



Minutes

The Blue Mountains Police Services Board

Date: May 25, 2022
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers
32 Mill Street, PO Box 310
Prepared by: Krista Royal, Recording Secretary

Members Present: Jim Oliver, Alar Soever, Gail Ardiel
Staff Present: Director of Legal Services Will Thomson and Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt

A. Call to Order

A.1 Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

We would like to begin our meeting by recognizing the First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples of Canada as traditional stewards of the land. The municipality is located within the boundary of Treaty 18 region of 1818 which is the traditional land of the Anishnaabek, Haudenosaunee and Wendat-Wyandot-Wyandotte peoples.

A.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Alar Soever
Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

THAT the Agenda of May 25, 2022, be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda.

Yay (3): Jim Oliver, Alar Soever, and Gail Ardiel

The motion is Carried (3 to 0)

A.3 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2021-76, The Blue Mountains Police Services Board Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

A.4 Previous Minutes

None

B. Public Meeting

B.1 Public Meeting: Re: Amending Security Alarm By-law Police Services Board (PSB) 2007-01

Chair Oliver noted that this is a Public Meeting regarding amending the Security Alarm By-law Police Services Board (PSB) 2007-01.

Chair Oliver noted that staff are recommending an amendment to Police Services Board By-law PSB 2007-01, to increase the fees for security alarm registrations. More information regarding the proposed increase can be accessed via the Staff Report FAF.22.090 Follow-up Report Re: Amending Security Alarm By-law PSB 2007-01.

Chair Oliver noted the Police Services Board will consider all comments received at the May 25, 2022, Public Meeting, and will consider adoption of the proposed amendment to By-law PSB 2007-01 at the June 15, 2022, Police Services Board meeting.

Chair Oliver noted that it is important to note that a decision on this Amending Security Alarm By-law PSB 2007-01 has not been made at this point and will not be made at this public meeting. After reviewing the registration fee increase for residential and commercial properties and comments from the public, Staff will bring its recommendations to the Police Services Board meeting on June 15, 2022.

Chair Oliver noted that any person or agency may provide comments on this matter in writing or verbally at the public meeting. Comments at the Public Meeting assist the Board in their decision-making process, so be sure to have your say.

Chair Oliver further noted that you must make a request in writing to the Deputy Clerk if you would like to be notified of a decision on this proposal.

The Deputy Clerk spoke noting that notice of this public meeting was given in accordance with the Town's Provision of Notice and Manner for Providing Notice to the Public Policy, and in response comments have been received. The comments were circulated to the Police Services Board in their entirety.

Deputy Clerk, Krista Royal read the following Public Comments aloud.

Paul Biggin noted the following:

- Registration increases from \$25 to \$100 is too high based on historic and current rates of inflation
- Some increase might be justified
- Home security systems are no longer a discretionary expense. Security alarm owners should not bear an unreasonable burden of fees
- First time false alarms should not be exempt from administrative fees. If data shows that false alarm users (including maintenance and guest errors) result in use of police and by-law resources, then a steep increase is justifiable
- The use of automated voice dialing alarm systems and direct alarm access to local police should be prohibited
- All security alarm systems should be monitored by independent security alarm companies to reduce the burden on local police
- Administrative fees for false alarms should be at the time of police dispatch, not time of arrival at alarm site as police resources are committed at time of dispatch
- Administrative fees for reinstatement should be increased as an incentive for compliance with the by-law
- If the current registration of security alarm systems is a manual paper process, a cost saving web-based computerization for registration and de-registration process should be evaluated. Data would be entered directly by alarm monitoring companies thereby reducing the burden on local police.

Chair Oliver calls for any other person who wants to speak.

Tovio Holsmer who resides at 173 Bayview Avenue, Thornbury and has been a resident for 50 years has some questions for the Board.

Mr. Holsmer noted that fines should go up for the abuse of alarm systems and that after speaking with Member Ardiel and Mr. Thomson, he has a pretty good idea of the current status. Mr. Holsmer noted that he has looked into this matter, and nothing has been done since 2007, he questioned why there is a registration requirement. Mr. Holsmer asked the Board Members if they have seen the registration form, which Chair Oliver noted they have not. Chair Oliver noted that they have seen the details contained in the Staff Report. Mr. Holsmer gives a copy of the registration application to the Members of the Board. Mr. Holsmer stated that once the registration form is completed and returned to the Town, it is never used again. Mr. Holsmer noted that it has no purpose and that to increase the fees for registration accomplishes very little. Mr. Holsmer suggested to eliminate the registry. Mr. Holsmer further stated that right now, if you are registered or not, you get the same services. Mr. Holsmer stated that 850 alarms are registered, which is a lot of paperwork.

Mr. Holsmer suggested to go with an increase in the fines to a flat \$100 fee, suggesting that it will cost homeowners for a false alarm. Mr. Holsmer noted to make the monitoring station the point of responsibility. Mr. Holsmer further noted that right now, OPP gives a list of false alarms to the Town and the Town bills it back to the property owner. He suggested the Town bills the monitoring station servicing that customer. The incentive is now for the monitoring company to also monitor the abuse that is coming out of the station. Mr. Holsmer suggested this would eliminate the paperwork at the Town as the monitoring station knows who the customer is and can bill the customer directly.

Chair Oliver looks to the members of the Board to see if there are any questions from the deputation that may help Staff in their review of the By-law and in preparing the Staff Report for the upcoming regular meeting that is scheduled for June 15, 2022.

Question from the Chair that is directed to Chief Administrative Officer, Shawn Everitt inquiring if the monitoring station was responsible for monitoring the compliance of their customers. Chair Oliver's understanding is that individual security alarm companies would have a variety of customers and there are a variety of companies, logistically would it be possible to have that responsibility to be passed over.

CAO Shawn Everitt advised that the by-law is structured that the property owner would be the direct contact with the Town and that is important for many reasons, one example is that if the property owner stops paying, the Town does have the ability to charge the related fees to their property taxes. CAO Shawn Everitt noted this will be reviewed and included in the follow-up Staff Report for circulation at the next PSB meeting.

Member Ardiel questioned if the Town has ever charged any arrears to the property taxes, in regards to the non-payment and perhaps it's an appropriate time to update the current by-law.

CAO Shawn Everitt responded to Member Ardiel's comment agreeing that this process needs to be updated, along with the by-law as it has not been done since 2007.

CAO Shawn Everitt noted that the fees were the big question. The by-laws as they are written, if you were caught without having a security alarm licensed, the fee was the equivalent to the registration cost. There was no incentive to get a license because the fine was as much as the fee, but the purpose of this is to make sure that alarms are inspected and maintained so when OPP are on site, it saves resources, as that is expensive. The false alarms are the biggest concern. There is a significant increase recently of false alarms, likely due to the new homes being built around the Town.

Mayor Soever asked how many service-provider companies we have from the registrations.

CAO Shawn Everitt advised that we do not have that information on hand but there are not very many companies. He further advised that one of the key elements, is knowing who to contact as the responsible person. There is a requirement to have a responding person in case of an emergency. Some property owners may hire security companies to respond to the alarm, while they are away. The key part of the registration identifies who is the responsible member.

Mayor Soever noted that purpose of the registration is to identify who the keyholder is and contains their information to be passed along to the monitoring company or the OPP so they can be contacted.

Chair Oliver notes that the current registration form used for the By-law is entered into the database when it is first completed. Is this regularly updated?

CAO Shawn Everitt advised that the Town has a program called CityView which is a property identification-based system. An example of what gets into CityView would be an STA license, security alarm, or by-law complaint. If you click on a property, it tells us everything about the property. That is where the information about a property is entered and updated into the database.

Mayor Soever noted there is quite a bit of information on the registration form, does the information get sent to the OPP so they have that information? CAO Shawn Everitt could not confirm the answer but will look into this and have the information included in the follow-up Staff Report following the Public Meeting.

Member Ardiel noted that the by-law needs to be revised and updated to 2022 standards as well as other matters and not just to the fees.

Director of Legal Services, Will Thomson advised that the revised By-law will be brought before the Board for consideration on June 15, 2022, PSB meeting. He further noted that at this time, Staff is not looking at making further changes unless directed to do so by the Board.

CAO Shawn Everitt noted that the changes will be marked via track changes to be able to compare to the 2007 by-law.

Chair Oliver thanked the members of the public for their comments and participation and closed the public meeting.

C. Adjournment

Moved by: Gail Ardiel

Seconded by: Alar Soever

THAT The Blue Mountains Special Police Services Board Meeting does now adjourn at 9:05 a.m. to meet again June 15, 2022, or at the call of the Chair.

Yay (3): Jim Oliver, Alar Soever, and Gail Ardiel

The motion is Carried (3 to 0)