



## MUNICIPALITY OF THAMES CENTRE

**REPORT NO. CLERK-015-23**

**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**FROM:** Interim Clerk/Legislative Services Manager  
**MEETING DATE:** November 14, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** **RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF POLICE SERVICES**

### RECOMMENDATION:

**THAT** Report No. CLERK-015-23 be received for information;

**AND THAT** Council direct the Interim Clerk to enter into a contract extension for 1 year;

**AND THAT** the Interim Clerk be directed to bring forward the implementing by-law for Council's consideration at the next regular meeting.

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Report is to provide background on Thames Centre's current agreement with the Solicitor General under Section 10 of the *Police Services Act* for the provision of police services, which is set to expire on December 31, 2023, and to also provide options to Council with respect to how to move forward this agreement.

### BACKGROUND:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Thames Centre entered into an Agreement with The Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services on July 12, 2010, for the provision of police services for the Municipality. At its regular meeting held on December 16, 2019, Council passed By-law No. 107-2019, being a by-law to authorize the execution of an Agreement with the Solicitor General for the provision of police services for the Municipality of Thames Centre, under Section 10 of the *Police Services Act*.

Thames Centre is the only Municipality within Middlesex County to have a contractual agreement under Section 10. The remaining municipalities receive police services from the OPP under Section 5, having no contractual agreement nor the mandatory Police Services Board.

At the time this agreement was entered into, it was anticipated that the *Community Safety and Policing Act* (CSPA) would be in full force by the time this agreement expired on

December 31, 2023. However, the CSPA is currently still not yet in force and effect – it is anticipated this will occur in 2024. Once this happens, the need for Section 10 policing contracts will be eliminated, as all municipalities will be transitioned to a new OPP Detachment Board. This new detachment framework will serve all communities within Middlesex County (all Municipalities and First Nations groups will have representation).

The Ministry of the Solicitor General is allowing 1 or 2 year extensions by way of an amending agreement. Should Council wish to extend the agreement by 1 year, it would have an expiry date of December 31, 2024, and extending by 2 years would have an expiry date of December 31, 2025.

There is also an option for a full contract renewal, for a 3-, 4-, 5- or 6-year term.

For any of the above options of extending or fully renewing our Section 10 agreement, the new contract would conclude on either the expiry date, or when the CSPA comes into force and effect. A by-law is required from Council to proceed with any of the above options.

Lastly, Council also has the option for reversion to a Section 5 non-contract agreement on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, which will remain in effect until the CSPA comes into force. Notification on municipal letterhead to the OPP would be required to proceed with this option. Impacts of this decision to move forward without a contract would include the dissolution of our current Police Services Board (although a discretionary Community Policing Advisory Committee could be established under Section 5), as well as increased risks of limitations on grant opportunities.

Attached to this report is a chart highlighting some of the differences between Section 10 and Section 5 OPP policing arrangements.

## COMMENTS:

Most municipalities are choosing a short extension to bridge the time frame for when the CSPA will be implemented and no contracts will be required for standard service.

On September 13, 2023, the Solicitor General accepted the proposal for the composition of a new Middlesex County Detachment Board, as submitted by Middlesex Centre. At this time, there have been no formal discussions between the member municipalities on how this board will operate. It is anticipated that this will be happening in the very near future.

Reverting back to Section 5 would dissolve our current Police Services Board, as well as potentially limit our grant opportunities.

Extending the agreement for a 1-2 year term would cover us should any delays take place in the rollout of the CSPA. When it does come into force, this agreement will end.

On October 11, 2023, the Thames Centre Police Services Board passed the following resolution:

**THAT** the correspondence received from the OPP Municipal Policing Bureau dated August 23, 2023, be received and filed, noting that a presentation to Council will be provided on November 14, 2023.

Council, therefore, has the following options:

- Enter into a contract extension for either 1 or 2 years
- Enter into a full contract renewal, for a 3, 4, 5 or 6 year term
- Revert to back to a Section 5 non-contract agreement on January 1st, 2024;

Should Council wish to extend this agreement, Sergeant Robert Griffin will draft for an amending agreement to our current contract, with the same terms, and can change the expiry date to suit Council's preference for the length of the term. A by-law with this amending agreement will be brought forward for Council's consideration at the next regular meeting, prior to the current agreement expiring at the end of the year.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Should Council choose to revert back to a Section 5 arrangement, this would limit grant opportunities for the Municipality. However, maintaining as the only Section 10 Board in Middlesex County places an unfair administrative burden on Thames Centre municipal staff, comparative to the other local Municipalities and County during the transition period.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN LINK**

**Pillar:** Responsive Leadership

**Goal:** Thames Centre encourages an environment of innovation, resilience and community through responsive leadership.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

Sergeant Robert Griffin, OPP

#### **REFERENCES:**

None.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Current Agreement (By-law No. 107-2019)
- Correspondence received from the OPP Municipal Policing Bureau dated August 23, 2023
- Comparison of Section 5 and 10 Policing Arrangements

Prepared by: S. Henshaw, Interim Clerk/Legislative Services Manager

Reviewed by: D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer