

COMMUNICATION 132064

Received From: Diane Smithson, Chief Administrative Officer
Addressed To: Committee of the Whole
Date: April 27, 2021
Topic: OPP Detachment Board Proposal

BACKGROUND

On March 26, 2019, the Provincial Government passed the *Comprehensive Ontario Services Act, 2019* (Bill 68) and established the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA, 2019) which will replace the *Police Services Act, 1990*. In February 2020, the Ministry of the Solicitor General conducted seven (7) regional roundtable sessions across the province which focussed on OPP-related regulatory requirements under the CSPA including OPP Detachment Boards. The Province has proposed a policing governance model of one Police Service Board per detachment that provides policing in a municipality or First Nation Community. For Lanark County that will mean one Police Service Board (PSB) versus individual PSBs. Based on the feedback received from the roundtable sessions, the Province produced an OPP Detachment Board Framework.

COMMENT

According to the Ministry of the Solicitor General, the OPP detachment framework is intended to provide municipalities and First Nation communities that receive direct and/or supplemental services from the OPP with flexibility to create a board that reflects community and local needs. Municipalities and First Nation communities are being asked to work together to submit one (1) proposal per detachment:

1. Indicating the composition of their board and, if needed, a rationale for multiple boards; and
2. Indicating the composition of each additional board; and
3. Determining the manner in which the proposal will be submitted to the ministry i.e. one municipality may be selected to complete and submit the proposal.

The PSB proposal for a detachment must meet basic requirements set by the Ministry including:

1. A minimum of 5 members on each board (no maximum)
2. Community representatives selected by joint resolution of the involved councils (minimum of 20% of members)
3. Provincial appointments similar to those on municipal police boards (20% of members)

At this time municipalities are not required at this time to identify the names of the individuals who will be participating on the detachment board.

The Ministry has developed a digital form to complete the submission by the June 7, 2021 deadline and will work with municipalities to obtain outstanding information / proposals and to provide support in submitting a completed proposal. If a proposal does not meet the minimum requirements, or a proposal is not submitted and/or if no

consensus is reached on the composition of the board(s) then the ministry will determine the composition of the detachment board.

The Carleton Place Police Services Board met on Monday, April 19, 2021 to discuss a suggested detachment proposal in advance of meeting with other OPP serviced municipalities within the County. The letters to municipalities were sent to Heads of Council, so ultimately, it is the local municipalities and not their Police Services Boards/Community Policing Advisory Committees who need to agree with the proposal which is submitted to the Minister of the Solicitor General. In addition, it is the local Councils who appoint members to the Council and Community positions on their Police Services Boards. Given these factors and after a lengthy discussion, the Police Services Board passed a motion to recommend to Council the following proposal based on a ratio of population:

THAT the Police Services Board recommends that Council supports an OPP detachment board proposal for the Lanark County OPP detachment based on a two (2) board model comprised of an east and a west; and

THAT the east board proposal be comprised of a total of nine (9) members as follows:

two (2) from the Town of Carleton Place, two (2) from the Municipality of Mississippi Mills and one (1) from the Township of Beckwith along with two (2) community representatives selected at large and two (2) provincial appointees; and

THAT this scenario be proposed to both the Town's neighbouring communities and at a meeting of all Lanark County OPP policed communities to enable a proposal to be submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General by the June 7, 2021 deadline.

A **second** option that could be considered by Council would be a Board comprised of 10 members with each of the municipalities having two (2) representatives for a total of six with two (2) community representatives selected at large and two (2) provincial appointees. A total five (5) member Board could also work with each municipality having one (1) representative with one (1) community and one (1) provincial representative. Then if approved by the Province, a system of weighted votes could be used for recorded votes and incorporated into a Procedural By-law for the new Board. For the most part, the vast majority of motions at the Police Services Board are approved and there would only be a few which may become contentious over the years. As a result, it may be beneficial to allow for equal representation by all parties.

Whatever proposal is supported by Council, it will be presented to Mississippi Mills and Beckwith for their consideration and to the meeting that will be scheduled with representatives from all OPP policed communities within Lanark County to enable a proposal to be submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General by the June 7, 2021 deadline. Following the meeting with all OPP communities within Lanark County and

prior to the submission by the June 7, 2021 deadline, staff will report back to Council on the detachment board model supported by the Lanark County OPP policed communities if the preferred model is different than the model supported by Council.

Other Options

A couple of other options have been discussed amongst senior staff of Lanark County municipalities as follows:

1. One (1) detachment Board with each municipality having one (1) member each for a total of eight (8) members; three (3) community representatives and three (3) provincial representatives for a total of 14 members;
2. A two (2) detachment Board model based on urban and rural as follows:
 - Perth, Mississippi Mills and Carleton Place would form the urban board and could be based on a similar structure to the east board noted above (comprised of a total of 5 or 10 members)
 - Beckwith, Montague, Tay Valley, Lanark Highlands and Drummond/North Elmsley would form the rural board which could be based on nine (9) members; one (1) board member each for a total of five (5); two (2) community representatives and two (2) provincial representatives.

The reasons in support of a two-board model detachment based on east and west include:

- The current population base and the fact that the eastern end of the County is growing quickly given the proximity of the municipalities to the City of Ottawa;
- To better serve the population and geography of the County;
- There is a community of interest already shared by the east board members and this would be a logical extension to an already established relationship and community of interest

The purpose of an OPP detachment board is to:

- monitor the performance of the detachment commander;
- advise on policing provided by the detachment;
- review reports provided by the detachment commander; and
- provide an annual report to the municipal councils on the policing provided to those communities.

Some of the discussion at the Police Services Board centered around being able to have our own discussions with the OPP as issues within the community arise from time to time that impact only Carleton Place i.e. a series of break-ins. This could certainly happen even if the Town is part of an east detachment board or other board model determined for the County.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the Provincially approved detachment board(s) for Lanark County OPP Detachment will be shared between the respective members of the detachment board on a formula yet to be determined.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council supports as their preferred option, an OPP detachment board proposal for the Lanark County OPP detachment based on a two (2) board model comprised of an east and a west; and

THAT the east board proposal be comprised of the municipalities of Mississippi Mills, Beckwith and Carleton Place with a total of ____ members which would include two (2) community representatives selected at large and two (2) provincial appointees;

THAT this scenario be proposed to both the Town's neighbouring communities and at a meeting of all Lanark County OPP policed communities to enable a proposal to be submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General by the June 7, 2021 deadline; and

THAT following the meeting of all Lanark County OPP policed communities, staff will report back to seek final Council approval of the preferred option.