

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the subsection 4(1) of the Police Service Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 15, (PSA) “Every municipality to which this subsection applies shall provide adequate and effective police services in accordance with its needs.” The Act clarifies in subsection 4(4), that 4(1) applies to “lower-tier municipalities in the County of Oxford”. Subsection 137(1) of the Act specifically assigns responsibility for court security to the Police Services Board having jurisdiction over the premises where court proceedings are conducted – regardless of the fact that the court is run by provincial officials and its administration falls under the Ministry of the Attorney General.

In accordance with the PSA, the Oxford County Provincial Courthouse, located in the City of Woodstock, currently receives court security services from Woodstock Police Services (WPS) at a level determined appropriate by the Chief of WPS. As the City of Woodstock annually funds WPS police services, the City’s taxpayers currently pay for court security costs for the Oxford County Courthouse, net of Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Funding which resulted from the *Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Service Delivery Review* (PMFSDR) completed in 2008.

The Oxford County Courthouse serves all of its eight area municipalities with respect to Provincial court related services. The County’s Provincial Offences Court is administered by the County through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of the Attorney General. Court security costs for the administration of POA services are currently funded by user fees, net of Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Funding.

PURPOSE/MANDATE

At County Council’s regular meeting held May 10, 2017, Council passed Resolution No. 10, to strike a Local Court Security Advisory Committee, with a mandate to:

- i. Annually recommend to County Council the level of County funding for costs incurred by the Woodstock Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police for Court Security and Prisoner Transportation services, having regard to the efficient use of resources; and
- ii. Advocate for court security and prisoner transportation funding from the Province that achieves 100% of municipal costs by 2018 and thereafter.

COMPOSITION

The Local Court Advisory Committee shall consist of ten members, nine non-County Councillor members of whom are appointed by their respective area municipal Council; three of whom will represent the City of Woodstock; one representative for each of the remaining seven municipalities; with the exception of the County Warden, who is appointed Chair of the Committee.

A Committee's term shall be concurrent with the term of the appointing council, or until a successor is appointed.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

The County Warden shall chair the Committee meetings in accordance with the County of Oxford Procedure By-law No. 5852-2016, with the exception of meeting dates and times which will be determined by the Committee and at the call of the Chair.

COMMITTEE FUNDING

Committee members will be reimbursed by the County of Oxford for local travel expenses incurred, payable at established County of Oxford rates.

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

The work of the Committee will be supported by the following: Police Service Boards across Oxford County; the Oxford County and City of Woodstock Treasurers; the Woodstock Police Chief; and, Oxford OPP Detachment Inspector.

The Deputy Clerk of the County of Oxford will attend all meetings of the Committee and post meeting minutes on the County website at www.oxfordcounty.ca .

