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Staff Report CL2021-013

Title of Report: CL2021-013-Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 – Grey Bruce Detachment Joint Proposal
Department: Clerks
Branch: Legislative and Council Services
Council Date: June 2, 2021

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Council receive Staff Report CL2021-013 as information; and
That the Council of the Township of Southgate hereby supports Option 1, as included in this report, being a joint collaborative board, including representation from the Township of Southgate, Township of Georgian Bluffs, Township of Chatsworth, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Municipality of Meaford, Town of South Bruce Peninsula, Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula, and the Saugeen First Nation; and
That each participating Municipality and First Nations Community appoint one (1) elected official to the joint board, with provincial and community appointees to form at least 40% of membership, 20% respectfully; and
That Council direct staff to submit a joint proposal on behalf of the Township of Southgate, in consultation with the other participating lower tiers, in support of Option 1, by the June 7, 2021 deadline.

Background:

On March 26, 2019, Ontario passed the Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019 (Bill 68) and established the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA, 2019), which once proclaimed, will repeal the *Police Services Act, 1990*.

As previously included in [Staff Report CL2021-012](#), the Solicitor General is requesting that detachment municipalities and First Nations work collaboratively to create one joint Board to replace single municipal and First Nations Boards. Applying this model to Grey Bruce would therefore result in one joint Board representing all Section 10 and 5.1 municipalities, including: Township of Southgate, Township of Georgian Bluffs, Township of Chatsworth, Municipality of Meaford, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Town of South Bruce Peninsula, Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula, and the Saugeen First Nation.

A proposal indicating as follows, is required to be submitted to the Solicitor General prior to June 7, 2021:

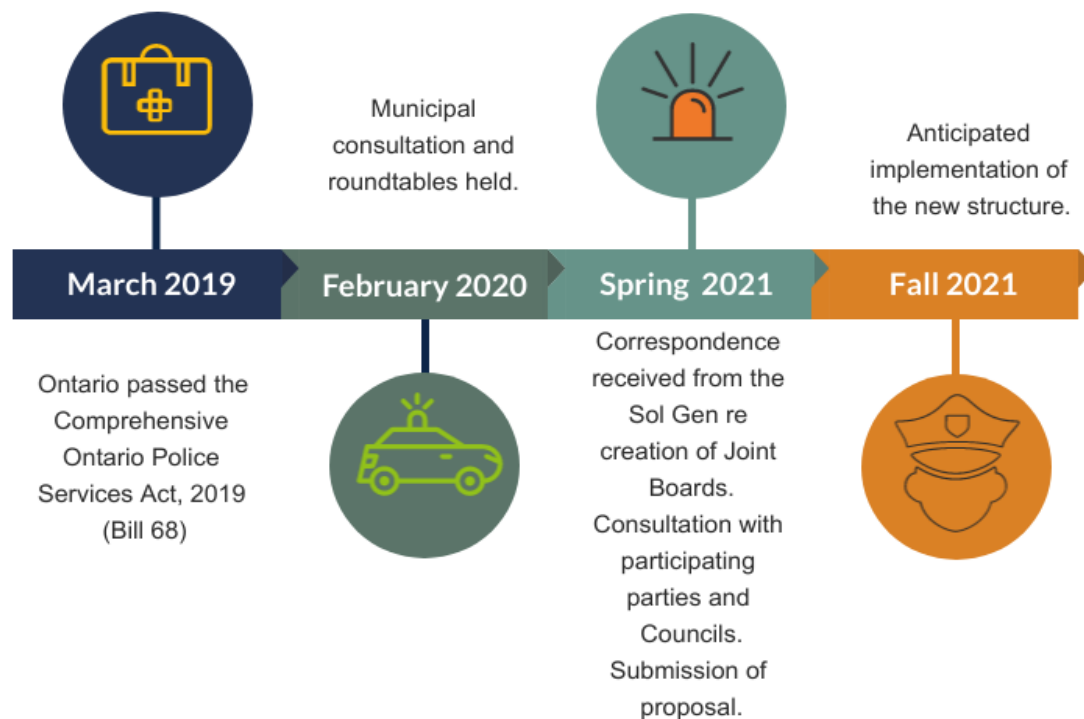
- Number of seats on the joint Board to be held by each municipality;
- Number of community appointees (must be 20%); and
- Number of provincial appointees (must be 20%).

Per the regulations, the joint Board is expected to be composed of a minimum of five members, with 20% community representatives and 20% provincial appointees. Unlike the existing requirements of the *Police Services Act, 1990*, the Mayor of each municipality is not a mandated member of the joint Board.

Should the detachment fail to submit a proposal by the June 7, 2021 deadline, the Ministry will assign a Board structure of their choosing.

