

Township of Perth South

Report to Council

TO: Mayor Wilhelm and Members of Council
FROM: Rebecca Clothier, Administrator/Treasurer/Deputy Clerk
DATE: June 20, 2017
SUBJECT: **Survey Results on Policing Services for the Township of Perth South**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the report, dated June 2017, regarding policing services survey results be received for information purposes.

Background:

At the May 23, 2017 Council meeting staff was directed to proceed with the media campaign and public consultation process and prepare a report for Council for the June 20, 2017 Council Meeting.

Staff prepared and distributed a public notice following the meeting which is attached to this report. The public notice referred residents to the Township's website or to the Municipal office for access to the policing survey. This notice was posted on the Township's web site and social media accounts and was published in the local newspapers.

The presentation by Stratford Police Chief Mike Bellai was also included with the survey link on the Township's web site. Hard copies of this presentation along with survey questions were made available at the Township Office.

A total of fifteen (15) submissions were received that included submissions directed to one or both service options. One submission was directed to the OPP; one submission was directed to both the Stratford Police Service and the OPP; and thirteen submissions were directed to the Stratford Police Services.

A total of fourteen submissions were received on-line and those received after the original survey close date were forwarded to the respective police service when received. One submission was received through e-mail to Rebecca Clothier. There were no hard copy submissions. Personal information from those submitting the questions has been removed.

The submissions were directed to the appropriate police service and answers provided are attached as appendices to this report. The submissions received are as follows:

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Submission 1:

More time needs to be taken to consider this option in my opinion. I have not had time to do the survey.

If Stratford wants to police St. Mary's maybe it is something to consider for us as Perth South but why not Stratford serve the whole region like Waterloo does vs some selected pockets. In Sebringville we are split as you know so it seems sort of dumb to have Stratford police one side of the road and not the other. They are not serving half of St Mary's, are they? Stratford in my opinion should police Stratford, or consider the whole region if they want to go outside the city. Or Just Stratford and St. Marys , not the rural area in between out of convenience for them. I am happy with OPP in Sebringville serving Perth South as it has been.

This question should be directed to The Stratford Police Service.

Submission 2:

Does the Stratford Police have an auxiliary program like the OPP? We see the auxiliary officers on ride programs all the time and I am wondering if the Stratford Police has the same type of program?

This question should be directed to The Stratford Police Service.

Submission 3:

The Ontario Provincial Police can bring resources from other communities; what are the Stratford Police going to do when there are multiple incidents happening in the County? This is especially concerning in the winter when there are multiple accidents happening simultaneously throughout the County. How long will the wait time be for these types of incidents? Where will extra officers come from when Stratford has these kinds of incidents?

This question should be directed to The Stratford Police Service.

Submission 4:

What happens on the very snowy days or summer days when there are multiple accidents in the County, or a very serious accident? Will one officer be able to handle that? Or will they take officers from Stratford and St. Marys, who I am sure they have also promised that it won't affect their city/town and they will always have coverage.

This question should be directed to The Stratford Police Service.

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Submission 5:

Has anyone thought to ask the Stratford Police officers themselves if they want this? From talking to a few I get the impression they don't think it's a good idea, or that it's being done properly. They have safety concerns of being alone in the county and St. Marys. Also, what happens when they do have to pull officers from Stratford to help in the county? Now that will leave Stratford short of Officer! Doesn't seem to make sense.

This question should be directed to The Stratford Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police.

Submission 6:

In Perth South we have lots of trails for snowmobiling; we have water (Wildwood), farms, etc. Do the Stratford Police have the means to deal with calls on the snow mobile trails, or with farm accidents etc.? I don't believe they can like the OPP can.

This question should be directed to The Stratford Police Service.

Submission 7:

I know a few Stratford Police officers and am aware that they are always working at "minimums" or below that a lot of the time. How can they guarantee that they won't pull the person covering Perth South into St. Marys or Stratford to help there?

This question should be directed to The Stratford Police Service.

Submission 8:

Are Stratford residents aware and okay with their taxes going to Perth South when more officers are required out here?

This question should be directed to The Stratford Police Service.

Submission 9:

What's the rush, would it not be smart to wait and see how the transition with St. Marys goes before following suit?

