

Request for Decision United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria Council

| Type of Decision | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|--|----|-----------------|------------------------|------|--|--------|
| Meeting Date | Friday, March 28, 2014 | | | | Report Date | Wednesday, March-26-14 | | | |
| Decision Required | X | Yes | | No | Priority | X | High | | Low |
| Direction | X | Information Only | | | Type of Meeting | X | Open | | Closed |

Resolution of Support – Seguin Township- OPP Funding Letter Writing Campaign Report #28/03/14/1208

Subject:

Suggestion to engage local residents in a letter writing campaign denouncing the unfair OPP Billing Model to ensure that the rural voice of Ontario is heard.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Council follow the path of Seguin Township and encourage our residents to participate in a letter writing campaign to the Provincial Government expressing their concern with the unfair funding model being considered.

WHEREAS the current OPP Billing Model being implemented will significantly increase rates for small rural areas such as Head, Clara & Maria;

AND WHEREAS the province has been made aware of the feelings of municipalities on both sides of this issue, those standing to improve financially and those standing to suffer;

AND WHEREAS efforts to involve residents in lobbying the province will if nothing else provide a much needed sharing of information to ratepayers and residents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLED that the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby authorize staff to provide information to ratepayers requesting their support to ensure that the rural voice of Ontario is heard.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The attached letters from Seguin Township are quite self-explanatory. Should Council wish to proceed, the letters would be updated to include HCM stats and data and be circulated to our residents and ratepayers.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:

Should this OPP billing model be implemented annual costs for policing will increase significantly. Without support from the province, costs will have to be downloaded to the ratepayers resulting in

an increase in tax rates or a reduction in other services. There is potential for an alternate model for policing for the larger area as discussed at the Joint Council meeting however; such a model would be years in implementing.

There are a number of methods available to share this information. A form letter could be created and shared via email, on our website, in the next newsletter and/or through direct mail to each taxpayer.

There would be a cost to each option:

1. Mailing to all ratepayers of postage, paper, envelope and time of approximately \$1.00 per mailing for approximately 500 addresses. Total cost \$500.
2. Newsletter – costs would be absorbed in normal newsletter costs but would not reach every resident. Total costs approximately \$25.
3. Email – we have only 91 on our Community Contacts lists. Minimal.
4. Direct Mail of brochure to each mail box within the community – approximately \$69.

Policy Impact:

Results if successful could significantly affect future provincial, county and municipal policy.

Others Consulted/Resources/Sources:

Letter from Seguin Township
AMO OPP Billing Model updates

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk