

Amended Motion - OPP Billing Reform

**MOTION #COW-2014-063**

**“WHEREAS**, the Ontario Provincial Police are seeking stakeholder input on a new billing model to be used to charge municipalities for policing services starting in 2015;

**AND WHEREAS**, the current billing model is a deployment model whereby cost recovery is based on a percentage of detachment workload, actual department staffing levels, wages and benefits, and a cost recovery component for other expenditures, and has been in place for over 15 years;

**AND WHEREAS**, the proposed billing model would calculate municipal policing bills using a “base” amount plus a charge for service calls, with the base level purported to be 73% of OPP costs and represents \$260 per household regardless of the resources actually consumed by each municipality and the balance (27%) representing reactive calls for service based on the number and types of calls;

**AND WHEREAS**, our municipality, like many others in rural Ontario, is experiencing an aging population with fixed incomes along with declining numbers in population;

**AND WHEREAS**, the proposed model would result in the OPP costs for Lanark Highlands increasing from \$545,000 annually to almost \$1.4 million annually, a staggering increase of 150%, translating into a property tax increase of more than 19%;

**AND WHEREAS**, the proposed billing model has been endorsed by an exceptionally small percentage (18%) of OPP policed municipalities based on a survey conducted during the summer of 2013;

**AND WHEREAS**, an almost identical number of survey respondents chose the existing billing model based on the same survey;

**AND WHEREAS**, the metric used by the OPP to compare costs between municipalities based on costs per household is fundamentally flawed as it implies that only residential taxpayers pay for policing, and does not take into account the greater ability to pay that the urban centres possess because of their larger commercial, industrial and institutional tax bases;

**AND WHEREAS**, the proposed billing model does not account for seasonal households requiring a lower level of police service;

**AND WHEREAS**, expressing costs on a per household basis effectively exaggerates the unit cost of policing in municipalities with urban centres;

**AND WHEREAS**, the billing reform process appears to be moving forward completely independent of the Future of Policing Advisory Committee (FPAC) work;

**AND WHEREAS**, the proposed model is fundamentally flawed, unfair, and inequitable;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Township of Lanark Highlands call upon the Province of Ontario, to suspend the OPP billing reform process until the Future of the Policing Advisory Committee has completed its report and the recommendations therein have been studied, and municipalities have been consulted and afforded an opportunity to comment;

**AND FURTHER THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community Safety & Correctional Services, the Honourable Jeff Leal, Minister of Rural Affairs, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) the Ontario Association of Police Services Board (OAPSB) the Ministry of Finance, and all rural municipalities with a permanent population of 12,000 or less.”