RESOLUTION ON RISING COST OF POLICING

WHEREAS the Municipal Act, 2001 S.O. 2001, Chapter 25 provides that single, upper and lower tier municipalities in Ontario are responsible for the Protection of persons and property;

AND WHEREAS the Police Services Act R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P.15 further provides that every municipality shall provide adequate and effective police services in accordance with its needs;

AND WHEREAS there are 444 municipalities within the Province of Ontario, 313 of which are serviced by the Ontario Provincial Police;

AND WHEREAS the levels of service and costs associated with said services is controlled by and outlined by the Province of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the cost of police service continues to escalate at a rate four (4) times higher than that of inflation per year;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Government has not directly consulted nor communicated with the municipalities serviced by the Ontario Provincial Police on the rising costs which are transferred to the municipalities as part of the cost formulas for the OPP nor on the financial implications of its negotiations with the police service;

AND WHEREAS policing represents a large, if not the largest portion of municipal budgets, particularly in rural and small municipalities;

AND WHEREAS all municipalities strive to maintain the tax levy at a rate that their residents can reasonably afford as local governments are largely funded through property taxes;

AND WHEREAS the median income and cost of living varies in each municipality resulting in an increased financial burden for rate payers with lower median incomes, particularly in rural and small municipalities;

AND WHEREAS Policing salaries make up 90% of policing costs and these salaries can be 2 and 3 times greater than the median income particularly in rural and small
municipalities served by the OPP and do not reflect the lower cost of living in these rural and small communities but rather the salaries of the cost of living in the metropolitan areas which are to be used as comparators for the OPP as the “highest paid force”;

AND WHEREAS the continued financial pressure of policing is having an adverse affect on municipalities in the delivery of other essential services in their respective communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Penetanguishene request the support of this resolution from all municipalities in Ontario that are serviced by the Ontario Provincial Police (contract or non-contract);

AND THAT all municipalities commit to form a joint effort with the assistance of AMO to clearly and directly communicate to the Provincial Government on policing matters and to deal directly with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services;

AND FURTHER THAT this joint effort request meetings with the Premier and the Minister to review how decisions made by the Province dramatically impact our local taxpayers and result in higher property taxes and/or reduced municipal service levels as a result of the increased cost of policing by the OPP and to find mutually beneficial ways and means to contain the costs of policing and/or reduce the impact, particularly in small and rural municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT this joint municipal effort work with the Province to create a salary credit system as part of the OPP costing formula that prorates policing salaries to be more reflective of the median income and cost of living for the area served which would significantly reduce the financial burden on rural and small municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT said municipalities are encouraged to forward letters in support of this resolution to the Premier, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Ontario Police Services Boards (OPSB), Provincial Opposition parties and local Member of Provincial Parliament.

AND FINALLY THAT this resolution be forwarded to the appropriate government agencies and communities as outlined within.

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