



**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MINUTES**

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Niagara Regional Police Service
Community Room, 1st Floor, 5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls

CALL TO ORDER

The Information Technology Committee Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board commenced at 11:01 am.

ROLL CALL

PSB MEMBERS: Mr. K. Gansel, Committee Chair
Mr. B. Gale, Chair
Mr. T. Bonham
Mr. B. Marshall
Mr. V. Stewart

Ms. D. Reid, Executive Director

NRPS MEMBERS: Chief J. McGuire
A/Deputy Chief G. Bench, Operational Support
Mr. A. Askoul, Director, Information and Technology
Mr. T. Roome, Manager, Public Safety Radio System

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict or pecuniary interest.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. **Minutes of the Information Technology Committee Meeting held on Thursday, March 9, 2017.**

Moved by: Stewart
Seconded by: Marshall

That the information be received.

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

2. P25 Voice Radio Communication System – Radio Sites Decommissioning Costs

The Board considered Service report 153/2017 dated May 12, 2017 providing the Committee with the costs associated with the decommissioning of the legacy radio sites.

Mr. Roome provided a verbal update on the progress of Service's decommissioning efforts for its old radio sites which in totality is near completion with some decommissioning work yet to be completed at the former police headquarters facility and two sites are pending decommission due to safety compliance issues.

Mr. Roome reiterated that the Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) requested the Service remove the Queenston shelter and tower given the NPC have no requirement to assume use or ownership of the equipment. He further advised that at the request of the NPP, the Service will delay any activity for removal until the end of the Niagara Parks Commission's peak season.

Mr. Roome spoke to the matter relating to the water tanks that are situated on Regional property advising that the tanks have been emptied and the electrical services have been disconnected. He stated that the Region has agreed to leave the structures in their current location for inclusion in a future water tank decommissioning project. However, he did advise that if the water tank project does not commence for another year the structures are able to be moved for any alternate use deemed necessary. In regard to the water tank located on Crescent Road in Fort Erie, Mr. Roome advised that the Service is now removed from any matters dealing with the water tank and that when the Region decides to decommission the site, police staff will only be required to attend the site for possession of the old antenna equipment.

Chair Gale requested the Board receive written confirmation supporting that the Crescent Road property and any additional radio/tower sites that were formerly leased by the Niagara Regional Police Service from the Region are no longer tied to the NRPS and that the Region is the sole entity responsible for the ownership and decommissioning of the sites.

Member Stewart requested the Service provide an information report for comparison of the leasing costs associated with the Legacy Voice Radio System versus the new P25 Voice Radio Communications System.

Member Bonham questioned if the Service has received any releases regarding liability to avoid any hazardous material containment issues that may result from the reuse of shelters that the Service has been relieved of through a private sector entity. Mr. Roome advised that it is the tower that is perceived to be a "risky" device and specific to the Sherkston tower, the Region is drafting a legal document for its transfer. He stated that he hadn't perceived a shelter to be a "risky" device and upon validating Member Bonham's concerns, he advised that he will look into that matter as well.

Committee Chair Gansel supported the comments made by Member Bonham and emphasized the importance of the Service being diligent in all radio site related ownership transfers and sales. He stated that obtaining a bill of sale is necessary to ensure that the purchaser assumes all responsibility for the shelter in terms of any legal contamination or any other issue that may become a liability for police. He also suggested that a separate detailed release indicating all potential risks factors be issued for the Sherkston tower given the age of the tower, guide wires, rusted connections, etc.

Moved by: T. Bonham
Seconded by: B. Gale

That the information be received.

Carried.

3. Information Technology Strategic Plan – Status Update

The Committee considered a verbal update from Mr. Askoul on the development of the Service's new Information Technology Strategic Plan for the year 2017 and beyond. He advised that the Plan will be based on the current trends and influences that are impacting the policing community and that staff has been exploring the following trends for consideration of enhanced capabilities that will be achieved through the development the Service's NRPS 2017-2019 IT Strategic Plan:

1. Big Data and Analytics:

- Enhanced capabilities for reviewing and monitoring data, situational awareness and decision-making capabilities being tied into the NRPS Real Time Crime Reporting Centre and different options for dashboard technology that will impact how police calls can be communicated.

2. Cloud Technology:

- Data storage on a cloud versus having to store data on police premise to determine if cloud storage will allow the Service to conduct business more effectively and more efficiently.
- Enterprise analytics software being provided as a service versus having to purchase the software/infrastructure in-house from an operational/administrative and technological perspective.

3. Cyber Security and Privacy Compliance in the Digital Age:

- Capabilities for maintaining compliance toward all privacy legislation and regulations when moving to asset/data storage on a cloud, which will require extensive hacking prevention enhancements.

4. Information Management Strategy and Governance:

- Digitization to improve the efficiency of core business processes through digitizing paper forms.
- Enhancements to officer safety to allow data to be dissemination to front line officers through situational awareness.
- Multi-year project in full consultation and partnership with the NRPS Corporate Records Unit.

5. Mobilization of the Workforce:

- Mobile devices that will enhance communications among front line officers and the linkage to cyber security and privacy concerns such as Push-to-Talk technology on mobile devices for iPhones and Android devices to allow a smartphone device to behave as a P25 radio.

6. Opportunities for Improvement for Technology Services:

- Workload alterations, integration of IT functions, outsourcing of technical/support services and pooling of resources.

7. Internet of Things (IOT):

- Development of "Smart Niagara" to make it a destination of choice through collaboration with the Region and various other regional public sector partners.

- Use of the Niagara Region public sector community cloud intended to deliver the foundational platform that will provide and enable future expansion capabilities to share technological infrastructure and resources within the overall goal of delivering cost effective services to our organization and partners.

Mr. Askoul concluded his update and advised that he will be reporting back on the 2017-2019 IT Strategic Plan through the Chief's Office.

Moved by: V. Stewart
Seconded by: B. Marshall

That the information be received.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business reported.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 6, 2017 at 1:00 pm, NRPS Headquarters, Community Room, 1st Floor, 5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls.

ADJOURNMENT

The Information Technology Committee Meeting adjourned at 11:49 am.

Bob Gale, Chairperson

Deb Reid, Executive Director