

COMMUNICATION 135129

Received From: Diane Smithson, Chief Administrative Officer
Addressed To: Committee of the Whole
Date: April 9, 2024
Topic: Ontario Provincial Police Enhancement Contract

SUMMARY

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). On December 18, 2023, the Ministry of the Solicitor General issued a notice to advise that April 1, 2024 was proclaimed as the official date on which the CSPA will come into force. Once in-force, the CSPA, 2019 will replace the *Police Services Act* (1990).

When the CSPA comes into effect on April 1, 2024, it will repeal the existing policing contracts between the OPP and municipalities.

The Town has received a proposal from the Municipal Policing Bureau of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) for the renewal of the contract with the Province for the provision of policing services. The proposal has been reviewed by the Town's Police Services Board which is recommending that the Town enter into a five (5) year contract.

BACKGROUND

On November 26, 2019, the Town passed By-law 108-2019 to authorize entering into a five (5) year contract with the Ministry of the Solicitor General for the provision of police services through the Ontario Provincial Police to the Town of Carleton Place for the years 2020-2024 inclusive. The current policing contract was set to expire on December 31, 2024.

Since entering into the contract, the Province passed the *Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019* (Bill 68) and established the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA) which no longer requires municipalities to have a contract with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) unless they have an enhancement to their contract and then the contract only pertains to the enhancement position(s).

DISCUSSION

The OPP's contract with Carleton Place currently contains a Sergeant enhancement position. For municipalities to retain enhancements under the CSPA, a new contract and associated by-law is required. Since the Town transferred its policing from its own police force to the OPP in 2003, the Town has always paid for a Sergeant enhancement to its policing contract.

In a meeting staff had with OPP Municipal Policing Bureau staff, existing enhancement positions are being grandfathered in. Should the Town decide not to enter into a new contract with the OPP under the CSPA for the Sergeant enhancement position, and at a later date decided it wanted the position again, it

could be many years before the position may be filled due to the hiring requirements the OPP is currently facing

By entering into a five (5) year agreement, the next time this issue will be before Council will be during the third year of the Council term, giving the new Council time to orient themselves with the operations of Council and the Town before it arises again.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As the enhancement position is currently incorporated within the Town's policing contract with the Ministry of the Solicitor General, there are no additional cost implications to the Town's budget for 2024. Each year, the Town receives an annual billing statement from the Province reconciling previous amounts paid to actuals (note: this reconciliation process is two (2) years behind meaning the annual billing statement for 2024 included a reconciliation for 2022's policing costs) and noting increases to the next year's contract based on updated property counts, increases to salaries and benefits in accordance with collective agreements, etc.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT the necessary By-law be passed to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a five (5) year agreement with His Majesty the King in Right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of the Solicitor General for the provision of additional services in the form of a Sergeant enhancement to the policing services provided by the Ontario Provincial Police.