

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
SARNIA CITY COUNCIL**

**1:00 p.m. – MONDAY, May 17th, 2010
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, SARNIA**

A Special Meeting of Sarnia City Council was held. Mayor Bradley took the Chair and the following Members of Council were present: Councillors A. Bruziewicz, D. Boushy, T. Burrell, J. Foubister, A. M. Gillis, M. Kelch, B. MacDougall and J. McEachran.

OPP MUNICIPAL POLICING PROPOSAL

OPP Representatives in Attendance:

Acting Inspector Rod Case

Sergeant Dino Tistomeneas

Inspector Rick Derus

Mr. Mike Harrington, Manager of the OPP Communications and Information Technology Bureau

Inspector Karen Meyer, Manager of the OPP Career Development Bureau

Acting Inspector Rod Case, Sergeant Dino Tistomeneas, and Inspector Rick Derus of the Ontario Provincial Police presented the OPP Municipal Policing Proposal. The OPP Representatives responded to questions from Council as follows:

1. On which year was this costing based, 2008? How often is the formula changed, and why wasn't a 2010 formula used? (Mayor Bradley)

The Ministry was going to update the formula every 2 years; this didn't happen. There was a 5 year period between 2003-2008 in which the formula was not updated. The OPP does not control the formula approval process. OPP hopes that this is done every 2 years so that municipalities don't see the spike that has happened recently.

The OPP has contracts that state that if Sarnia was to come on board now and the formula was updated, the City would not have to pay the increase until the following calendar year.

2. Where is the formula at now? (Mayor Bradley)

The OPP is working on the 2010 formula to go to the Ministry sometime this year; this under the control of the Treasury Board to view and approve the formula.

3. Is the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of 1467 hours based on Sarnia's experience? (Councillor Bruziewicz)

This is the average for the OPP; unsure of the average for Sarnia.

4. Could you explain the 5% Provincial Service Usage (PSU) rebate? (Councillor Bruziewicz)

The City would be reimbursed for time in which officers had to leave to assist neighbouring detachments. If you had an incident where officers from neighbouring detachments came in to assist, there is no extra cost to the City, it is covered under the PSU. This is only done if absolutely necessary. The model in Sarnia is a standalone detachment model where there are no provincial resources; the Western Region Command staff realizes that and will be more strict on people leaving as there is not the pool of provincial resources that other detachments have. The Detachment Commander would have to manage this.

5. In your experience how have the costing estimates compared to the actuals? (Councillor Bruziewicz)

Actuals generally come in lower than estimates. The estimates are based on the top pay levels. (OPP indicated that they will provide this data)

6. With this proposal the Identification Clerk and Technician positions would be lost. How would you deal with the need for these skills? (Councillor Bruziewicz)

The OPP has a Scenes of Crime Officer Program which provides basic ID and evidence collection training which would be provided to some front line officers. As for the formalized Identification services, should the case be of a serious nature, those people would come from Chatham/Tillsonburg.

7. Is the OPP communications equipment encrypted? (Councillor Bruziewicz)

Fleetnet, the system used by the OPP, is not encrypted. The current encrypted system used by Sarnia will be maintained.

8. Upgrades to the Police Station are required; what would the station look like? (Councillor Bruziewicz)

The station would be upgraded to OPP standards. The intent is to ensure that an armed officer will be in the station 24/7 to provide security to civilians.

9. The organizational chart was created using a new model for frontline services; why is this used and how is it an improvement? (Councillor Gillis)

Results Driven Policing was a model started in New York City which uses intelligence led policing concepts. This involves an analysis of stats, public consultation, and officer input to determine where the problem areas are within the community, and will focus resources on those problems. This model has proven to be successful in other regions.

10. Can you explain the rank differentiation between Sarnia Police and OPP? Would a Staff Sergeant and Inspector within the different organizations have similar duties? (Councillor Gillis)

These are two different structures which makes it hard to compare the ranks.

11. Are your Staff Sergeants and Sergeants members of the Police Services Union? (Councillor Gillis)

The positions up to the rank of Staff Sergeant are members of the Ontario Provincial Police Association. Commissioned Officers such as Detachment Commander/Inspector are not members of the association.

12. What has your experience been with other municipalities incurring overtime? (Councillor Gillis)

Every municipality is different; it is the responsibility of the Detachment Commander to manage, justify, and report overtime to the Police Services Board.

13. Neighbouring communities have received cheques at the end of the year; is this considered reconciliation? (Councillor Gillis)

Yes, this is reconciliation. Actuals in some cases are less than what is paid, in this case a cheque would be issued to the municipality.

