



Subject: Tillsonburg Police Services Board Composition

Report Number: CAO 21-05

Department: CAO's Office

Submitted by: Laura Pickersgill, Executive Assistant

Meeting Type: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Monday, May 10, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council of the Town of Tillsonburg receives staff report CAO 21-05 Tillsonburg Police Services Board Composition as information;

AND FURTHER THAT Council directs the selection of option number _____ including a composition of [#] members.

BACKGROUND

The issue of Police Services Board Governance has been discussed for a number of years and was included as a recommendation as part of the service delivery review conducted by Watson and Associates as a possible cost savings.

On March 26, 2019, Ontario passed the Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019 (Bill 68) and established the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA, 2019). Once in-force the CSPA, 2019 will replace the Police Services Act (1990). The Ministry is targeting to bring this into force in early 2022. The CSPA, 2019 supports the government's commitment to:

- Strengthen public confidence in policing and maintain key independent policing oversight functions;
- Demonstrate respect for front line policing personnel by building the right supports and fair processes to enable police to effectively perform their duties to ensure public safety; and
- Deliver quality and efficient policing while also realizing better value for money.

Under the existing legislation, there are 63 detachments providing policing services and supports to 326 municipalities and 45 First Nation communities. What is more, there are 178 municipalities that do not participate on a board and as a result do not have access to civilian governance. Under the new legislation, all municipalities receiving OPP policing services will have the opportunity to participate on an OPP detachment board.

The role of OPP detachment boards will include additional responsibilities not currently required under the PSA, 1990:

- Considering any community safety and well-being plan adopted by a municipality that receives policing from the detachment;
- Establishing local policies, in consultation with the detachment commander, with respect to policing in the area receiving policing from the detachment; and
- Ensuring local action plans prepared by the detachment commander address the objectives and priorities determined by the board.

In February 2020, the Ministry of the Solicitor General conducted seven regional roundtable sessions across the province. Discussions at these sessions focused on new OPP-related regulatory requirements under the CSPA. Municipalities receiving policing services from the OPP were invited to learn more about new OPP-related legislative and regulatory requirements and provide the Ministry with feedback to inform the development of related regulatory proposals. In response to the feedback, an OPP detachment board framework was developed to provide municipalities receiving services from the OPP the flexibility to create a board that reflects local communities and their needs. Municipalities within a detachment are asked to work together to determine the composition of their board(s) as well as the manner in which they will submit their proposal to the Ministry.

The proposals must include a minimum of five members per board and each board should be composed of 20% community representatives and 20% provincial appointees. The names of representatives are not required at this time, only the number of representatives. Attached Council will find the letter from Solicitor General Sylvia Jones along with the OPP Detachment Board Proposal Process and the Questions and Answers related to that process. Submissions are to be received by June 7, 2021 (Note – On Tuesday, May 4, 2021 Virtual Information Session – OPP Detachment Board Proposal Process, it was noted that the June 7 deadline is not firm and that extensions may be given with appropriate supporting correspondence to the Ministry of the Solicitor General).

The CSPA allows an OPP detachment to establish one, or more than one, OPP detachment board. Detachments that are considering requesting more than one detachment board should consider factors such as:

- Geography (e.g. distance between municipalities)
- Variations in population size
- Number of municipalities within an OPP detachment; and
- Service demands

If detachments are proposing more than one OPP detachment board they are being advised to consider challenges associated with recruiting board members and the costs associated with operating additional boards.

DISCUSSION

As you are aware, Tillsonburg does receive policing services from the OPP and currently has their own board. In reality, this issue is truly a governance issue and therefore in the discretion of Council. It is up to Council to determine how they wish to govern their affairs including the oversight of police services.

At the April 26, 2021 Council meeting, Council received information and a resolution from the Tillsonburg Police Services Board regarding the board's recommendations for a board composition moving forward under the new legislation.