See below Figure, detailing the implementation and consultation process regarding the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA, 2019):

Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019
Implementation TimeLine



Staff Comments:

For information and consideration of Council, this report is separated into two detailed sections, the first outlining options for composition of the proposed Board(s), and the second to address implementation of the amended Board structure.

Section 1 – Composition

On April 27, 2021 representatives of municipalities throughout the Grey Bruce detachment met to discuss potential Board structures and the proposal for submission to the Ministry. Said representatives included staff from the Township of Southgate, Township of Georgian Bluffs, Township of Chatsworth, Municipality of Meaford, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Town of South Bruce Peninsula, Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula, and the Saugeen First Nation.

Said discussions were resultant in the following three options for implementation in the Grey Bruce Detachment. The options, as included in this report, are presented for Council's consideration in order of preference, with Option 1 as the recommended option, and Option 3 as the least effective, unrecommended option.

Option 1 – Joint Grey Bruce Detachment Board

Option 1 would create one joint board throughout the Grey Bruce Detachment, and include all participating municipalities, including:

- Township of Southgate – 1 elected official
- Township of Chatsworth – 1 elected official
- Municipality of Meaford – 1 elected official
- Municipality of Grey Highlands – 1 elected official
- Township of Georgian Bluffs – 1 elected official
- Town of South Bruce Peninsula – 1 elected official
- Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula – 1 elected official
- Saugeen First Nation – 1 representative
- 3 Provincial Appointees (20%), and
- 4 Community Appointees (26.67%)

Totaling a Board of at least 15 members.

Each participating Municipality and First Nation Community would appoint one elected member to the joint Board, with 3 provincial appointees to be appointed by the Province, and 4 community appointees to be appointed by the Board. The Board may establish procedures for appointment of community appointees upon creation.

Said procedures will establish selection processes for appointees, including rotation of appointees by home municipality. For example, to ensure fairness, appointees from the Township of Southgate, Town of South Bruce Peninsula, Municipality of Meaford and Township of Chatsworth may serve throughout the first term of the Board, with appointees from other municipalities to serve throughout the second term. Please note, this is simply an example for comprehension, and should not be interpreted as a finalized or approved procedure. Procedures for governance and selection of appointees will be created upon establishment of the Board.

To increase communication and attempt to erode invisible boundaries throughout the Grey Bruce Detachment, Option 1 is the recommended choice for implementation throughout the region. To accompany creation of the joint Community Safety and Well Being Plan completed in 2019, staff of participating municipalities, First Nations and the OPP, are confident that establishment of the joint Board will assist in a unified, regional approach to promoting safety throughout Grey Bruce as a whole. As the Grey Bruce region continues to grow and attract new residents, a connected, well-balanced approach to policing and community safety is paramount.

Option 2 – Two Boards: Division of Grey and Bruce Counties

Option 2 proposes creation of two separate Boards, one for the municipalities of Grey County, and one for the municipalities of Bruce County. In this scenario, the two Boards would be comprised of representatives of participating municipalities, as well as a representative of the Saugeen First Nation. The representative of the Saugeen First Nation may be the same on both Boards, or a different representative per Board.

Composition would be as follows:

Board 1: Grey County Municipalities

- Township of Southgate – 1 elected official
- Township of Chatsworth – 1 elected official
- Municipality of Meaford – 1 elected official
- Municipality of Grey Highlands – 1 elected official
- Township of Georgian Bluffs – 1 elected official
- Saugeen First Nation – 1 representative
- Provincial Appointees (20%) – at least 2
- Community Appointees (20%) – at least 3

Totaling a Board of at least 11 members.

Board 2: Bruce County Municipalities

- Town of South Bruce Peninsula – 2 elected officials
- Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula – 2 elected officials
- Saugeen First Nation – 1 representative
- Provincial Appointees (20%) – at least 2
- Community Appointees (20%) – at least 2

Totaling a Board of at least 9 members.

Per the regulations, the Boards must be composed of a minimum of five members, with 20% community representatives and 20% provincial appointees. Therefore, to meet the minimum requirements, the municipalities of the Bruce County Board would be required to appoint at least two elected representatives each, in addition to the Saugeen First Nation representative, community and provincial appointees. The Grey County Board would be composed of at least one elected member from each participating municipality, a representative of the Saugeen First Nation, the community and provincial appointees. The same as Option 1, both Boards will have the opportunity to select community appointees and establish procedures for doing so.

To justify Option 2, the proposal would split the large geographical area over which the Grey Bruce Detachment spans, therefore requiring two separate Boards. Option 2 would reduce collaboration amongst participating municipalities, however incorporate partnership with the Saugeen First Nation Community throughout the region. Geographical borders continue to have less impact on governance decisions, as governing bodies prioritize collaboration and elimination of silos throughout the Province and local communities. To best protect and service the lower tiers of Grey Bruce, and therefore the region as a whole, Option 1, being a collaborative, joint Board, remains the recommended option.

