

**MINUTES**  
**COUNCIL POLICE COSTING REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**November 15, 2007**  
**8:00 a.m.**  
**KENORA COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**In Attendance:**

Dave McCann, Chair	Wendy Cuthbert, Councillor
Chris Van Wallegghem, Councillor	Charito Drinkwalter, Councillor
Dan Jorgensen, Chief, KPS	Ralph Page, Making Kenora Home
Reg Clayton, Miner and News	Councillor Rory McMillan
Tim Davidson, 89.5 Mix FM	Colin Wasacase, Police Services Board
Heather Kasprick, Deputy Clerk	Bob Spencer, KPS Association
Moe Hodgson, Consultant, KPS	Paul Van Bellenghem, OPP
Mayor Len Compton	Rory McMillan, Councillor
Tom Gervais, Police Service Advisor (KPS)	
Brian Neufeld, Deputy Chief, KPS	

**Regrets:**

Bill Preisentanz, CAO

**1.0 Call Meeting to order**

Chairman McCann called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

**2.0 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Moved by C. Van Wallegghem, Seconded by C. Drinkwalter, to accept the Minutes from the Regular Council Police Costing Review Committee meeting held October 24, 2007 as circulated. Carried.

**3.0 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

- None declared.

**6.0 Deputations**

***6.1 Ralph Page, Making Kenora Home***

Mr. Page spoke with regards to section and 18 and 21 of the Police Costing Review final RFP. His deputation was worded specifically as follows:

Making Kenora Home is deeply involved with homelessness within our city and have developed a knowledge of our street population. Our knowledge comes from our collective expertise, the extensive consultation that took place over the last year and our continuing dialogue with these individuals referred to in the RFP as street or homeless people.

We had no intention of wading into this review of police services but were deeply concerned by section 18 and 21. The statements made are simplistic and inaccurate. The statistics are misleading and the theoretical constructs are faulty.

What we do know, and this has been validated through research, is that there is a prevalence of disabilities within the street population including mental illness, developmental disabilities, acquired brain injury, fetal alcohol and addictions. These are medical conditions. All of these conditions are related to social isolation and poverty. Poverty is a social and economic issue. This is the path to street life-a complex combination of medical, social and economic conditions. This complexity is minimized within the RFP and the issues of public intoxication and homelessness/street populations have been reconfigured as a criminal matter. This reconfiguration is why we are here today.

I will review some of the more troubling items.

### Section 18 – Illegal Consumption of Alcohol and Intoxication

Public intoxication has been laid at the doorstep of our police force. It is all well and good to fine people however there is no provision under the Provincial Offenses Act to collect fines from these people who have no ability to pay these same fines inferred in this approach. We find it puzzling the RFP focuses on public drunkenness as an issue exclusively for the Police to deal with.

#### *Tolerance Higher than in Other Ontario Cities*

There is no evidence to support this generalization about local attitudes. Without presentation of evidence, the consultant has contributed to the myth of Kenora as a haven for rednecks, racism and riotous behaviour. Our community is not well served by myth mongering.

#### *Alcohol Abuse*

The issue of local alcohol abuse has been oversimplified. Yes there is a cost to the community but this cost will simply increase for the judicial and correctional agencies as well police if arrests increase. Arresting a public drunk doesn't lead to changes in behaviour for the homeless addict.

Lock up and release does work as a harm reduction strategy but will not cure addictions anymore than charges, fine and/or incarceration would. Research has clearly shown that the causal and contributing factors are medical and social in nature. Our escalated rates are also specific to our own community dynamics. There has been much research done locally available that has validity and should have been referenced in the RFP. For the consultant to have drawn inference from random opinions rather than careful research concerns us. As a result, our City has issued a document that demonstrates ignorance of what is known to be common knowledge by all other levels of government. Extensive partnering and resource development is required to effectively deal with addictions issues. To place any police force in the position of being assessed for effectiveness based on public intoxication rates is a strange juxtaposition.

#### *Statistical Validity*

The presentation of statistics as evidence of a position requires that the statistics used have a demonstrated relationship to the position put forward. The number of liquor violations can be used to show a demand on police services but there is no co-relationship between alcohol abuse and the laying of criminal charges.

In addition, comparative statistics must measure comparable items for standardizing the result. In this section the KPS and OPP have had their respective liquor violation statistics compared. These forces do not share common populations or environments.

KPS policies the downtown core, replete with a homeless population, drinking establishments and local events that include liquor sales. The OPP work in rural and suburban areas, including highway patrols. Statistical analysis requires far more validity than demonstrated in this document.

### Section 21 – Homeless and Street People

Again the issue has been oversimplified with misleading statements (ie: the myth that many of the street people have been banned from their own communities has already been debunked. To have it repeated at this point in local history is insulting).

There is also much background information that is missing. Again, crucial socio-economic factors have been ignored in the consultant's rush to push the problem into a police accountability issue. The approval of the RFP by Council gives the appearance of approval of an inadequate and inaccurate report that misleads by inference. I am concerned that our Council's reputation will be negatively impacted as this RFP is circulated through various levels of government.

