



September 13, 2024

As you may be aware in the spring Rivers Police Service faced significant staffing challenges and in order to ensure the safety of our citizens, the municipality requested the RCMP to provide supplementary coverage while recruitment efforts continued. Meetings were held between the municipality and Manitoba Justice, Policing Services & Public Safety to form a temporary arrangement between the RCMP and Rivers Police Service to implement RCMP providing supplementary coverage for Riverdale Municipality. It was discussed that this agreement would be in place for the remainder of 2024, there would be no charge, nor would there be a change in the annual operating grant.

While implementing the changes with supplementary coverage, Riverdale Municipality received another request to meet with representatives from Manitoba Justice, Policing Services & Public Safety. This meeting was held on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and at this time provincial representatives notified Council that any future plan for policing in Riverdale Municipality will require provincial review; a detailed implementation plan for a new service, detailing staffing and resource strategies, and how the service will comply with the upcoming implementation of Manitoba's Policing Standards. Riverdale Municipality cannot move forward with an implementation plan for the Rivers Police Service until such time as the Manitoba Policing Standards are released. We have been provided no information regarding the expected release date of these standards and would refer all questions on this to the Province of Manitoba, Justice Public Safety Division.

Written correspondence from Manitoba Justice was received June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 confirming that the Rivers Police Service has ceased operations and as per Section 14(1) of Manitoba's Police Services Act, unless the Riverdale Municipality, as a rural municipality, operates its own police service or contracts with another municipal or regional police service, the Minister is required to ensure policing is provided. With this being said, RCMP "D" Division assumed formal jurisdiction on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Rivers Police Service was still in operation during budget deliberations and the municipality was moving forward with active recruiting for all positions up until the municipality was notified that RCMP "D" Division had assumed full jurisdiction. The Police Special Service Levy included on the 2024 property tax statements is necessary to cover the costs of the department for this year. Riverdale Municipality is currently finalizing contracts and agreements to minimize the

expenses for the department. The special service levy will be reviewed and repealed for future years following the mandated legislation of the Manitoba Municipal Act.

Council and administration are currently lobbying the province for confirmation on what amount, if anything, Riverdale Municipality will receive for the 2024 Urban Policing Grant. Furthermore, the municipality is committed to managing the remaining assets of the Rivers Police Service. Without confirmation on what the Manitoba's Policing Standards will be in the new Police Service Act, it is anticipated that in order to have a return of the River's Police Service, Manitoba Justice will require Riverdale to have an updated facility, new equipment, updated training standards and increased salaries with a detailed plan on how we will meet these new standards.

Currently the municipality is committed to responsible disposition where possible, including exploring the possibility of sale to other police services to recover the investment made by the residents of Riverdale Municipality.

**For emergencies please call 9-1-1**  
**Non-emergent police matter please call 204-726-7522, this includes inquiries relating to criminal record checks**

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a safe and healthy community for everyone. ~*