

COUNCILLOR ALSO CONCERNED WITH STATION'S STATUS

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ager of facility services with Halton police, noted that a public procurement process to find an architect for the project is about to begin.

The region has acquired nine acres of land at the southeast corner of Sixth Line and Steeles Avenue in Halton Hills, some of which is proposed for the new station. Halton police staff are currently envisioning a multilevel building (three floors) that is around 2,400 square metres in size. Along with its parking lot, the station would take up about 5.25 acres of the site.

The station would be located on a portion of Hornby Park.

Halton police are seeking to consolidate police operations and command in Milton, Georgetown and Halton Hills into a single facility to support more effective and efficient policing.

The building of this facility will result in the closure of the Milton station at 490 Childs Dr.

Halton Police Chief Stephen Tanner said a station at 22 Main St. in Acton sufficiently supports the needs of that community for the moment and will remain open.

He noted a Georgetown station at 217 Guelph St. faces issues associated with a 35-year-old police station, but in the short-term would remain open to provide a "go-to" police facility for the public.

McMullen said the current schedule will see design work and a financial plan for the new police station completed in the second or third quarter of 2022.

Police staff will report back to the board for project approval in the third quarter of 2022, with regional approval of the financial plan being sought in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Construction of the police station is scheduled for completion in the fourth quarter of 2024, with Halton police expected to move in during the second quarter of 2025.

The building of this station has faced considerable delays.

The 2019 Halton Police Budget had this station scheduled for completion in 2020/2021.

That budget also allocated \$20.5 million for the building of the station.

The most recent capital budget now lists the project price tag at \$33.1 million.

"I am by no means happy or satisfied right now with the timelines we are still working with. I can assure you I will be putting as much pressure as I can on regional staff and Halton Hills staff with approvals and trying to move Q3 for next year at least back to Q2 for the design elements and different things," said Tanner.

"We really can't afford further delays to getting this done."

Tanner said the design would have to look at the possibility of having a central lockup.

Due to the additional staffing requirements involved, the police chief said he had been hoping to avoid this feature by making



Graham Paine/Metroland
Chief Stephen Tanner says Halton police can't afford any more delays with the new north Halton station.

use of the cells available at the new consolidated Halton courthouse. However, with the province recently scrapping plans for that courthouse, the possibility of a lockup at the new police station needs to be re-examined, Tanner said.

Halton Hills councillor and board member Clark Somerville said he was concerned about the

completion timelines, noting there have been long-standing issues with the stations in both Milton and Georgetown.

"Anything we can do to help, chief, let us know. I can grab a shovel and drive down and we can start digging tomorrow," Somerville joked.

Not everyone wants to see this project move forward.

Jack Robertson said his family has been in Hornby for around 100 years and noted the park the police station is proposed to occupy has long been a fixture of the community.

"We used to have garden parties, dog shows, baseball tournaments, things like that," he said.

"You can tell I'm not happy ... The hill and the flood plain there were the only things they didn't sell."

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: A plan to build a police station at a Halton Hills park is continuing to move forward, and we thought residents should know what the current timeline is, what is being proposed and what one resident has to say about it.

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