Option 3: Three Independent Boards

The third and final option for consideration is that of three separate, distinct Boards throughout the County, being a Board for Grey County, a Board for Bruce County and another for the Saugeen First Nation Community. For clarity, First Nation Communities are provided the option to opt-out of the joint Board structure. Said option is provided via the CSPA.

The same as Options 1 and 2, all Boards would be composed of a minimum of five members, with 20% community representatives and 20% provincial appointees. All three Boards would also have the ability to select community appointees and establish procedures for doing so, at their discretion.

As the least recommended and most ineffective option, Option 3 removes opportunity for collaboration throughout the region, segregating policing and community safety efforts to each respective area. As the region continues to strive for collaboration and joint efforts in improving our communities, Option 3 is not recommended for implementation.

Options 1 through 3 are included for Council's feedback and consideration. Option 1, being a collaborative joint Board is recommended for implementation and submission to the Province prior to the June 7, 2021 deadline. Worthwhile to note, should the Grey Bruce Detachment move forward as one, large Board with all parties included, the Solicitor General's office has been clear that amendments to the proposed Board structures are possible, where the selected structure has proven to be ineffective. Therefore, should the recommended joint Board be unsuccessful or ineffective, amendments to the structure may be accommodated.

Section 2 – Implementation

Following endorsement of one of the options outlined in this report, staff of all participating parties will create one, joint proposal for the Grey Bruce Detachment, for submission to the Ministry of the Solicitor General prior to June 7, 2021. This same report is being presented to all participating Councils for consideration and feedback prior to submission of the proposal on the 7th.

It is anticipated that all Section 10 Boards will be dissolved by the fourth quarter of 2021, likely between September and October. Finer details regarding administration and training of members are still to be determined by participating parties and the Province. For clarity, all participating parties will be responsible for costs associated with the Board's implementation, including administration costs, meeting and mileage remuneration and training opportunities. While the costs will likely be shared amongst participating parties, financial impacts remain approximate, pending further direction of the Province.

Per information provided by the Province, all members of the newly created Board(s) will be required to complete training, regarding:

- Role of detachment Board and responsibilities of members of the Board;
- Human rights and systemic racism;
- The diverse, multiracial and multicultural character of Ontario society;
- The rights and cultures of First Nation, Inuit and Métis Peoples; and
- Additional training as prescribed in regulation by the Solicitor General.

While details associated with the required training, including format and pricing remain undetermined, the Ministry has noted that completion of said training is a mandatory prerequisite of participation on the Board.

Further, staff presented a similar report to the Township of Southgate Police Service Board at their May 18, 2021 Board meeting seeking a recommendation to provide Council for their consideration. The following motion was approved at that Board meeting:

Moved By Member Dobreen

Seconded By Member Lewis

Be it resolved that the Board receive Staff Report PSB2021-01 as information; and

That the Police Services Board recommend to Council that the Council of the Township of Southgate support Option 1, as included in this report, being a joint collaborative board, including representation from the Township of Southgate, Township of Georgian Bluffs, Township of Chatsworth, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Municipality of Meaford, Town of South Bruce Peninsula, Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula, and the Saugeen First Nation; and

That the Police Services Board recommend to Council that Council support each participating Municipality and First Nations Community appointing one (1) elected official to the joint board, with provincial and community appointees to form at least 40% of membership, 20% respectfully. **Carried**

Financial Implications:

As each participating party will have only one elected representative on the joint Board, expenses related to meeting remuneration and mileage are forecasted to decrease. However, as the administrative operations and training impact of the amendments to existing structures remain unknown, total costs to each participating party remain approximate.

It is recommended that all parties budget \$5000.00, in years 1 and 2, to allocate to costs associated with the joint Board, including, but not limited to, meeting remuneration, mileage, training opportunities and staff resources. Upon incorporation of the Board, and following two years of participation, it is anticipated that costs associated with the Board will decrease.

As more information becomes available from the Province regarding funding sources and training opportunities, staff will provide further detail regarding financial impacts.

Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public.

Concluding Comments:

The *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA, 2019), will dissolve all Section 10 Boards in place of a joint Board per detachment. At the request of the Solicitor

General, detachment municipalities and First Nations are to work collaboratively to submit a proposal for composition of a joint Board, by June 7, 2021. Staff of all participating parties, including the OPP, recommend implementation of Option 1, being a joint, collaborative Board, incorporating the included lower tiers and first nation communities, to increase communication and working relationships throughout the region. Following direction and feedback of all respective Councils, staff will prepare and submit a joint proposal to the attention of the Ministry of the Solicitor General, prior to the June 7, 2021 deadline.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dept. Head: *Original Signed By*
Lindsey Green, Clerk

CAO Approval: *Original Signed By*
Dave Milliner, CAO

Attachments: None