

MINUTES
COUNCIL POLICE COSTING REVIEW COMMITTEE
October 9, 2007
8:00 a.m.
KENORA COUNCIL CHAMBERS

In Attendance:

Dave McCann, Chair	Wendy Cuthbert, Councillor
Chris Van Wallegghem, Councillor	Paul Van Bellenghem, OPP
Bill Preisentanz, CAO	Dan Jorgensen, KPS
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
Pat Brett, Police Services Board	Mark Bissonnette, Citizen
Don Denver, OPP	Dan Peters, OPP
Mayor Len Compton	

Regrets:

Charito Drinkwalter, Councillor

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 W. Cuthbert, to accept the Minutes from the regular Council Police Costing Review Committee meeting held September 26, 2007 as circulated. Carried.

3.0 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

- None declared.

6.0 Deputations

6.1 Bob Spencer, Kenora Police Association, and member of community

Mr. Spencer's first concern is in regards to the possibility of a public vote on the police costing issue. Several members of the public have asked this question over the course of the two meetings, including the October 4th public meeting with no direct answer. When questioning Chairman McCann how having a public vote could hurt the process, Chairman McCann's response was "I don't know, it couldn't hurt". Mr. Spencer feels that a public vote on this issue is enormous both financially as well as socially for the public to have their input. Council has been elected to represent the public and a failure to listen to what the public wants is not serving those that elected Council properly or fairly.

Mr. Spencer's next concern was that of the scoring system that was discussed at the October 4th public meeting. It was indicted again by Chairman McCann that once the proposals for both police services are in, they will be viewed and then a points system will be put in place. This appears to be in reverse from any other

testing or qualifying criteria out there. Making the scoring system known to both parties prior to submitting their proposals will allow each to submit their best and most effective proposals. If Council chooses to not show each party the scoring system then at the very least this system should be in place prior to reviewing the proposals.

Further, Mr. Spencer indicated that he has attended other Council meetings in the past and had the opportunity to listen to the talk of economic development within the City. He questioned about retaining jobs in Kenora that already exist. The OPP are moving their Communications Centre some time next year and this will result in significant job loss for the City. Further, in going through this costing process there is the potential for further job loss, as members of the Kenora Police Service that are civilians, are not guaranteed jobs. This could result in the potential loss of an additional 20 jobs approximately. Mr. Spencer questioned how this is strengthening our community and further stated that several of the KPS civilian members have already stated that they will have to leave Kenora to find suitable jobs, thus reducing the tax base further. In Mr. Watkins report he shows that since amalgamation there has been approximately 100 people leaving Kenora each year. We need these people and these jobs to stay here in Kenora to support our economy and to further strengthen our tax base that has been hit so hard. Mr. Spencer addressed Council and identified that they stated that cost is not that biggest concern in this process. He hopes that statement is true. Mr. Spencer thanked the Committee for consideration of his comments and left his deputation with the Clerk.

6.2 Marc Bissonnette, Citizen and local business owner

Mr. Bissonnette questioned at the October 4th public meeting if the committee has put a weighting system in place for the RFP's so that they can be objectively compared? He believes that the answer that he received was "The committee has not put a weighted system in place and will wait for the RFP's to come back and then set a system up for deciding." Mr. Bissonnette identified his concerns with this process and indicated that this should be discussed. He believes that the process should be more transparent so that the taxpayers can have a clear understanding of the process and decision making. It's very important to have a decision that doesn't show any bias or agenda. What Mr. Bissonnette hopes will happen is that there will be a weight component assigned to each area before the RFP's are opened. There will then be a system agreed upon and a template to score each proposal on clearly before the proposals are opened. Chairman McCann indicated that he would make the weight of each component a fact of public record which Mr. Bissonnette believes is very important and that it should be in the public before any proposals are opened.

Mr. Bissonnette addressed the committee and strengthened that they have a big decision in front of them. He stated that he knows that Council is not taking it lightly, but hopes that they realize that if our Public force is disbanded, we will never again have our own force. We will always be relying on Southern Ontario to make decisions for us. Mr. Bissonnette closed with requesting a commitment from the Committee that a weighted decision template be created and that it will be public knowledge before the proposal seals are opened. Mr. Bissonnette thanked the Committee for consideration of his comments and left his deputation with the Clerk.

5.0 Items for Discussions

5.1 Police Service Provider – Question to the Public

The committee discussed the option of a public vote. Councillor Cuthbert stated that she is opposed to holding a public vote. She feels that it would be an emotional vote as many are family and friends of various services. Councillor Van Wallegghem agreed with Councillor Cuthbert. He stated that this process is not about whom you like or dislike, it is about an informed decision for our City. Councillor Van Wallegghem is confident that Kenora City Council will make an informed decision. Chairman McCann stated that a plebiscite was held a year ago when City Council was elected and that he and the other members of Council are prepared to make decisions.

RECOMMENDATION:

WHEREAS the terms of reference for the Council Police Costing Review Committee was established on the basis that the Committee direct and control the process of undertaking a police costing review for the City of Kenora; and

WHEREAS there was a request from some of the members of the public attending the October 4th meeting that the question of policing be placed before the electorate of the City in the form of a referendum;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council Police Costing Review Committee recommend to Council that the Clerk be requested to further investigate the option of putting a question to the electorate on the preferred method of delivery policing services for the City of Kenora. **Defeated.**

5.2 Provision for Additional Public Meetings

Councillor Van Wallegghem stated that he didn't feel that the public meetings to date have been well attended with only approximately 80 people attending the one on October 4th. Most of the attendance at the October 4th meeting were police services staff or family members, rather than general members of the public. Councillor Cuthbert agreed with Councillor Van Wallegghem. Chairman McCann stated that the input process was designed for input prior to the RFP being developed and released. As the RFP is now complete, the committee will continue regular committee meetings every two weeks to allow an avenue for the public to continue with public input. Chairman McCann stated that the public are more than welcome to bring further deputations to these committee meetings.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council Police Costing Review Committee schedule additional public meetings to obtain further public input into the police costing review process. **Defeated.**

6.0 Workplan Update – Consultant

- None

7.0 Acceptance of RFP

Chairman McCann stated that on behalf of consultant Jack Watkins, he would like to thank all the staff who contributed to the requests for background data and information. He believes that the RFP reflects what the community is looking for in policing. There has been a lot of work put into this document and believes that the public will be pleased with its contents.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the City of Kenora be hereby requested to adopt and forward the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Police Costing to the Kenora Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police; and

THAT the Request for Proposal (RFP) responses are to be returned no later than Friday, November 30th, 2007 to Mr. William Preisenzanz by 4:00 p.m. local time.

Carried.

8.0 Other Business**9.0 Items for Discussion - In Camera**

- There were no in-camera items to discuss.

10.0 Next Meeting

The next regular Police Costing Review Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers.

11.0 Adjournment

Moved by Wendy Cuthbert, Seconded by Chris Van Walleghem to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 a.m. Carried.