



## TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

## REPORT

Item No.

**REPORT TO:** Reeve Vincent and Members of Council  
**PREPARED BY:** David Sparling  
**DATE:** 12/07/2016  
**SUBJECT:** Countywide Fire Radio and Dispatch Initiative  
**ATTACHMENTS:** none

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the July 12, 2016 report of the Director of Fire and Emergency Services regarding a Countywide Fire Radio and Dispatch initiative be received for information purposes.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

After one meeting, the County-wide fire dispatch committee disbanded.

### **DISCUSSION**

In 2015 Huron County Fire Chief's struck a committee to look into a countywide fire dispatch and radio system. Chief Sparling was appointed Chair of this committee.

Currently FDNH is the only Huron County fire department operating with a full dispatch service provider (where a trained professional dispatcher staffs the radio throughout an entire incident).

At this meeting County Chiefs agreed to look into the possibility of a single provider of full dispatch service for the entire County. Currently 911 calls for fires in Huron County are processed by 5 different agencies.

By having a unified dispatch provider:

- 1) It would make for easier communications between fire stations (currently when FDNH needs assistance from a neighbour our dispatcher has to telephone another provider who then processes the request for that department)
- 2) It would make for faster processing of 911 calls when the call gets routed to the incorrect fire department. (60% of 911 calls are from cell phones, which may / may not get be initially routed to the appropriate fire department)
- 3) We would have improved buying power for both dispatch services and equipment.

After one meeting the committee decided to abandon the project.

- 1) Departments that have a "page out only" service are satisfied at that level of service. Full dispatch costs more. (nominal, but more)
- 2) To do a proper countywide program will require equipment upgrades. In some cases significant expenditures would be required.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

At the end of our current contract FDNH will review options and costing on a stand-alone basis for continued full dispatch.

## **FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

FDNH's agreement with Owen Sound Police Services expires 31 December 2017. We will initiate a review of this very early in 2017 (so if changes are needed, they can be accommodated before the expiration of our current agreement).

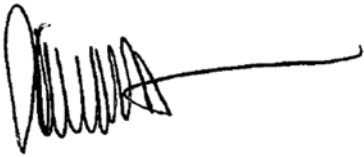
We are very satisfied with the level of service Owen Sound provides us.

Long-term, a consistent, countywide dispatch and radio plan makes sense and it is reasonable to anticipate this will someday occur.

## **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Goal 3: We promote community safety and emergency preparedness.

Goal 4: Our municipality is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence



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David Sparling,  
Director Fire & Emergency Services



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Sharon Chambers, CAO