

MUNICIPALITY OF MEAFORD

PRESS RELEASE

Municipal Council in Meaford has decided to examine its' options for providing police service to the newly amalgamated municipality that was formed with the merger of the former Town of Meaford with the former Townships of Sydenham and St. Vincent. At present the former town portion of Meaford is policed by the Meaford-Thornbury Police Service and the remainder of the Municipality is policed, on a charge-back basis, by the Ontario Provincial Police.

Council assigned the task of managing the selection process to the Police Costing Committee, chaired by Linda van Aalst. The Committee has decided to use a "Request for Proposal" (RFP) process recommended by the police community in Ontario, which has been followed successfully in a number of other municipalities. The Committee relied heavily on the work completed in 2000 by the Transition Board Policing Task Force. It is hoped that the RFP will result in responses from the Meaford-Thornbury Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Owen Sound Police Service. The RFP is based on three major considerations; the level of service provided, the manner in which the service is provided and the cost of the service.

The RFP document has now been drafted by the Committee for review by the entire Meaford Municipal Council at its' meeting on June 25th. If members of the public have any questions, concerns, or suggestions with respect to the content of the RFP, they are encouraged to advise Council in writing before its' meeting on the 25th. There will also be a short period during the Council meeting where Meaford taxpayers may make brief verbal presentations to Council.

Although the RFP document is lengthy, there are a number of major components of particular interest to the public. All proposals must:

1. Meet or exceed the adequacy requirements of the Police Services Act and its Regulations.
2. Provide a level of service that is similar or greater than that currently provided.
3. Ensure the existing Meaford-Thornbury Police Building is open to the public during regular business hours Monday to Friday.
4. Provide at least twelve uniformed constables and at least one dedicated supervisor assigned solely to policing Meaford.
5. Ensure that a minimum of two uniformed officers are on duty in Meaford at all times.
6. Staff a satellite (community services office) located in the former Township of Sydenham. It would be routinely staffed on a part-time basis by uniformed officers.
7. Provide a properly trained and equipped auxiliary policing unit.

Although the RFP document is too lengthy to provide in its entirety to the public, those taxpayers that wish to obtain more information will be provided with a list of the "Level of Service Indicators" contained in the RFP. This list can be obtained at any municipal building in Meaford during normal business hours on Monday to Friday. The Committee hopes that the RFP will be released in late June or early July and that responses will be received in early September.