

Amalgamation of Essex Detachment

Police Services Boards

June 29, 2018

Introduction to a Joint Discussion

Bill 175 "the Safer Ontario Act" is now law. We await a statement of support for this Act by the new government and we need the final version of the Regulations that give teeth to the Act. Both as of this date, are yet to be written and will require thorough study.

However, we do know that Section 67 of the new Act provides that there shall be one (1) Police Services Board for every OPP Detachment. In Essex County, we currently have five (5) Police Services Boards serving Tecumseh, Lakeshore, Essex, Leamington and Kingsville. Pelee Island is policed by the OPP without a Police Services Board. We therefore face a future with one (1) Police Services Board representing the interests of six (6) different municipalities.

To date the Act does not spell out the "how to's" associated with this transition to a single board. The Tecumseh Police Services Board suggests that it is prudent that all the Essex County communities affected by this change have an opportunity to stay ahead of the curve and craft the makeup of our future amalgamated board rather than having a solution dictated to us by the province. The Tecumseh PSB is willing to receive comments, suggestions and potential conflict issues from each board and collate these into a cohesive framework for our future discussions.

As all PSB members know, there is the possibility that as the new Act mandates a restriction in PSB size, some municipalities may find themselves without representation on the new amalgamated board.

Having said this and understanding that municipal councils sign the policing contracts that make up a substantial percentage of their annual budget; we feel that we will need to engage each municipal government early in the discussion process.

We are fortunate to have received vetting of this initial document from the Executive Director of the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards, Mr. Fred Kaustinen. But, we will need to start and maintain the dialogue and the momentum on our own. Potentially, we could become the "beta" case for OPP/PSB amalgamation for the entire province.

The Tecumseh PSB is providing the following items that we want to discuss. We encourage each PSB to meet and formally review our items and add additional items that you feel need resolution. Please return these items to the Tecumseh board as soon as possible and we will collate them and create a final comprehensive discussion document.

The format of our discussion and the format for our ultimate joint resolution statement can be determined at a later date but our board feels that we need to make a start so we can report to our constituent municipal councils in a timely manner.

Items for Discussion:

Tecumseh Police Services Board Input

1. Should the amalgamation of the five (5) Police Service Boards be brought before the county council for resolution or remain as a joint agreement among the five municipal councils?
2. We need to discuss and agree upon a funding formula for the operation of the amalgamated board that would be both proportional and equitable. We could follow the current OPP billing model and fund the board operations using the household count that is the basis of the five (5) current contracts.
3. If the Regulations to the Act mandate both the number of provincial appointees and the number of municipal appointees; we need to discuss a reasonable arrangement of representation at the amalgamated board that will be fair and equitable among the five (5) municipalities.
4. The amalgamated board will require a Mission Statement, a Policies and Procedures Manual. We will also need a summary of the local initiatives previously created by each individual board. This new and comprehensive list will provide direction to the OPP and form part of their business plan. These documents will require a significant amount of board, administration and council input. A format and timeline to fund and attain these goals needs to be established.
5. Discuss the meeting location for the amalgamated board. Policy dictates (as of last AGM) that we work in an open and accessible location. Although this suggests the County Council Chambers, there may be hindrances that need to be explored and settled.