



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

OFFICE OF CORPORATE SERVICES

MISSION STATEMENT: *Committed to delivering cost-effective and efficient services for the residents of the Town of Amherstburg with a view to improve and enhance their quality of life.*

Author's Name: Jordan Long	Report Date: April 5, 2024
Author's Phone: 519 519 736 0012 ext. 2248	Date to Council: April 22, 2024
Author's E-mail: jlong@amherstburg.ca	Resolution #:

To: Mayor and Members of Town Council

Subject: Council Report - IT - Internet Purchase Exchange Zone.docx

1. **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that:

1. The report from the Manager of Information Technology dated April 5th, 2024 regarding an Internet purchase exchange location **BE APPROVED**.
2. The Chief Administrative Officer, or designate, **BE AUTHORIZED** to purchase and install equipment and signage in the parking lot adjacent to 532 Sandwich St. South; and,
3. A transfer from the Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund not to exceed \$4,500 (plus HST) **BE AUTHORIZED**.
4. A pre-approval for the 2025 Operating Budget and future budgets of \$1,000 to IT – Computer Maintenance **BE AUTHORIZED**.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

N/A

2. **BACKGROUND:**

Online buy and sell sites like Kijiji and Facebook Marketplace have become more prevalent in the past few years. Often the parties involved have not previously met and have to arrange a location to complete transactions. The one-on-one nature of these transactions can open the risk of becoming a victim of robbery, assault, or fraud. Due to these and other risks, people seek out more public locations to meet.

3. **DISCUSSION:**

Neighboring municipalities including LaSalle, Essex, and Tecumseh, currently offer “Internet Purchase Exchange” areas to allow a more visible and public meeting space. Installing a camera in the municipal parking lot south of the Police Detachment (532 Sandwich St. South) and designating 2 parking spots as a “Internet Purchase Exchange” zones would give the residents of Amherstburg a location to complete local online transactions.

It’s camera and location next to the Police Detachment would help in providing a space that encourages a safe interaction between a buyer and seller and deter fraud or theft. Windsor Police officers will not be present during transactions, but will attend if an offense is being reported. Windsor Police will have direct access to the video recording to review complaints.

4. **RISK ANALYSIS:**

Proper signage will be installed to mitigate the Town’s liability stating that although there is video recording taking place, the Town assumes no liability for any interactions or altercations.

5. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

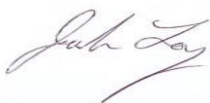
Initial one-time purchase of \$4,500 for equipment, installation, and signage for the Internet Purchase Exchange Zone to be funded from the Tax Stabilization Reserve. Additional ongoing costs for the annual fees of \$1,000 to cover camera licensing and data connectivity, to be pre-committed to be funded in the 2025 Operating budget and future operating budgets.

6. **CONSULTATIONS:**

Windsor Police – Staff Sergeant Brian Caffarena
Town of Amherstburg – Municipal Clerk/Risk Manager – Kevin Fox
Town of Amherstburg – Manager, Municipal Facilities – Terry Fasan

7. **CONCLUSION:**

In 2023, Windsor Police (Amherstburg Detachment) reported 32 “fraud by computer” investigations, not including the unknown number of unreported instances.



Jordan Long
Manger of Information Technology