The Tillsonburg Police Services Board passed the following resolution at their April 21, 2021 Board Meeting:

It is the position of the Tillsonburg Police Services Board that responsibility for policing in the County of Oxford is a Lower Tier responsibility and that true "Adequate and Effective" community policing begins with local governance responsive to local needs and circumstances. Therefore, in the spirit of the individual agreements signed by many lower-tier municipalities with the OPP which require local governance, we introduce the following resolution;

That the Tillsonburg Police Services Board recommends to Tillsonburg Council that the Tillsonburg Police Services Board remain as an independent/standalone OPP Detachment board for the Municipality of Tillsonburg and further that the Tillsonburg Police Services Board shall provide any information or advice as requested by Tillsonburg Council in support of this resolution.

On motion duly made, seconded, and carried:

IT WAS RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Tillsonburg Police Services Board be forwarded for Council consideration.

*Moved by: A. Loker
Seconded by: G. Horvath
Carried: (4-0)*

Council received the correspondence as information and requested that a report regarding the Police Services Board amalgamation be brought forward in May.

Resolution # 2021-204

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Beres, Seconded By: Councillor Luciani

THAT Council receive the correspondence from the Tillsonburg Police Services Board dated April 21, 2021, as information;

AND THAT Staff provide a report regarding the Police Service Board amalgamation in May.

The Oxford County Police Services Board Chairs have been meeting virtually regarding this topic. The Chairs agreed that each Municipality would like to maintain their own Police Service Boards.

It is the requirement by the province that municipalities within a detachment will be required to work together to develop and submit one proposal. If the member municipalities cannot agree on what that proposal shall be then it may not be possible to attain that agreement. However, the risks of not submitting one proposal appear to be minimal. The province is the ultimate decision maker of what the board composition will be and the only risk is that they may create one board for the entire detachment. However, given a recent webinar on the topic it appears that the province is open to alternative arrangements and multiple boards.

Staff are providing the following options to assist Council in their decision making process:

Option 1

Propose a separate board for the Town:

- With this option there would be no financial savings reduction. This option would provide more local governance. It is unknown if all of the participating municipalities would agree to this option and if agreement is not possible the province may create one combined board.

Option 2

Join with Ingersoll into one urban board:

- This option would provide minor savings. This would also contribute to a more local governance model than one big board and potentially some common urban issues. It is unknown if all participating municipalities would agree to this option. The Ingersoll CAO is submitting this option to his Council as well.

Option 3

Join with other Municipalities into one big board:

- This option has the highest potential for cost savings. However, it would provide less local governance overview. It is also unknown if all participating municipalities would agree to this option and some may request their own Board. If agreement is not possible then the province may make another decision contrary to this request.

Mayor Molnar noted that the rural municipalities are united in one board but would consider supporting a multiple board approach where the rural municipalities were one and either the two urbans were separate or united.

In regards to next steps, once Councils have provided their direction, County CAOs will need to get together to discuss how they will submit one proposal moving forward.

CONSULTATION

The Mayor and Clerk were provided with this report for comment and feedback.

FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

The Tillsonburg Police Services Board has a 2021 operating budget of \$8,500. There are associated labour costs of \$27,200 in the 2021 budget as the quarterly stipend paid to the Board members. The sum of these figures is \$35,700. The Watson report notes a potential cost savings of approximately \$35,000 depending on the chosen option.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) LINKAGE

1. Excellence in Local Government
 - ☒ Demonstrate strong leadership in Town initiatives
 - ☒ Streamline communication and effectively collaborate within local government
 - ☒ Demonstrate accountability
2. Economic Sustainability
 - ☐ Support new and existing businesses and provide a variety of employment opportunities
 - ☐ Provide diverse retail services in the downtown core

☐ Provide appropriate education and training opportunities in line with Tillsonburg's economy

3. Demographic Balance

- ☐ Make Tillsonburg an attractive place to live for youth and young professionals
- ☐ Provide opportunities for families to thrive
- ☐ Support the aging population and an active senior citizenship

4. Culture and Community

- ☐ Promote Tillsonburg as a unique and welcoming community
- ☐ Provide a variety of leisure and cultural opportunities to suit all interests
- ☐ Improve mobility and promote environmentally sustainable living

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – Letter- Solicitor General- OPP Detachment Boards under the CSPA, 2019

Appendix B – OPP Detachment Board Proposal Process Questions and Answers

Appendix C – OPP Detachment Board Proposal Process Fact Sheet