



## TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL ACTION ITEM

**Committee:** Committee of the Whole – Administration Finance

**Date:** June 14, 2021

**Department:** Administration

**Topic:** Grenville County OPP Detachment Board Proposal

**Purpose:** To receive approval to jointly submit the Grenville County Detachment Board proposal, with partnering municipalities, to the Solicitor General on or before June 28, 2021 and direct staff to work with the partnering board municipalities to develop terms of reference for the board.

**Background:** The following information is provided from the background summary of the attached proposal.

In 2019, the Ontario Legislature passed Bill 68, the *Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act*, which made some significant changes to two key priorities – improving governance and providing some allowance for the role that civilians play in delivering public safety and security.

On March 18, 2021, Solicitor General Sylvia Jones issued a letter to the heads of municipal councils across the Province advising of the new OPP detachment board framework and the process to submit a formal proposal to establish detachment boards that best reflect community and local needs.

On April 21, 2021, the Mayor of the Municipality of North Grenville, Nancy Peckford, hosted a meeting with the Mayors of the other partner municipalities that currently comprise the Grenville County OPP Detachment. Representatives from the existing Police Services Boards of the respective municipalities were also in attendance. At this meeting, the parties reached a consensus with respect to the proposed configuration for the new OPP Detachment Board. Specifically, it was agreed that a model incorporating the following 3 detachment boards will best reflect the community and local needs of the member municipalities:

1. North Grenville
2. Prescott
3. Augusta, Merrickville-Wolford & Edwardsburgh-Cardinal

The partner municipalities have determined that a three-detachment board model is the best model to extend governance to the respective communities based on the unique and individual concerns and priorities of each. The justification for the division of the proposed boards is based upon the geography and population/demographics of each of the municipalities, along with the differences between call volumes and subject matter of calls attributable to each of the municipalities.

The division of the Grenville Detachment into three distinct detachment boards will allow for better identification and definition of key priorities and their drivers, resulting in more effective policing responsive to the unique concerns of each municipality. With a more defined and targeted approach, public consultation should result in a rational outcome to defining community satisfaction with police services and implementing community feedback to assist with the provision of adequate and effective policing services.

We are pleased to be given the opportunity to submit this joint proposal to the provincial government setting out our proposed respective board boundaries and the size and composition of the respective boards.

Next steps include supporting and jointly submitting the proposal followed by the partnering board municipalities developing terms of reference for the board structure. Terms of reference would include but not limited to administration and communication support, contact information and cost sharing.

**Policy Implications:** Our proposal is required to be submitted to the Solicitor General on or before June 28, 2021 for consideration and approval. However, if a proposal does not meet the minimum requirements set by the ministry or a proposal is not submitted, and/or if a detachment is unable to come to a consensus, the ministry will determine the composition of the detachment board(s).

**Financial Considerations:** No financial costs associated with submitting the proposal. There will be costs associated with operating a board and these costs will be better defined once the terms of reference are developed.

**Recommendation:** That Committee recommends that Council endorses the joint submission of the Grenville County Detachment Board proposal to the Solicitor General on or before June 28, 2021 and direct staff to work with partnering board municipalities to develop terms of reference for the board and return for Council approval.



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