



MUNICIPALITY OF **West Elgin**

Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Jeff McArthur, Fire Chief
Date: 2021-07-22
Report: 2021-016
Subject: Automatic Aid Agreement

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Jeff McArthur, Fire Chief; and

That West Elgin Council hereby provides direction to staff to draft an agreement with Southwest Middlesex for automatic aid coverage to include fires and alarms sounding at Beattie Manor, and structure fires for an area within approximately 3 km of the Wardsville Station, which would include areas of Beattie Line, Morrison Road, Gibb Line, and Linden Road.

Purpose:

To inform Council of the importance of implementing an automatic aid agreement and to seek approval to draft an agreement.

Background:

Based on information obtained by staff, prior to amalgamation there was a Fire Board Agreement which included fire coverage of a portion of Aldborough Township was covered by the Wardsville Fire Department, which included Beattie Manor. This agreement was presumably based on fire station locations. This agreement ended at the time of amalgamation. It is recommended that an automatic aid agreement is created to serve the same purpose, which is to allow the closest fire station to respond to a call irrespective of municipal boundaries. The *Fire Protection and Prevention Act* supports automatic aid agreements as a public safety measure.

Beattie Manor Retirement Residence is a residential care facility and is deemed by the Office of the Fire Marshal to be a vulnerable occupancy, as per the provincial registry. It is a 34-bedroom facility, with approximately half of the residents requiring assistance. While there is 24-hour staffing, in the event of a fire an automatic response from the Wardsville Station would allow for quicker initial fire suppression and resident evacuation, vital steps to preserve life safety.

Beattie Manor is located at 23328 Beattie Line, and the Southwest Middlesex, Wardsville Station is located at 1785 Longwoods Road - 1.2 km from Beattie Manor. The West Elgin, Rodney Station #1 is located at 22413 Hoskins Line - 10.9 km from Beattie Manor. The West Elgin, West Lorne Station #2 is located at 158 Main Street – 19 km from the Beattie Manor.

Southwest Middlesex's Fire Chief and the Wardsville Station Chief are both supportive in principle of creating an automatic aid agreement.

Financial Implications:

Any applicable fees for service would have to be negotiated with Southwest Middlesex. A base charge equivalent to the rate specified to the Ministry of Transportation is commonly used. The expected frequency of calls that would utilize this automatic aid agreement would be relatively low. In the past 12 months, WEFD has responded to one call for alarms sounding at Beattie Manor and no fires within the 3 km radius of the Wardsville Station as indicted above.

Policies/Legislation:

Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA)

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Automatic Aid Agreement - 2021-16-Fire.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jul 20, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jana Nethercott