



THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KINCARDINE REPORT

Subject: At Fault False Alarm By-law
Director: Corporate Services
Manager: Legislative Services
Report Number: Legislative Services-2023-13
Meeting Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023

Recommendation:

That Council pass the At Fault False Alarm By-law as presented in Report Legislative Services 2023-13; and further

That Council amend the Rates and Fees By-law to include fees for At Fault False Alarms - \$300 for second occurrence and \$500 for subsequent occurrences.

Date to be considered by Council: Wednesday, July 5, 2023

Report Summary:

Staff have drafted the At Fault False Alarm By-law. The By-law is to address concerns raised by the Kincardine Police Services Board on the increased occurrences and subsequent calls for service to the South Bruce Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), related to false alarms. The At Fault False Alarm By-law will provide a mechanism to address At Fault False Alarms. The intent is to decrease these calls for service and allow officers to focus their efforts in other areas. It will be done through education and, where non-compliance or continued police services calls occur, imposing fees.

Origin: Kincardine Police Services Board Resolution #2023-06-08-04 "That the Kincardine Police Services Board support the proposed At Fault False Alarm By-law and recommend Council accept the By-law as written."

Existing Policy: Rates and Fees By-law No. 2022-162

Background/Analysis:

In 2021 and 2022, at fault false alarms from security systems were in the top ten calls for service that the OPP responded to. In 2021, there were 135 calls for service for false alarm calls. In 2022, 152 calls for service were made, making it the second highest call for service of the year.

The number of false alarms in the Municipality of Kincardine have been identified as consuming a significant amount of police services time, which could be better directed to enhancing police presence in the community.

The Municipality of Kincardine Fire & Emergency Services currently has a fee for False Fire Alarms. The fee is the current MTO rate per occurrence rate of \$543.03 per truck/per hour for the first hour. There is no charge for the first three (3) false fire alarms. The fee only applies to the fourth (4) and subsequent false alarms. The Municipality controls the information on these false alarms and can use that information for educational purposes and to impose fees.

Staff consulted with the South Bruce Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police and the Kincardine Police Services Board (KPSB) in the creation of this by-law. The draft by-law was presented to the KPSB meeting on June 8, 2023 and they recommended approval of the by-law by Resolution #2023-06-08-04.

The proposed by-law provides for collection of data from the OPP monthly, outlining the at fault false alarm occurrences. The data will include enough information regarding the Alarm System Owner and the occurrence itself to proceed with education or fees.

On the first at fault false alarm, the owner will receive written notice including educational material regarding reducing false alarms. On the second and subsequent at fault false alarm within a twelve (12) month period at the same premises, a fee of \$300 will be imposed and for subsequent at fault false alarms the fee will be \$500 per occurrence.

Integrated Strategy 2020 – 2025: Goal CW7 – Enhance community safety and wellbeing in the Municipality of Kincardine

Financial Implications: The OPP billing system is determined by the number of residents and businesses (property count) in the Municipality and the calls for service. By reducing the number of at fault false alarms, could potentially reduce the number of calls for service.

Attachments: draft At Fault False Alarm By-law, False Alarm Caution Notice, False Alarm Final Notice

Prepared by: Jennifer Lawrie, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Lawrie, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk