



STAFF REPORT
Municipality of Wawa

Maury O'Neill, CAO-Clerk



To: Mayor and Council	Report No.: CAO 2024-03
Date: January 9, 2024	Council Meeting: Jan. 16, 2024

O.P.P. Superior East Regional Detachment Board

Recommendation

THAT Council receive Staff Report CAO 2024-03, entitled "O.P.P. Superior East Regional Detachment Board" for information and initiate the selection of Wawa Municipal Council representative to sit on the new O.P.P. Detachment Board once formed and estimated to take place on April 1, 2024.

Summary Background

The Province has proclaimed the new Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA) which will come in force on April 1, 2024, replacing the existing Police Services Act, 1990 (PSA).

Section 67 of the CSPA requires that Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Regional Detachment Board be formed for each detachment that provides policing in a municipality or a First Nation community. A new Superior East Regional OPP Detachment Board will be formed and include the communities currently served by the existing Detachment that includes Wawa, Hornepayne, White River, Dubreuilville, and Chapleau. Once the new Superior East OPP Detachment Board is formed, the existing Section 10 Wawa Police Board will cease to exist.

Regulations relating to OPP Detachment Boards are still under development. No indication has been provided by the Solicitor General when the regulations will be approved.

Attached is a copy of a recent training session provided by the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards outlining the Detachment Board requirements and responsibilities. New Regional OPP Detachment Boards will include the following responsibilities;

- Considering any community safety and well-being plan adopted by a municipality that receives policing from the detachment;
- Establishing local policies, in consultation with the detachment commander, with respect to policing in the detachment area;
- Ensuring local action plans prepared by the detachment commander address the objectives and priorities determined by the board;

- Consult with Commissioner on selection of a detachment commander;
- Monitor the performance of the detachment commander; and
- Provide an annual budget request and report to the municipalities involved.

OPP Detachment Board Composition

In spring 2021, the Ministry of the Solicitor General requested that communities work together to develop proposals for the composition of their future detachment boards, based on minimum requirements provided by the Ministry. After discussions, the following Resolution was approved by Wawa and all municipalities in Superior East:

The five communities of Wawa, White River, Hornepayne, Chapleau and Dubreuilville will appoint a "Council Member or designate" each to sit on the Board (total of five municipal representatives) and two community members representing the Detachment Service Area will be selected upon majority approval of the Board.

Therefore, along with two provincial appointees to the Board, all municipalities agree that the Superior East OPP Detachment Board should consist of a total of nine (9) members.

The two community members at large will be selected by advertised to all residents in the catchment area and the successful candidate will be selected by the Board through an application and interview process.

The five municipalities have no objection and agree that the two Indigenous communities of Michipicoten First Nation and Hornepayne First Nation may appoint one representative each to the Board, should they so desire.

On September 13, 2023, the attached letter was received by Wawa and shared with participating communities, approving the proposed Board composition. The proposed composition does not include a seat for Michipicoten or Hornepayne First Nation at this time, however, the Ministry has indicated that additional seats for First Nations may be added at a later date. The Ministry is required to develop a regulation related to the composition of each OPP Detachment Board for public comment and it will be posted on the Registry for public comment. At this time, the posting has not taken place.

Considerations and Discussion

Current Wawa Police Board (Section 10 Board)

Wawa's current Police Services Board recently met to review the upcoming changes to Detachment Boards and is recommending that all communities involved meet with the Wawa Police Services Board to discuss getting ready for the new legislation.

A Police Services Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14th at 1:00 p.m. and invitation extending to White River, Hornepayne, Dubreuilville and Chapleau to attend. An overview of the new Detachment Boards requirements will be provided by the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB).

It was recommended by the Board that the Municipality of Wawa continue to coordinate the meeting and transition process and that Council consider appointing its representative to sit on the new Detachment Board in the near future so that the Council Member could attend the training session. Councillor Jim Hoffman currently serves as Council's representative. The term of the new Detachment Board appointees will likely run the term of Council.

To ensure the Municipality is prepared, the current Police Services Board is willing to assist Council and surrounding communities with the transition process.

There is still uncertainty around the new Detachment Board composition and a lack of approved regulations, however, as the legislation is implemented, and information received, the CAO-Clerk will share and coordinate with all parties involved and continue to support the development of the new OPP Detachment Board.

Recommendation

THAT Report CAO 2024-03 "Superior East OPP Regional Detachment Board" be received by Council;

AND THAT Municipal Council select its member to be appointed to the new OPP Detachment Board at its next meeting on February 6, 2024.



Maury O'Neill
CAO-Clerk

Attachments: Letter from Solicitor General September 13, 2023

O.P.P. Detachment Boards – OAPSB Powerpoint - Dec. 2023

Ministry of the Solicitor General

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Maury O'Neill
CAO
Municipality of Wawa
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September 13, 2023

Greetings Maury O'Neil,

Thank you for submitting your proposal for the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachment board framework. Your patience has been greatly appreciated while all proposals went through a thorough review process.

At this time, I am pleased to confirm that the Superior East OPP detachment board proposal has been approved by the Solicitor General to the next step in finalizing the board compositions, which is posting the composition on the Ontario Regulatory Registry (ORR). The ministry is currently working on drafting the regulation, which is expected to be available on the Ontario Regulatory Registry (ORR) for public comment in the summer or fall. Posting of the regulation is one of the last steps before the regulation can be finalized in advance of bringing the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA)* into force in early 2024.

The following board composition(s) have been approved for posting.

Board	Communities Serviced	Council Seats	Community Representative Seat(s)	Provincial Appointment Seat(s)	Total Seat(s)
1	Chapleau Township, Dubreuilville Township, Hornepayne Township, Municipality of Wawa, White River Township, Michipicoten First Nation, Hornepayne First Nation	5	2	2	9

On behalf of the Ministry of the Solicitor General, I would like to express my appreciation to all the communities involved in the proposal development process. I acknowledge and value the significant efforts undertaken to create a proposal for a detachment board that

addresses the unique needs of each community that receives OPP policing services in your detachment. As the proposal lead, I kindly request that you disseminate this correspondence to all communities serviced by the proposed detachment board.

The ministry is planning to share more guidance as soon as possible on next steps, with the understanding that municipalities and First Nations require time to plan for the implementation of OPP detachment boards before the CSPA comes into force.

If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please contact Devendra Sukhdeo, Senior Policy Advisor, Public Safety and Policing Policy Unit (PSPPU), Strategic Policy Division, at Devendra.Sukhdeo@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Sarah Caldwell
Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy Division
Ministry of the Solicitor General