14. With respect to Civilians, what has your experience been with the award of severance pay? (Councillor Boushy)

It is up to the municipality to deal with severance pay. The OPP doesn't track what happens with severance pay and cannot comment on those cases.

15. What have you experienced with respect to wage parity/contract negotiations with firefighters? (Councillor Boushy)

This would be a labour negotiations issue which is the responsibility of the municipality.

16. With respect to competitions for civilian staff positions, could positions be filled by anyone other than current staff? Would you bring OPP employees in to fill positions? (Councillor Boushy)

Recently, all civilian positions were filled by municipal employees. We haven't brought in any of our employees to fill these positions.

17. With respect to the Position of Emergency Planner, why is this position moving to the City's payroll? (Councillor Boushy)

Within the OPP Proposal, there is a Constable position that deals specifically with the police aspect of emergency planning. The Primary Control Group will still have the Detachment Commander and Inspector dealing with the group and the City would still have an emergency planner that would look at the municipality as a whole.

Mayor Bradley indicated that the Emergency Planner position's salary was included in the police budget.

18. Julian Fantino recently reported that he is not happy with the present reporting process and that it needs to be overhauled; would this mean that more civilians would be hired to do the reporting? (Councillor Boushy)

The OPP currently has a pilot project that is about to start in one region which would have Civilian data entry rather than officer entry. The Efficiency Review conducted a few years ago recommended a move to civilian data entry across the province.

19. If more civilians were hired, would this increase the budget? (Councillor Boushy)

Yes.

20. How would you handle emergencies in the Valley when your communication is 100km away and other communications currently overseen by the Sarnia Police service are no longer your responsibility? (Councillor Boushy)

The response to the emergencies in the Valley will be very similar. The response to any issue in the Valley would be the same as if it were in Lambton County who also has Valley responsibility. You would still have representatives from the Sarnia OPP within the emergency centre still doing the same duties as before. The communication dealing with police will be handled through the London Communications Centre. Communications dealing with Sarnia will still be maintained in the operational communications centre in Sarnia.

21. With the PSU, explain if you would use officers from Sarnia in other places ie. G8 or G20 Summit. Approximately \$1 Million PSU Rebate would be the financial equivalent of 8 officers out of the City. If officers never left for PSU, would this affect the budget? (Councillor Boushy)

This would not affect the budget.

22. Would a Police Services Board Continue? What organization would continue and how would it be composed? (Councillor Burrell)

This would be a Section 10 Board rather than a Section 31 Board. It would be comprised of the same make up as there is now with 2 provincial appointees.

23. If Sarnia was the only detachment with encrypted equipment, how would this affect overall communication? (Councillor Burrell)

This will have no impact; the Sarnia system will continue to be encrypted.

24. Is the OPP open to negotiations for the use of their communication platform for Fire Rescue and Public Works dispatch? (Councillor MacDougall)

Yes.

Mayor Bradley asked for clarification of the response.

The Communications centre will be able to stay in the building for dispatch of local services.

Councillor Foubister asked for further clarification.

The Communication Centre in London will look after police dispatch. There is an opportunity perhaps for the communications centre to continue on with public works and fire dispatch.

25. Who audits PSU records? What is kept and where? (Councillor MacDougall)

Officers prepare reports daily. This is monitored through the Business and Financial section and the Detachment Commander monitors PSU.

26. What is the cost of 911 service through the OPP, and why wasn't this included in the costing and who can provide this service? (Councillor MacDougall)

A number of service providers including 'Seaway' can provide 911 service. The service is estimated to cost approximately 56 or 57 cents per capita.

27. At one time it was expressed that Janitorial Staff needed to be employed by the Police Service because of security issues. What are the options for Janitorial staff, could this service be contracted out? (Councillor MacDougall)

As the Police building is a municipally owned building; the City is responsible for cleaning and maintenance.

28. The recent Police Services Workload Analysis discussed the use of Accident Reporting Centers, where are you on this issue? (Councillor MacDougall)

The OPP is currently looking into the use of reporting centres.

29. With the OPP we could potentially have more officers patrolling the streets than we currently have. If officers were sent away for PSU, would we be adequately policed? (Councillor MacDougall)

With the different structure, there will be a few more boots on the road. The contract stipulates that we must provide adequate and effective service. We can bring in people to backfill. Backfill time spent in the City would not be charged to the City.

30. Does the report indicate that there would be 4 Staff Sergeants or 3 Staff Sergeants? (Councillor MacDougall)

There will be 3 Staff Sergeants: Crime, Operations, and Administration.

