Tay Valley Township

"SPECIAL" AGENDA
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

Wednesday, September 14th, 2011
3:45 p.m.
Tay Valley Municipal Office – 217 Harper Road, Perth, Ontario
Fall River Room

Chair, Maureen Towaij (Provincial Appointee)

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

3. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

i) **Electronic Speed Sign.**

ii) **Slow Moving Vehicle Signs.**

iii) **Election Advocacy - Rising Policing Costs** – *attached, page 3.*

4. ADJOURNMENT

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

From: Wallace, Kathy [mailto:Kathy.Wallace@oapsb.ca]
Sent: Friday, September 09, 2011 10:24 AM
To: Wallace, Kathy
Subject: Election Advocacy: Rising Costs of Policing
Importance: High

The Ontario election has been called and the three major political parties are vying for our votes. The provincial election campaign is a critical opportunity (every four years) for local police boards to partner with the OAPSB in making policing cost an important issue in communities across Ontario. The OAPSB and local police boards need to know what our local political leaders are planning to do to address our concerns. Working together we can get our message out, understand each parties' position and ensure that rising costs of policing is an election issue.

Attached please find a template letter and an OAPSB backgrounder on the issue of rising costs of policing. It is very important that you send this to your local Liberal, PC, and NDP candidates to make each party aware of our issues and determine their position.

For each of your local candidates, simply cut and paste the template letter into an email and insert their personalized contact information. (You can find this information on each candidate's website, or call their campaign office, or call your local Elections Ontario Returning Office.) The letter should come from the local board and be signed by the Chair of the local board. Attach the backgrounder to the email and send. (Repeat this, of course, for the other two candidates.)

Please forward any responses you get back to the OAPSB at admin@oapsb.ca. (If you meet with any of your local candidates or are involved in any campaign activities, please keep us updated via email to the same address.)

Use these questions and the responses you get in any way you can to advance our priorities and message. Here are some suggestions:

- **Write letters to the editor based on the two questions and candidate responses to highlight our priorities.**
- **Attend all-candidates' debates and ask the questions there.**
- **Call into any live talk shows (radio or television) that your local candidates may be on and ask the questions.**
- **Share the responses with representatives from other members of government (particularly at the municipal level).**
- **Contact your local media directly and pass on the candidate responses. You may consider doing this directly to a friendly local reporter, or putting out a press release.**
- **Use candidate responses to comment on online news articles about the campaign.**
- **Drop by your local candidates' campaign offices to speak to the candidate and volunteers, to ensure they are aware of the issue.**
- **If you have a local board (or personal) Facebook page or website, post the questions and answers there and share the link with others.**

- **If you are on Twitter, tweet questions at your local candidates to keep the conversation going in a public forum. You may also tweet short, to-the-point quotes from candidates themselves (with attribution) to generate public interest.**
- **Encourage board members, colleagues, and friends to do these things as well. The more people we can get talking about the issue during the campaign, the more likely we are to be successful.**

The OAPSB will partner and provide support to local boards who wish to engage in any of the above activities. We urge you to make the most of this valuable opportunity and the resources and information provided by the OAPSB. Best of luck and thank you in advance for your efforts!

Sincerely,

Alok Mukherjee
President, OAPSB

September X, 2011

Candidate Name
Candidate Address
City, ON A1B 2C3

Dear Candidate Name,

The Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) is the voice of civilian governance of policing in Ontario. Our main objectives are to advance collaborative dialogue among our members regarding police governance issues, ideas and best practices; and to proactively contribute to the development of provincial government policies regarding policing and public safety. We continue to work closely with MPPs from all parties on issues of public safety in Ontario.

A key mandate of the OAPSB is to advocate on issues of concern to its members.

A major issue on which the OAPSB has been active is the rising costs of policing. Over the past decade, the costs of running municipal police services have increased exponentially. As a result of significantly rising labour costs, trends in police contract arbitrations, increased demands on police services, impact of new legislation imposing additional demands on policing without regard for cost and a host of other pressures, Ontario municipalities and police boards are struggling with ballooning police budgets that are not sustainable. Public safety grants and transfers have helped ease the financial burden, but such funding is generally short-term and not stable.