This question should be directed to The Stratford Police Service.

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Submission 10:

With the budget given, if there is an overdraft, where is that extra money coming from?

This question should be directed to The Stratford Police Service.

Submission 11:

I read somewhere that a police mandate is 1 officer per 1,500 people, how does that balance and is that not a concern for officer's safety?

This question should be directed to The Stratford Police Service.

Submission 12:

If there is a major call involving one or two officers, where is that other officer being pulled from and who's taxes are paying for it?

This question should be directed to The Stratford Police Service.

Submission 13:

Who pays for the extra officers required for a two-man call?

This question should be directed to The Stratford Police Service.

Submission 14:

Will the Stratford Police be responding from Downtown Stratford to the rural communities or will there be a location closer to the rural areas the officers will use (instead of returning to main) for more prompt response times. Also would we see more police presence in our small villages? The large volume of vehicles avoiding the round-a-bouts on #7 and finding open roads through our villages is getting to be dangerous and congested. We need them to slow down!!

This question should be directed to The Stratford Police Service.

Submission 15:

I would like to see the OPP presentation so that we can compare apples to apples and oranges to oranges.

This question should be directed to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)

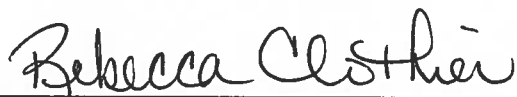
Reference to Strategic Plan

The review of Police Services Delivery Alternatives aligns with the Township's Corporate Strategic Plan 2012-2017, specifically, Goal 1: Adopt a collaborative service delivery model that allows Perth South residents to enjoy comprehensive and efficient services.

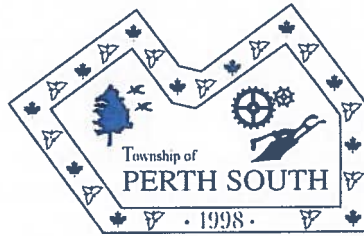
Reference Material Attached

1. Appendix A – Public Notice of Policing Survey
2. Appendix B – Response from Chief of Police Mike Bellai to questions submitted to the Stratford Police Services.
3. Appendix C – Responses from Ontario Provincial Police to questions submitted (outstanding)

Respectfully submitted by:



Rebecca Clothier
Rebecca Clothier
Administrator/Treasurer/Deputy Clerk



The Township of Perth South Municipal Policing Survey

The Township of Perth South is currently policed by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). Staff and Council have been investigating other options, specifically with the Stratford Police Service to determine if they offer the same level of police services at a reduced cost to the Township. The Stratford Police Services attended the May 23, 2017 Council meeting to present their policing services presentation. This presentation along with additional information can be found through a single link on the Township's website.

Council would like to hear from you with any questions that you may have in regards to policing services in Perth South. We have created a Municipal Policing Survey that will provide an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have with regard to the two (2) police services.

Surveys are available electronically on our website and in hard copy at the Township Office. Staff will be providing a report to Council at the June 20, 2017 meeting with the questions received through the survey and associated answers.

Have your say today! Questions must be submitted no later than Thursday June 9, 2017.



Address all correspondence to
MICHAEL BELLAI
Chief of Police

Telephone 519-271-4143
Facsimile 519-271-3122

Stratford Police Service
17 George Street West • Box 21041 • Stratford, Ontario • N5A 7V4

The questions answered below are in response to the survey conducted by The Township of Perth South.

Question 1

Stratford Serving the whole Region: The PSA provides options for each municipality as to how they provided policing services in their respective communities. The option of a Regional Service is possible however it would be up to each municipality within Perth County to pursue this as an option. If this was agreed upon by all municipalities an Amalgamated Service such as Chatham-Kent would be an option. This would be at the Municipal Council level to request.

Yes ½ of Sebringville is Perth South and the other half is Perth East. Perth East could request the SPS police Perth East or Sebringville alone if they wish and we could enter into an agreement with Perth East for either.

Question 2

We do not have an auxiliary program. I would like to explore an auxiliary program in the future as there is merit.

