



Staff Report

Report No.: CPS-52-2019
Meeting Date: June 19, 2019
Submitted by: Tiffany Farrell, Director of Corporate Services
Subject: Fire Prevention Services Update

Recommendation:

THAT Fire Prevention Services update report be received.

Purpose:

To keep Council apprised of the Fire Prevention Services situation at the Municipality since the County dissolved the service.

Background:

On May 14th County Council, after much research and collaboration between lower-tier staff, legal and the County, decided that it would be in the best interest of all Middlesex County residents that the termination of the current County Fire Prevention Program be supported. The date of dissolution of the program was June 15, 2019.

Analysis:

Staff is continuing to explore various options in order to meet our legislative requirements in that we answer to complaint and request inspections along with providing components of public education. (Middlesex Centre already provides public education services to its residents outside of the County Prevention Program). Fire Investigation services are being covered as needed by the Office of the Fire Marshal.

Specifically, staff have meeting with the Office of the Fire Marshal on May 24, 2019. The 6 members in attendance were extremely helpful and have offered to provide numerous support options as required.

Working with the Fire Marshal, Municipal staff have reached out to the County requesting specific information as outlined below. The information has not been received to date, however it is expected Monday June 17, 2019.

1. Outstanding inspection paperwork applicable to fire department administration at the end of service date, which will be June 15, 2019.
 - a. In addition to the outstanding inspection reports (I have taken this statement as referring to those that are being worked on or those with outstanding violations) we also require any fire safety plans or legal proceedings/disclosure in progress. The Fire Marshall has made it very



Staff Report

- clear that we need to have proper records on this as Middlesex Centre needs to identify the risks and that this information is on-hand if need be.
- b. Duty books/records/notes on inspections.
 2. Hand over a copy of completed Investigations Reports at a reasonable time after end of service date. (If applicable)
 - a. In addition to these we require the outstanding ones that are not complete.
 - b. Duty books/records/notes on any investigation to assist in future lawsuits.
 3. Building Stock that Middlesex County has been performing inspections for in Middlesex Centre. In addition to the risk assessments completed on this building stock which would relate to how your schedules have been prepared.
 4. Inspections schedules for the last 3 years – this will enable our team to continue the scheduling pattern that the County has been performing and we can ensure proper coverage that can build off the work done at the County.
 5. The County's fire inspection plan for 2019 to identify areas for follow-up, specifically as they relate to Vulnerable Occupancy. If you have these going into 2020 please also send this information.

In addition, Municipal staff has reached out to the other local tier municipalities to discuss the option of developing an inter-municipal service agreement, and two municipalities have noted they would be interested in discussing this option (North Middlesex and Strathroy). Staff are working together on a solution to bring to Council in August 2019.

Staff have also reached out to London Fire Services with a forthcoming business proposal in hopes they can provide basic-level services for the short term. (6 months)

In summary, municipal staff are working with the County to obtain the records and information for the Municipality as suggested by the Office of the Fire Marshal. Additionally, and noted above, staff continue to investigate options for the Municipality going forward in the best interest of the tax payers.

Financial Implications:

Financial implications are uncertain at this time and cost comparisons/reviews will be undertaken over the next month. As this program will have an abundance of moving parts, it would be premature to comment on financial implication until all facts and metrics are in place.

County financial details over a three-year period have been requested to complete a thorough analysis.

Strategic Plans:

None