Please find attached a backgrounder on the issue of rising costs. We would appreciate you taking the time to read through it and answer the following questions:

1. **Will your party commit to continuing the existing public safety grants and transfers, at currently planned levels, including the 1000-officer Partnership Program, RIDE, TAVIS/PAVIS grants, and the planned Court Security Prisoner Transportation Grant?**

2. **Will your party commit to undertaking a comprehensive review of the costs of policing, within one year of being elected, with the aim of finding ways to assist police services boards and their funding municipalities in controlling policing costs in order to ensure sustainable and affordable delivery of adequate and effective police services?**

Ontario Association of Police Services Boards
10 Peel Centre Drive | Suite A, 1st Floor | Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
T: (905) 458-1488, 1-800-831-7727 | F: (905) 458-2260 | E: admin@oapsb.ca

We would appreciate your reply by Friday, September 16 at the latest so that we can communicate your response to our members. Please send your response to me by email at (insert email).

Thank you for your assistance, and best of luck in your campaign.

Sincerely,

(Insert name)
Chair

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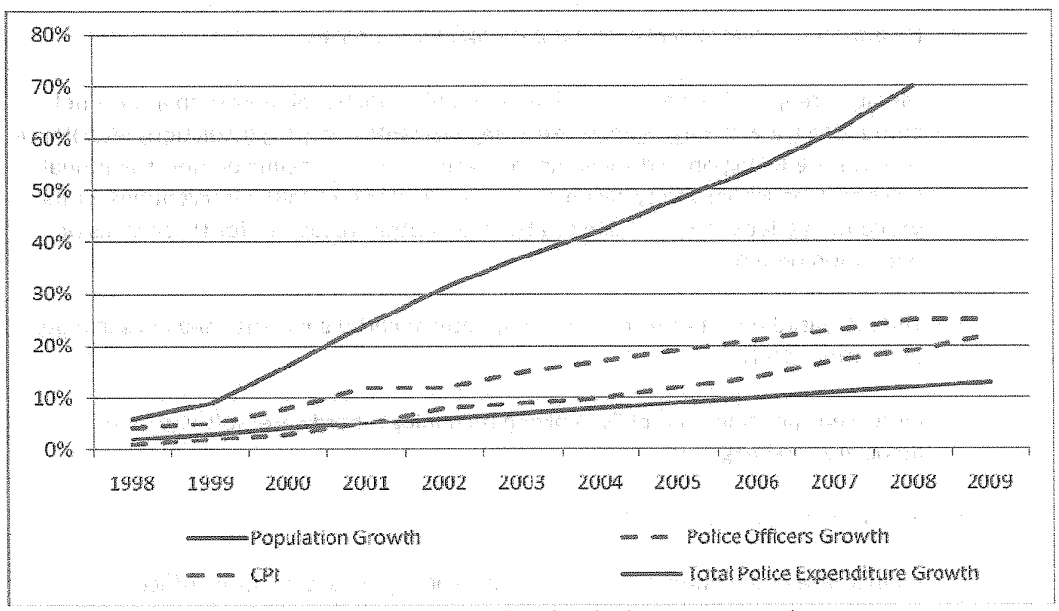
OAPSB

THE RISING COSTS OF POLICING IN ONTARIO

It has been well documented that over the past decade, the cost of policing has risen substantially. Policing in Canada is a nearly 12 billion dollar a year industry. In Ontario, $3.8 billion is spent annually on policing. Police costs in Canada have been rising by 5-7% per annum for a decade and most police costs are found in salaries. Unfortunately, municipalities and local police boards do not have the ability to address this rising trend without dramatically raising taxes or cutting costs.

"At a time when cash-strapped cities are bringing down austerity measures to rein in spending, police budgets have continued their steady growth, forcing civic leaders to make tough choices between funding law and order and paying for other major services. Despite declining crime rates, spending on police forces – one of the largest single items on municipal ledgers – has risen 41-per-cent per capita across the country over the last decade for which Statistics Canada numbers are available. Much of that cost is being driven by police raises that consistently top the inflation rate." (Adrian Morrow, *Globe and Mail, Jan. 07, 2011)*

Rising cost of policing 1998-2009



Source: Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board

COST DRIVERS

There are many reasons for the rising costs of policing, including:

- The introduction of Adequacy Standards requiring standardized capabilities in all police services, i. e. every police service must have every service capability, or an agreement in place with a neighboring police service for any service that it does not have the capability to deliver.
- Increased complexity of work as a result of judicial decisions, rulings and inquests.
- Increased compliance requirement, i. e. training and reporting requirements of regulations.
- Downloading: municipal police services are undertaking federal and provincial law enforcement and correctional services tasks such as border security, counter-terrorism, embassy/consulate protection, peacekeeping on first nation lands, public order maintenance in response to federal or provincial decisions (i.e. G20), prisoner transportation and court security.
- Heightened public expectations and demand for services.
- Mission creep: police services taking on multijurisdictional tasks such as internet crime, dealing with large gangs, executing warrants in other jurisdictions, etc. Police services are taking on and spending increasing amount of time on non-traditional tasks such as school safety, victims' assistance, mental health interventions, crime prevention education, etc., due to absence of other resources for these tasks or regulation requirements.
- The increased threat of terrorism and greater security concerns/measures in a post 9/11 atmosphere.
- Increased spending on rapidly evolving technology, hardware, software and associated training costs.
- Increased court security costs.
- An increase in the number of court appearances per case by police officers.
- Exponentially rising labour costs. The combination of government-settled OPP compensation increases and arbitrated settlements based on police-to-police wage comparisons has created an ever-increasing pattern of police compensation.

- Recently, the Ontario government settled the OPP contract with raises of 5%, followed by a two-year freeze and a promise thereafter to be the best paid service in Ontario. This award followed calls for austerity and a two-year wage freeze for public servants. In their awards, arbitrators rarely consider factors other than settlements of comparable and/or neighbouring police services (including the OPP), despite legislation to the contrary (section 122 (5) of the *Police Services Act*). Since the recent OPP settlement, at least one arbitrator has ruled on a police settlement where wages were based on OPP wages.

- Lack of development or exploration of more efficient, innovative or different ways to fund, structure and deliver police services over the past decade

Grants and Transfers

Public safety grants and transfers have helped ease the financial burden including: the 1000-officer Partnership Program, RIDE, TAVIS/PAVIS grants, and the planned Court Security Prisoner Transportation Grant. While these grants and transfers provide some relief to municipalities, they are generally short-term and not stable.

Annualized Programs

1. Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program - $37.1M
2. Community Policing Partnerships (CPP) Program - $30.7M
3. Constable Joe MacDonald Public Safety Officers' Survivors Scholarship Fund (PSOSSF) - $0.4M
4. Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) - $2.4M
5. First Nations Policing Grant - $36.1M
6. Safer and Vital Communities (SVC) Grant - $0.855M
7. Provincial Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet - $2.1M
8. Hate Crime & Extremism Investigative Team (HCEIT) - $0.25M
9. Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers (OACS)-Crime Stoppers - $0.2M
10. Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (TAVIS) - $5M
11. Provincial Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (PAVIS) - $7.5M
12. Safe Schools Grant - $1.7M
13. Court Security Prisoner Transportation Grant - $125M at maturity, commencing 2012 (not included in total funding available)

Total Funding Available = $124M

Special Programs

14. Police Officers Recruitment Fund (PORF) - $15.6M
15. Proceeds of Crime (POC) Front-line Policing Grant - $3.15M
16. Victim Safety Project (VSP) - $4.5M (Funding ended in 2010)
17. Human Trafficking Grants - $100K
18. First Nations Police Services Infrastructure Agreements - $12.2M

Total Funding Available = $35M

Advocacy Position 2011

The OAPSB in its 2011 Advocacy Position called upon all political parties to:

- Stop the ever-increasing pattern of rising police costs,
- Ensure that police collective agreement arbitrations duly consider all decision criteria as mandated in the *Police Services Act*, including "the economic situation in Ontario and in the municipality (s122(5)3)",
- Lead a proactive, collaborative review of policing service models and associated costs, including possible realignment of (or return to) police jurisdictional responsibilities (municipal/provincial/federal) as well as alternate service delivery options, and
- Lead a proactive, collaborative study of alternative police funding mechanisms, with a view to ceasing the existing reliance on property tax as the sole source of funding for municipal policing (provincial and federal grants notwithstanding).