability to pay in light of its fiscal situation with consideration given to, and consistent with, the municipal council's service priorities;
- The extent to which municipal service levels may have to reduced to implement the arbitrator's decision if the current funding and taxation levels are not increased;
- The economic situation in Ontario and the municipality, including private sector settlements;
- A comparison between the employees and the bargaining unit and other municipal employees and groups within that municipality.

The changes also call for streamlining of the process and a time limit for completion of an arbitration decision. For more details, please refer to the report and background documentation that was included on the Board's agenda which is available on-line at www.amo.on.ca

In response to the Board's resolution, a letter was received at the June 27th meeting from the Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, stating that the Province is currently looking at possible improvements and reforms to the interest arbitration system and remains committed to continuing to work on addressing our concerns. The Board's resolution has also been passed along to the Honourable Yasir Naqvi, Minister of Labour, for his comments and consideration.

NRPS OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Homicides – One compared to three for same period in 2012, compared to two in 2011, three in 2010 and six in 2009/2008.

Traffic Fatalities – Five collisions with five deceased, compared to eight collisions with nine deceased for same timeframe in 2012, and three collisions with three deceased in 2011 and eight collisions with eight deceased for 2010.

Life Threatening Injury Collisions – Six compared to 10 for same period in 2012; further compared to six in 2011 and 11 in 2010.

Marijuana Grow Operations – Year to date, NRPS seized illegal drugs totaling a street value of over \$3 million and \$82,000 in equipment.

Robberies – In May, NRPS solved six of 20 reported robberies, 14 remain under investigation.