Question 3

The Stratford Police Service will use existing officers to deal with calls for service when more than one incident happens in the county. We prioritize calls as we do within the city. The SPS is no different than any other police service when prioritizing calls for service and deploying officers in a rotational basis to cover zones. Calls for service involving injuries or potential loss of life (level 1 call for service) the SPS will use officers assigned. The Township has apportioned costs built in to the contract for special services. If the costs are exceeded the Township is responsible for policing costs. Stratford does not subsidize policing costs in Perth South and Perth South doesn't subsidize policing costs in Stratford. The Stratford Police Service can, as any other police service in Ontario, request assistance from other police services in large scale disasters etc. An example is the Stratford Police Service sending officers to Goderich to assist the OPP with the Tornado disaster. Stratford also has shared service agreements with neighbouring police services if required.

Note: Stratford assisted the OPP with 181 calls for service in 2016 this did not affect police service to the City of Stratford. Police services assist other police services when needed, public safety is paramount.

Question #4

Answered in Question #3

Question #5

The Chief of Police attended all but one Use of Force training session in 2017 to explain the possibility of the SPS policing St. Marys and Perth South. Questions were asked and answered. There was overwhelming support and very few opposed. The Police Association who represents the SPS members is also in support of the SPS policing both municipalities. I assure you the Administrative team with over 110 years of policing experience has researched the model, compared it to other successful models, met with other Police Services and discussed similar successful models and models that have also failed to ensure the transition and delivery is and will be done properly.

Question#6

The SPS will set up snowmobile check points to ensure laws are being adhered to. We have access to snowmobiles if required and all-terrain vehicles also. If operating a police snowmobile the SPS would not attempt to stop a snowmobile that refuses to stop for police as the same rules apply for Suspect Apprehension Pursuit as they would for vehicles on a roadway. Public safety, including the safety for the offending snowmobile operator is paramount. Educational check points for licencing, safe snowmobiling and enforcement will be utilized.

The SPS will work with the Upper Thames Conservation authority to perform safety checks and education for boaters at Wildwood Conservation Authority. If we require a boat for rescue or recovery the OPP provides this at no cost.

If the Townships desires a snowmobile presence or ATV presence the SPS can provide costing. The times it could/would be utilized may not be cost effective.

Farm accidents are treated as industrial accidents. The SPS answers calls for service for industrial accidents in Stratford along with the Ministry of Labour and would ensure they are dealt with according to law in the Township.

Question #7

The SPS does not work below minimums as per General Orders. The SPS does work at minimums sometimes depending on sick leave, regular leave, injuries etc. additional officer will be hired to cover poling needs in The Township. The existing compliment of officers will increase so there would not be an anticipated strain on the current compliment. Again we prioritize calls for service as per question #3

Question #8

Stratford residents tax dollars will not subsidize policing in the Township and the Township tax dollars will not subsidize policing in Stratford. This will be addressed in a mutually agreed upon agreement between both municipalities.

Question #9

This is a statement not a question. I don't think there is a rush. I prefer taking our time and doing this correctly including but not limited to recruiting, capital expenditures and implementation.

Question #10

Stratford residents tax dollars will not subsidize policing in the Township and the Township tax dollars will not subsidize policing in Stratford. This will be addressed in a mutually agreed upon agreement between both municipalities.

Question #11

Officer safety is paramount. No officer will be in any more or less danger than they are in daily in any part of the province. There is no such ratio I am aware of.

Question #12

Stratford residents tax dollars will not subsidize policing in the Township and the Township tax dollars will not subsidize policing in Stratford. This will be addressed in a mutually agreed upon agreement between both municipalities. Public safety is paramount.

Question #13

Stratford residents tax dollars will not subsidize policing in the Township and the Township tax dollars will not subsidize policing in Stratford. This will be addressed in a mutually agreed upon agreement between both municipalities. Officer safety and public safety is paramount.

Question #14

The Stratford Police will respond to calls for service from within The Township of Perth South. The service model allows for an officer to be patrolling in the Township and responding to calls for service in a timely manner. The officers assigned to the Township will be tasked with traffic enforcement and education in the villages located in the Township as this has been identified as a concern from residents. R.I.D.E programs will also be a part of the service model in the Township including the villages located within.

Sincerely

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bellai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mike Bellai

Chief of Police