



ORANGEVILLE POLICE SERVICES BOARD

c/o Town of Orangeville – 87 Broadway, Orangeville L9W 1K1 Telephone: (519) 941-5650

Fax: (519) 940-8275

Chair T. Taylor • Vice-Chair I. McSweeney • K. Krakar • A. MacIntosh • M. Rose

June XXX, 2021

Hon. Sylvia Jones,
Solicitor General
18th Floor, 25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y6

Dear Minister Jones:

Thank you for your letter of March 18, 2021 regarding the government's desire to develop a new framework for OPP Detachment Boards.

Prior to our transition to the Dufferin Detachment of the OPP on October 1, 2020, Orangeville was historically policed by its own municipal police service. As a result of this transition, the Orangeville Police Services Board (PSB) ceased to be a section 31 board and became a section 10 board under the Police Services Act (PSA).

Situation at Present:

The PSB has five members, two of whom are members of Orangeville Council, another two are provincial appointees, and the fifth was appointed by Council from the community. The PSB also employs the services of a part-time secretary.

The PSB currently meets monthly, although we expect, once we have completed dealing with pre-transition legacy issues, regular meeting frequency will be reduced. These regular meetings have both an in-camera session and a public session component. We also hold special meetings from time to time to deal with urgent issues. Council remunerates all members with nominal honorariums and nominal special meeting per diems for approved work.

Orangeville is home to the County Courthouse and jail and provides all requirements and staffing for the facility.

Solution-Based Options for Dufferin County:

We believe there is a need for the Ministry to better define the perceived problems that the proposed new framework intends to solve. We agree with our colleagues in Mono that this cannot be a question of cost to the Province since municipalities fully fund their respective

police service boards. We agree as well that if the number and frequency of police service board meetings within a Detachment represents a burdensome time commitment for Detachment Commanders and staff, this should be addressed directly and can be mutually resolved. Similarly, if the Province is concerned by specific problems experienced with certain police services board, these problems should be identified and dealt with directly with these boards.

It has been suggested that the police service boards of the two urban centres of Shelburne and Orangeville should consolidate into a single board. While this suggestion may appear viable in concept, in practice it would fall short of the needs of both communities and is, at best, premature. Orangeville recently transitioned to the OPP in October, 2020 and Shelburne in February 2021. Both communities need time to properly adjust to the oversight and operational aspects of their new policing service, and to work through the many legacy issues specific to each.

Shelburne at a population of 8,000 and Orangeville at 30,000 are quite different in terms of their community priorities and policing needs. Moreover, geographically, we are not contiguous municipalities being separated by approximately 25 Kms.

Today, police services are under extreme scrutiny regarding systemic racism, bias, inequity and social injustice. While all communities face these realities, it is essential to recognize their unique demographics in terms of policing needs and oversight. For example, Shelburne reports a total BIPOC (black indigenous and people of colour) component of 18% of population compared to Orangeville at 8%. Orangeville, however, has a larger population of marginalized Indigenous and 2SLGBTQ1A+ citizens. (CITATION REQUIRED)

Another major concern for all communities, but for larger urban communities in particular, is the rise in mental health issues and opioid usage. The Orangeville OPP recently assigned a dedicated officer to the growing mental health problems and this officer liaises with the social services agencies in the community.

Future:

The provision of "Adequate and Effective" policing is a localized responsibility. As such, the Orangeville PSB should remain autonomous for the foreseeable future while we work through section 10 transition.

With respect to Dufferin County as a whole, we believe that there is a strong rationale for multiple boards even under a restructured framework. If the Ministry determines that some degree of consolidation is absolutely necessary, we propose that a four police services board model should be adopted for Dufferin County based on the following groupings of municipalities:

1. Orangeville

2. Shelburne
3. Amaranth, Grand Valley, East Garafraxa
4. Mono, Mulmur, Melancthon

The Orangeville Police Services Board believes that if some consolidation is required this four board approach would recognize the need for autonomy within Orangeville and Shelburne. This would enable police services oversight tailored to the very different needs of the two urban communities. While at the same time allowing the other six more rural communities to consolidate their police services oversight; grouped along shared regional geography and community interests. In this regard, we support the submissions of the Town of Mono.

In conclusion, Orangeville needs the flexibility and independence as an autonomous board to reflect our community's local perspectives and priorities. This will allow the Board to deliver on our base oversight requirements set out by the Ministry under section 10 and continue to complete our transition to the new OPP Detachment Board model in early 2022.

We would be pleased to discuss this further with you or your staff.

Sincerely,

The Orangeville Police Services Board

Chair Todd Taylor
Vice-Chair Ian McSweeney
Member Ken Krakar
Member Andy MacIntosh
Member Mary Rose