



Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date of Meeting: June 6, 2017
Report Number: SRCFS.17.019

Department: Corporate and Financial Services
Division: Office of the Clerk

Subject: **Richmond Hill Fire and Emergency Services and Central York Fire Services Consolidation Study, Correspondence from the Newmarket and Aurora dated May 2, 2017**

Purpose:

To advise Council that Newmarket and Aurora have decided not to pursue consolidation of the Richmond Hill Fire and Emergency Services and the Central York Fire Services, and to recommend that the Fire Consolidation Study Council Advisory Committee be disbanded.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That staff report SRCFS.17.019 be received.
- b) That the May 2, 2017 correspondence from the Mayors of Newmarket and Aurora (Attachment A to staff report SRCFS.17.019), regarding the "Proposed Fire Services Consolidation Endeavour" be received.
- c) That the Fire Consolidation Study Council Advisory Committee be disbanded.

Contact Person:

Stephen M.A. Huycke, Director, Council Support Services/Town Clerk, extension 2529

Submitted by:

David Dexter
Acting Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services

Approved by:

Neil Garbe
Chief Administrative Officer

Background:

In May 2015, Richmond Hill received correspondence from the Mayors of Newmarket and Aurora to determine if there is interest in pursuing consolidation of RHFES and CYFS. At its meeting on June 9, 2015, Council received the correspondence and referred it to Mayor Barrow to form a team comprising of three members of Council (the two Regional Councillors and the Councillor from Ward 6) and appropriate staff to investigate the request and report back to Council.

On October 13, 2016, Council established the Fire Consolidation Study Council Advisory Committee (FCSCAC) and approved the committee's Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference for the FCSCAC set out the purpose of the committee which is "...to review and provide advice with respect to the study undertaken to determine whether there is a business case for consolidating Richmond Hill Fire and Emergency Services and Central York Fire Services."

On May 2, 2016, Richmond Hill received correspondence (Attachment A) from the Mayors of Newmarket and Aurora advising that councils of both municipalities had passed the following resolutions:

"That Joint Chief Administrative Officer's (Newmarket & Aurora) and Central York Fire Services Fire Chief, Corporate Services Report – Financial Services 2017-05 dated January 24, 2017 regarding the Consolidation Study be received for information purposes; and,

That the consolidation of Central York Fire Services (CYFS) with Richmond Hill Fire and Emergency Services (RHFES) not be pursued, as there is not a sufficient business case for CYFS at this time..."

As a result of this, it is recommended that Council formally discontinue the fire consolidation study by disbanding the FCSCAC.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

There are no financial impacts to the Town from discontinuing the consolidation study and disbanding the Fire Consolidation Study Council Advisory Committee. As set out in staff report SRCAO.16.15, Richmond Hill was responsible for paying one-third of the costs incurred to retain three consultants to review the business case for consolidation. Richmond Hill's share of the costs was \$19,978(exclusive of taxes).

Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

A rigorous and considered evaluation of the potential consolidation of Richmond Hill Fire and Emergency Services with Central York Fire Services aligned with the goal of Stronger Connections in Richmond Hill by planning for and responding to the changing needs of the community by adopting services. The study also represented the Wise Management of Resources by considering how best to deliver fire and emergency services to meet the needs of the community now and in the future.

Conclusion:

At the request of Newmarket and Aurora, the Town studied the consolidation of RHFES and CYFS. Newmarket and Aurora councils have decided not to continue to pursue the consolidation. It is recommended, therefore, that the Fire Consolidation Study Council Advisory Committee be disbanded.

Attachments:

- Attachment A – Letter from the Mayors of Newmarket and Aurora dated May 2, 2017.