



Date: November 29, 2021

To: Mayor and Council

Author: Ryan McLeod, CPA, CA

RE: Windsor – Essex Area Inter-municipal Court Services Agreement

Report No.: FS-2021-20

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. That a third renewal of the Windsor / Essex Area Inter-Municipal Court Services Agreement for the period from January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2026 **BE APPROVED** subject to technical and financial review by the Director of Finance & IT and legal form review by the Director of Legal and Clerk Services; and,
2. The Mayor and Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to sign same.

BACKGROUND

In November 2000, the County of Essex, along with all lower tier municipalities, entered into an agreement with the City of Windsor to provide court administration and support on their behalf. These services include prosecutions (except local prosecutions i.e. municipal by-laws, *Building Code Act*) under Part 1 of the Provincial Offences Act (POA) and the collection of fines. All revenues, in excess of costs, are distributed to the participating municipalities on the basis of weighted assessment.

DISCUSSION

The Court Services Agreement included the establishment of the Windsor / Essex POA Liaison Committee which meets at least 2 times per year to review operations. Historically, the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer have represented the Town of Kingsville on this committee.

The POA Liaison Committee has reviewed the renewal agreement and has unanimously recommended its approval. Each municipality has been asked to forward this agreement to their respective councils for adoption. The proposed agreement essentially extends the original agreement for another five-year term ending in December 2026.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

From 2017 – 2019, the Town of Kingsville received an average of \$86,000 in net revenue from this court service agreement. This revenue is recorded in the Police budget, as the vast majority of fines are issued by police officers.

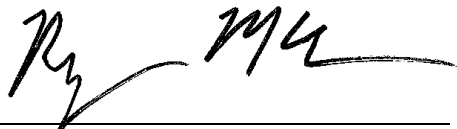
Unfortunately, Covid-19 and the associated closure of the courts for an extended period of time has resulted in a significant reduction in net revenue over the past two years. As court operations and charging volumes return to pre-covid levels, this revenue should return to historical norms.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no environmental considerations associated with this report.

CONSULTATIONS

Windsor / Essex POA Liaison Committee



Ryan McLeod, CPA, CA
Director of Financial & IT Services

REVEIWED BY:



John Norton
Chief Administrative Officer

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

To promote a safe community.

Link to Council 2021-2022 Priorities

- ☐ COVID-19 and the health and safety of the community
- ☐ Customer Service: Training, Technology, Staff, Review Standards/Level of service
- ☐ Housing: Affordability (lot sizes, developer incentives, second dwellings, density, etc.)
- ☐ Greenhouse: lights & dark sky, odours (site plan compliance, bylaws, other tools)
- ☐ Programming Increase: Youth and Seniors
- ☐ A development plan for Downtown Kingsville / Main Street
- ☐ Financial savings: Schools closings, Migration Hall
- ☐ Economic Development: strengthen tourism/hospitality
- ☐ COVID - economic recovery
- ☐ Communications: Strategy – Policy (social media), Website refresh and other tools, Public engagement
- ☐ Housing: Migrant Worker Housing – Inspections (Building/Fire), regulate, reduce, or increase
- ☐ Committees / Boards: Review and Report
- ☐ Policy Update: Procedural Bylaw
- ☐ Economic Development: diversify the economy, create local jobs, industrial, Cottam
- ☐ Infrastructure (non-Municipal): Union Water expansion & governance
- ☐ Infrastructure (Municipal): Asset Management Plan update, the infrastructure funding deficit
- ☒ No direct link to Council priorities