

Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board

Report of the Executive Director – August 29, 2007

Police Services Board Blazers

Recommendation

1. That the Board authorize a maximum of \$500.00, inclusive of taxes, for the purchase of each blazer with official crest to be worn by Board Members at functions and events sponsored or supported by the Police Services Board and the York Regional Police.

Background

To date, new Board Members and the Executive Director have been authorized to purchase navy blazers adorned with the official Board crest to be worn at Board meetings and conferences and at policing functions and events. In 2007, three new Board Members have joined the Board and a need for replacement blazers for long-serving Board Members has also been identified.

In consultation with Chairman Danny Wheeler, the Executive Director raised the financial implications of purchasing a number of Board blazers this year at the June 20, 2007 Board meeting. The Board requested that the Executive Director provide further information regarding costs and potential suppliers for the purchase of Board blazers.

York Regional Police Purchasing Practice

The Executive Director consulted with Janice Follwell, Purchasing Supervisor, York Regional Police, with respect to costs and potential suppliers for the purchase of Board blazers.

Ms Follwell advised that York Regional Police senior officers obtain their blazers from Moores Clothing for Men. There is no existing formal agreement for this service because York Regional Police purchases only eight to 10 blazers annually. It was suggested that the benefits of purchasing at Moores Clothing for Men included uniformity and reasonable costs. No other suppliers' names were offered for consideration. A navy, all wool blazer can be purchased at Moores Clothing for Men for under \$300.00, excluding minor alterations.

The York Regional Police experience is that the blazers are replaced on an as-needed basis, and generally, about every two years. Currently, senior female officers obtain their blazers at large department stores, but the services of a local tailor are under consideration.

Board Blazers

Board Members receive blazers after they are appointed to the Board. The cost of individual Board blazers has varied, with the general range being between \$400.00 and \$500.00. Board Members are reimbursed for the cost of their blazers and they assume responsibility for ongoing cleaning costs. Past practice indicates that Board Members often prefer the services of tailors to the product available in department stores. One York Region tailor advised that the current cost of a custom-made, excellent quality, all wool blazer would be about \$650.00, inclusive of taxes.

There are no guidelines governing the wearing of Board blazers during or after service on the Board, so the longevity of each blazer varies with the frequency of its usage by each individual. Most Board members wear their blazers at monthly meetings, badge ceremonies, and at numerous policing events throughout the year.

Generally, Board Members are appointed for a three or four-year term which may be renewed for a second or further term. As of 2007, Regional Chairman and C.E.O. Bill Fisch, our longest standing Board Member, has served for 12 years.

Summary

Board Members represent the citizens of York Region at many official events in the community and at provincial and national conferences each year. A financial guideline has been proposed that would allow our male and female Board Members the opportunity to purchase quality blazers that are appropriate to their public duties and responsibilities.

Connie Phillipson
Executive Director