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Projected police facility upgrades $2.4?$4.1 million

The Shelburne Police Services Board delegation to Council November 9th reported that costs to ensure that the police facility meets the current and future needs of the Town could be anywhere from an estimated $2.4 million to $4.1 million. The price tag will be dependent on which option Council selects as presented in a facility needs study by Walter Fedy Consultants out of Kitchener.

Len Mikulich Chair of the Shelburne Police Services Board presented the Board's October 27th resolution with respect to the Facility Strategic Plan for 2015?2035. He told Council the needs assessment study was ?due, in large part, with the growth of our community and demands on our Service,? noting Chief Moore ? has managed the service extremely well given the many challenges within 1994 expansion to the Town Hall for policing services.?

However, Mikulich told Council the Police Services Board ?must take the next steps to provide for adequate facilities placed upon our service with our Community's growth as well as the provincial expectations on meeting the Adequacy Standards.?

The additional population in Shelburne means a ?need to comply with the provincial adequacy standards.? Mikulich said, ?New police initiatives require more floor space for necessary technological equipment to meet the needs of effective and efficient policing.?

The Consultants' facility assessment forecasts the facility's growth needs for the next 20 years based on projected population growth for the Town and included current deficiencies affecting services. Shelburne Police Services currently consists of 19 staff members with 13 sworn officers, 4 auxiliary constables and two civilian staff. Growth projections for the Town of Shelburne estimate a population of 10,000 by 2035, necessitating a policing staff of 28 members - 20 sworn officers and 8 civilian staff requiring 8000?9000 sq. ft in the policing facility.

The Walter Fedy representatives presented Shelburne Council with three options and their associated design, consultant and construction costs to consider:

? Renovate and expand the existing 5000 sq. foot facility to 8000 sq. ft. estimated at a total project cost of $3,143,000

? Acquire and adapt another existing facility of 8500 sq. ft (9000 sq. ft. if two stories) estimated at a total project cost of $2,415,000

? Construct a new facility of 8500 sq. ft. estimated at a total project cost of $4,132,000

Len Mikulich reminded Council that over 136 years Shelburne Police have ?served our community with pride and quality of service.? He said, ?It has sustained the test of time with all of its changes. This report brings us to another significant time in the history of the Shelburne Police Service.?

By Marni Walsh