



**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA  
POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 12, 2017**

**Niagara Regional Police Service  
Community Room 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Finance Committee Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board commenced at 12:45 pm.

**PSB MEMBERS:** Mr. B. Marshall, Committee Chair  
Mr. B. Gale, Chair  
Mr. K. Gansel, Vice-Chair  
Mr. T. Bonham  
Mr. A. Caslin  
Mr. V. Stewart

Ms. D. Reid, Executive Director

**NRPS MEMBERS:** Chief J. McGuire  
Deputy Chief B. MacCulloch, Operational Support  
Deputy Chief J. Matthews, Support Services  
Ms. L. DiDonato-DeChellis, Director of Business Services

**DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of conflict or pecuniary interest.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 2017 Indirect Allocations Budget – Follow Up**

The Board considered Service report 5/2017 dated January 3, 2017 providing the Board's Finance Committee with additional information with respect to the indirect allocations and debt charges apportioned to the Niagara Regional Police Services' 2017 budget and included in the Region's 2017 Consolidated Budget.

Committee Chair Marshall asked why Regional staff was not represented at the meeting to provide additional information and answer questions. Ms. Reid advised that she has been in contact with Acting Commissioner Jason Burgess and Regional staff were not able to attend today due to a conflicting meeting at Regional Headquarters. Arrangements will be made for the Region to attend a future meeting date.

Member Stewart recapped his concerns that were previously raised regarding police not receiving credit for the sale of buildings that were previously occupied by police staff given that police are required to pay debt charges and principal when procuring buildings. He advised that the Region's message for not receiving credit from the sale of a building is that all police facilities are the ownership of the Region and he stated that this practice supports the Region as having it both ways. He raised this as a current issue given that there are two policing facilities that will soon be sold. He also advised of the issue relating to the indirect allocations charged to police by the Region for finance and human resources duties performed by Regional staff at a cost of \$450 per employee per year and that these services need to be reviewed for alternate providers at a lesser cost to police.

Ms. DiDonato-DeChellis suggested that the Board put forth a motion to obtain detailed information from the Region on debt charges. In regard to the indirect allocation for finance and human resources services, she advised that the Service is working with the Region to develop a separate report for Board consideration at the February 9<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting. The report is being developed to address the Board's direction for a Request for Information (RFI) to review third-party service providers for finance and human resources functions currently being provided by the Region. She stated that although the report before the Board provides details on the various functions/programs that are provided by the Region, it would be advantageous to have Regional staff available to speak to the complexities of the services that are included in the annual rate of \$450 and the breakdown of how the fees are applied, which include services outside of payroll. On behalf of Regional finance staff, Member Caslin extended his apologies for their absence and he agreed it would be advantageous to have Regional staff present in order to address the Board's concerns to their full satisfaction.

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

**That the Board's Finance Committee request Regional Financial Staff to attend the February 9, 2017 Committee Meeting to provide further information in regards to the 2017 Indirect Allocations apportioned to the Police Service.**

**Carried.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **2. Court Uploading Funding**

Member Stewart spoke to the court uploading costs. He advised that the Ministry of the Attorney General is currently providing \$5,871,672 for their uploading of court security costs provided by police. The report details a breakdown of the how the funds are distributed and Member Stewart advised that the current breakdown is offsetting operational police monies for the uploading of court costs that were previously downloaded to municipalities and the police service. He suggested a practice that would see the upgrading monies remain in operating given that over \$4 million is currently being applied to the Long-Term Accommodations Reserve to pay for 'below the line' expenditures that are not approved by this Board.

Member Stewart expressed the importance of operating remaining in operating so police can deal with costs more appropriately. He advised that police operations include court security and that government funding for court uploading should be used to offset operating costs applied to the police budget. He stated that a simple solution would be to subtract the approved police budget from the amount funded by the Ministry and allow those remaining monies to show as revenue. He advised that the current practice supports taking operating money and placing it into the cost allocation model, which is not necessarily a transparent way of doing business. This change will ensure transparency to taxpayers as to how much is being requested for police operations as opposed to the monies going off in an alternate direction.

Ms. DiDonato-DeChellis spoke to Appendix "B" which demonstrates Member Stewart's ask however, the Board needs Regional Council approval to have the funds restated.

The Committee considered bringing forward a motion to request Regional Council to realign court uploading funding to its proper placement to ensure that operating monies are left in operating. This request equates to an accounting change that would see court uploading funding as credit to the police budget to assist with reducing the police budget accordingly by an equal amount given it will be a revenue. Ms. DiDonato-DeChellis fully supported the requested change at this time given that the amounts are almost equal and she clarified that the Board should simply request to eliminate the transfer to the reserve and allow the debt charges to show in indirect allocations.

Chair Gale suggested that the item be considered at the February 9<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting given that Regional staff will be in attendance. The Committee supported Chair Gale's suggestion. Ms. DiDonato-DeChellis advised that she will notify the Region of the Board's forthcoming request.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Finance Committee Meeting adjourned at 1:11 pm.

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Bob Gale, Chairperson

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Deb Reid, Executive Director