31. What would the PSU allocation look like if we did not remove officers from Sarnia? (Councillor Kelch)

Provincial responsibility dictates that we must have PSU. Officers will participate unless a special directive exists to keep officers only within Sarnia.

32. We are operating at a force of 112, but with contingencies and PSU this could be less. What is the appropriate level of safe response at one time? What is the lowest number you'd accept? (Councillor Kelch)

The level of staffing will vary from day to day, but the City will not go without the 112 for a long period of time. It is also important to remember that there are specialized units (ie. drug units, auto squad) that can be sent in as well as officers being sent out.

33. Are these Specialized Units available to the Sarnia Police Service today? (Councillor Kelch)

Yes.

34. Is there an extra cost for 911 service? (Councillor Kelch)

Yes.

35. Would Fire Rescue and Public Works would be dispatched at our cost? (Councillor Kelch)

Yes.

36. What is the largest Municipality currently policed by the OPP? (Councillor Kelch)

Wellington County – 80,000, Norfolk County – 62,000, Stormont Dundas Glengarry – 61,000, Caledon - 57,000, Haldimand County - 43,000, Quinte West 36,000.

Mayor Bradley and Councillor Kelch asked for information specific to cities currently policed by the OPP.

Orillia – 38,000

Quinte West – 36,000

37. Is the lack of local knowledge or expertise for dispatch something to be considered?
(Councillor Kelch)

Dispatchers are generally assigned to the same console/area. The local officers responding to the calls will have the local knowledge.

38. Is the cost of Civil Litigations currently in the Police Budget or the City's Budget?
(Councillor McEachran)

The City Solicitor/Clerk indicated that the cost of insurance is covered through the City's coverage, and the cost for specialized services i.e. arbitration is included in the police budget.

Mayor Bradley indicated that there could be some savings but this is not a large budget item.

39. Would the OPP have 3 additional officers on patrol? (Councillor McEachran)

Each platoon will have one extra Constable. Overall the number will jump by 3 Constables.

40. If an officer was called out on PSU, the cost of the overtime would not be charged to the City? (Councillor McEachran)

Correct.

41. How often does the OPP assist the Sarnia Police Service now? (Councillor McEachran)

Assistance is currently offered, but not sure of the frequency.

Mayor Bradley indicated that it is very important to note that the assistance works both ways; Sarnia could also assist the OPP.

42. I wonder if we are utilizing each other as we should. (Councillor McEachran)

Mayor Bradley noted that there is a 60 page agreement which details the protocols between the two police services; he indicated that this would be provided to Council.

43. If OPP were to come to Sarnia, would you take on CVECO as it is currently run?
(Councillor McEachran)

It would be OPP intention that same procedures and protocols would exist with the OPP.

44. Can I assure the public that the same training and procedure will be in place? (Councillor McEachran)

Absolutely.

Mayor Bradley asked if the Detachment Commander will take direction from City Manager, Mayor and Fire Chief as that's the way it works now.

They will form part of the unified command and instruction from unified command will be followed by the OPP.

45. On page 8 of the original document it shows no intelligence section, another document pg 46 shows an intelligence officer. Which is correct and has this cost been included in the costing? (Councillor Foubister)

The Intelligence section is controlled by Headquarters. In the Sarnia costing there is one intelligence officer within the detachment. This is included within constable complement, but is not typical within a detachment. The first chart was a general generic chart put out for costing proposals.

Mayor Bradley noted his concern that that there is a big difference between a board that can hire and fire a chief and a board that acts an advisory board and doesn't have decision making authority.

46. What can the community expect with respect to response times? (Mayor Bradley)

Response times are directly related to location and number officers available, so the OPP does not track response times.

47. Wouldn't you want to know as an organization if you were getting value for your money or if you were meeting the needs of the community? (Mayor Bradley)

The OPP feels that response times are arbitrary. It is difficult to track response times as they will vary depending on location. The OPP does have a complaint tracking system, and in Essex County has not received a complaint due to response times.

Moved by Councillor Foubister, seconded by Councillor Kelch, and **carried:**

That Sarnia City Council and members of the public be given an opportunity to submit additional questions regarding the OPP Municipal Policing Proposal to the City Solicitor/Clerk by Friday, May 21, 2010 at 5:00pm to be submitted to the OPP for a response.

Discussion took place regarding the timetable for future meetings regarding the OPP costing process. Mayor Bradley indicated that a proposed schedule for future meetings would be provided to Council as soon as possible.

Moved by Councillor Foubister, seconded by Councillor MacDougall, and **carried:**

That the meeting adjourn.

Mayor

Clerk