

# COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BUDGET MEETING



Thursday, November 8, 2012  
5:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
51 Zina Street, Orangeville

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## Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

1. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – November 8, 2012 – ITEM #1  
Public Consultation Period

Members of the Public are invited to comment and ask questions.

2. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – November 8, 2012 – ITEM #2  
2013 Draft Budget Review

The Committee will further review the proposed 2013 County Operating and Capital Draft Budgets.

Copy of the budget can be obtained from our website:

[http://www.dufferincounty.ca/files/releases/2012-10-18\\_Draft\\_2013\\_Budget\\_Released\\_release.pdf](http://www.dufferincounty.ca/files/releases/2012-10-18_Draft_2013_Budget_Released_release.pdf)

- 2.1. Overview of the Budget by the Treasurer.
- 2.2. Report – Update on Rescue Calls on County Roads

# THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF DUFFERIN



## REPORT TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE



**To:** Warden Kolodziechuk and Members of Council  
**From:** Alan Selby, Treasurer  
**Meeting Date:** November 8, 2012  
**Subject:** **Update on Rescue Calls on County Roads**

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide data requested by General Government Services Committee on the growing issues around Highway Rescue Calls.

### **Background & Discussion**

The local Fire Departments invoice the County for on-scene services provided by them at vehicle accidents on County roads. The County attempts to recover these costs from insurance companies and/or the persons involved in the accidents.

In order to invoice insurance companies, the County needs details from the OPP that normally come from Accident Reports. There has been a serious escalation in recent years in multiple factors that prevent the County from recovering costs:

- Increase in volume of invoices coming from fire departments, to levels that the County has never seen before
- Inconsistency in policies among local fire departments, in the amount that they charge per call
- Access to necessary data from the OPP, to be able to attempt recovery from insurance companies, due to F.O.I./privacy issues
- Refusal of insurance companies to pay based on their internal rules
- Refusal of insurance companies to pay beyond an internal cap on the amount per call that they will pay, based on MTO guidelines
- Insufficient information to bill individual directly when no insurance claim is made
- Refusal of individuals billed to pay

These multiple problems have resulted in a growing amount of unrecovered expense for the County, since the County pays every invoice it receives from Fire Departments. For those that can be invoiced, the County shows an increasing receivable balance because of collection issues. The problem is made worse by those cases where the County is unable to attempt recovery in the first place, or issue an invoice.

There is a small number of invoices written-off each year at the County's expense, and a growing amount of uncollected invoices showing as accounts receivable, but not yet written-off. The amount in future budgets for write-offs will need to be increased beyond what has been used in prior budgets, as we expect more uncollectible items in future.

Here are some recent statistics:

Amounts paid-out by the County to Fire Departments:

2009 - \$17,275      2010 - \$73,015      2011 - \$78,145  
First 10 months of 2012 - \$119,595 [*already at an all-time high*]

Portion of the 2012 amount of \$116,270 that has been invoiced \$84,243 – amount recovered \$52,322

2012 amounts, to date, that cannot be invoiced due to no police reports or no insurance claim or no individual contact information available: \$20,996

Amounts invoiced by County but still not collected, showing as Receivable:

2010 - \$5,120      2011 - \$25,179      2012 to date - \$42,027      **total \$72,326**

### **Local Municipal Impact**

The area fire departments record the payments from the County as revenue which offsets the net cost to their funding municipalities.

Previous reports on this topic have disclosed that there are no other Counties in Ontario that involve the upper tier in this activity. It is treated by every other County as a lower-tier matter only.

### **Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations**

The collection difficulties are causing increased demand on staff time, as “the run-around” is experienced when trying to follow-up on County invoices that have not been paid, as well as struggling to get information needed for invoicing.

### **Recommendation**

THAT the report from the Treasurer dated November 8, 2012 regarding Fire Rescue Call Invoicing, be received.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Selby  
Treasurer