#### *Effectiveness of Arrest & Release*

An individual is at risk of harm if impaired and homeless. Arrest and release is effective as a harm reduction strategy. The higher incidence of violence against street people is often related to their impaired ability to judge danger or defend themselves.

Despite the implication of the presented statistics, there is no evidence that to proceed with criminal charges would reduce incidents of public intoxication. It is an opinion without evidential basis.

The reoccurrence rates are not reflective of the release but rather of the lack of a comprehensive support network geared specifically to the needs of the street people. The local addictions services network is overtaxed and underfunded. Treatment needs to be accessible to be effective. The City must be more proactive in advocating for the provision of these services.

#### *Relations Between Police & Street People*

Although there is allusion to relationship issues, there is no evidence that there is more of this resentment in Kenora than in Dryden or Thunder Bay. All police forces acknowledge the resentment incurred by police actions that do not satisfy the complainant's sense of justice. The justice system runs on evidence and in cases where evidence is not available, the system falters as it should. No evidence, no case. This is not a matter of caring but rather adherence to our principles of justice.

I must confess that we are somewhat perplexed by the consultant's inference in Section 18 that the lack of charges results in increased public intoxication which would recommend a punitive policing approach yet in section 21, there is a demand that police provide protection, monitoring and support to the street people. Indeed, the consultant acknowledges the social and medical dimensions to the issue which he previously repudiated in section 18. We would suggest that his needs to be clarified before the submissions are made.

Kenora is at a crossroads right now. We are poised to develop ourselves into an attractive community that cares about its citizens. Projects such as the Common Grounds initiative, the Downtown Revitalization, Buck's Brigade, and multiple condominium development proposals all demonstrate a coming together of our citizens to deal with complex issues.

It is deeply disturbing to read this RFP which oversimplifies and misleads. As a community we deserved more respect. As a council, you deserved more accuracy for a product that you paid for. I urge you to consider the matter before you carefully and in full awareness of the slippery slope of misinformation laid out within this RFP.

Mr. Page left a copy of his deputation with the Clerk for the record.

## **5.0 Items for Discussions**

### **5.1 Presentations by RFP Providers**

Chairman McCann reviewed the format for the Police Costing Review Committee meeting that will be held to allow the presentations from the RFP providers. He stressed that this committee is a Committee of Council and will operate the meeting under the City's procedural by-law. The governing order will be as follows:

- This is a CPCR Committee Meeting, the public in the gallery are observers only, and they will not ask questions
- Both Police Services will file a copy of their presentation with Ms. Heather Kasprick prior to the meeting starting
- The OPP will present first, then KPS will present second
- The Police Services can sit in for each other's presentation
- The Police Services and Police Associations will not comment on, nor ask questions concerning the presentations
- The Police Services will be allowed one hour each for their presentations. After each presentation questions will be asked by the Committee and Council members concerning that presentation
- Responses to the RFP from each Police Service will not be released to the public until after Council makes a decision on which proposal to accept
- Mayor Compton, Councillor McMillan and Councillor Poirier will sit with the CPCR Committee and may ask questions along with the CPCR Committee members and Mr. Preisentanz

### **5.2 Date of RFP Presentations**

December 18th in the Rotary Room at the Recreation Centre. 7:00 p.m.

## **6.0 Workplan Update – Consultant**

A report by Consultant Jack Watkins was provided and detailed below:

Mr. Watkins stated that by all indications the two police services are working diligently on their submissions and I do anticipate the receipt of their submissions on November 30, 2007.

Mr. Watkins indicated that it would be helpful if the submissions could be received in both a hard copy and in electronic format. The electronic format, if it is possible, that will be forwarded for his use will most useable if it is in Word format.

Once Mr. Watkins receives the copies of the presentations they will be sent to his Associates for independent evaluating by the three consultants. Two are from a municipal police background in police services substantially larger than the Kenora Police Service, and the third consultant is an OPP back grounded individual who retired from the Professional Standards Branch.

The Kenora Police Service has asked to be second in the presentation order. The OPP have indicated that being first to present is not a concern for the OPP and that the Committee will grant the KPS request.

The process is now moving toward decision making. The Committee will make decisions surrounding the presentations and the Committee must decide on a process to determine the overall strength of the two proposals for the future policing of Kenora. Mr. Watkins does not anticipate that either package will be so absolutely complete that the decision process will be easy.

Mr. Watkins will be attending in Kenora for the presentations by the two police services. He will leave it to the Committee's discretion on the formality of the meeting and the process.

The process defined for this project has been properly followed and the project is on the expected time line for the expected decision on policing in January/February 2008.

**8.0 Other Business**

None

**9.0 Items for Discussion - In Camera**

None

**10.0 Next Meeting**

The next regular Police Costing Review Committee meeting will be held on November 30th, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**11.0 Adjournment**

Moved by W. Cuthbert, Seconded C. Van Wallegem & Carried

THAT this meeting now be declared closed at 8:22 a.m.