

City of Kenora  
Police Costing Review Committee  
Public Meeting October 4, 2007  
Best Western Lakeside Inn  
7:00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Dave McCann, Chair  
Councillor Wendy Cuthbert, Committee Member  
Councillor Charito Drinkwalter, Committee Member  
Councillor Chris Van Wallegghem, Committee Member  
City of Kenora CAO, Bill Preisenzanz, Project Manager  
Jack Watkins, Project Consultant  
Len Compton, Mayor  
Rory McMillan, Councillor  
Heather Kasprick, Deputy Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Dave McCann.

Chairman Dave McCann welcomed the public and introduced the Police Costing Review Committee, Bill Preisenzanz, Project Manager, Councillor Cuthbert, Councillor Drinkwalter, Councillor Van Wallegghem, and Jack Watkins, Project Consultant.

Chairman McCann reviewed the ground rules for the meeting and advised the public on the process of the meeting.

Chairman McCann reviewed the purpose of the meeting to present the key points of the RFP to the public. With the input from the public this evening, any additional points will be added and then forwarded to the committee for recommendation for release to the police agencies.

Chairman McCann presented the first portion of the Power Point presentation on the request for proposals. Mr. Watkins then followed with the remaining presentation explaining specifically the areas of community policing they are looking for. Mr. Watkins publicly thanked all the members of public who generously gave time to him to meet and discuss policing in Kenora. Following the presentation, the floor was then open for questions.

### **Questions from the Floor**

1. *Dan Jorgensen, Chief of Police, Kenora Police Service*

Chief Jorgensen stated that he was surprised to see 3 options in the presentation, specifically the hybrid model. He believed that Council was only looking at one option.

Chairman McCann stated that the hybrid model was probably not the way that Council will go, but it is always an option, depending on the results of the RFP. They are looking at a city wide process, but it doesn't mean that it is completely gone.

Chief Jorgensen inquired if both submissions would be presented at the same time and Chairman McCann stated that yes, both would be presented at the same scheduled meeting.

Chairman McCann stated that the RFP submissions will be presented at a special Costing Review Committee meeting.

Chief Jorgensen inquired if both submissions would be presented at the same time and Chairman McCann stated that yes, both would meet at the scheduled meeting.

## *2. Dot Kufflick, Resident*

Ms. Kufflick questioned why this has not gone to a vote of the public as to what police force you are going to keep.

Chairman McCann stated that Council is prepared to make the decision and will make the decision based on facts, not on speculation.

## *3. Mark Bissonnette, local business owner and resident*

Mr. Bissonnette questioned what guarantee we will have if we go with OPP that we will have a locally based calling centre? He believes that it is very important to know that when he calls in that he is calling someone local who knows and understands the community. If we go with the OPP and they decide not to have communication here any longer what say will we have in that decision? Once we lose our local force, we will never get it back.

Mr. Watkins stated that one of the portions of the RFP is to maintain a beat radio system in Kenora and to maintain communications in Kenora. This is a main component in the RFP that has been requested.

## *4. Shane Miles, Citizen (not speaking on behalf of KPS Association)*

Mr. Miles stated that when he picks up the phone at 2 a.m. and he gets someone at the other end of the line, will they be someone from our community where they understand where to go? Mr. Miles wants to know there is a dispatcher sitting in my community knowing where he is and where

his street is. Mr. Miles wants to ensure that there is a component included for local dispatch requirements so that people in the community know it is someone in Kenora. Many members of the community and the homeless people know where they are, by landmarks only, not address, and the dispatchers that reside here know where these callers are talking about because of this reason. Mr. Miles is formally requesting that in the RFP the component of requiring local dispatchers be included.

Mr. Watkins stated that the public need to know that when calling 9-1-1 the dispatchers will know exactly where the caller is and where they are calling from. This shouldn't matter who they are, or where they are located, as long as they know where the call is coming from. Mr. Watkins stated that this component has been included in the RFP.

*5. Dan Jorgensen, Chief of Police, Kenora Police Service*

Chief Jorgensen stated that his dispatchers respond to other 9-1-1 calls for fire and other services for the former Keewatin and Jaffray Melick. He would like to know how this component of the current service fits into the RFP.

Mr. Watkins stated that the question is specifically asked in the RFP "will your service be in a position to dispatch these services?"

*6. Shawn Clifford, Citizen*

Mr. Clifford questioned if this will be a deal breaker if the OPP can't or won't provide this type of service?

Mr. Watkins stated that he cannot answer that question as he is not the decision maker. The question is specifically asked in the RFP "How will your service provide fire dispatch?" and if the service states they will not provide the service, then the decision makers have to decide how they want to deal with that.

*7. Fred Ralko, President Local Fire Fighters Association*

Mr. Ralko stated that he works with officers from both forces and has no problems with any of them. What he would like to point out is that working with the current KPS dispatchers is seamless. He is concerned with not having dispatchers located here in Kenora. Mr. Ralko stated that it is his understanding that the OPP in southern Ontario are getting out of dispatching fire and what will happen two years down the road when they decide they won't do it here any more either. Mr. Ralko further stated that our Emergency Response centre located in Keewatin has a complete area that is designated for communication. In the event of an emergency, are we going to get

communication experts from Thunder Bay in 6 hours to run communications in a disaster situation?

Mr. Watkins stated that this component is included in the RFP about how the police service will provide this type of communication service.

*8. Carole Bruneau, City of Kenora employee and local citizen*

Ms. Bruneau stated that she has recently been working closely with the local force in relation with the recent spree of vandalism at the cemetery. The relationship that we have as all one team working with same officers and staff is irreplaceable. As City employees we all are answering to the same Council or local police board and general administration. Currently citizens have the opportunity to give input into what kind of policing they want through the police services board. If we go to the OPP, what kind of input will we have with what we want and need from our force? Ms. Bruneau stated that to her knowledge we won't have that relationship with the OPP. In her opinion, you cannot put a cost to that.

Mr. Watkins indicated that the Police Services Board in Kenora will oversee the policing response on such issues in the same fashion as they do now.

*9. Constantine 'Gus' Tsentouros, Citizen*

Mr. Tsentouros questioned if this decision is purely a financial concern or not. He stated that this is going to be a historical time for the community and we need to proceed with caution. He questioned the Statistical Information that was presented with regards to our youth crime rate.

Chairman McCann stated that Council is proceeding with the model of policing that the citizens want. When the forces get into the RFP they will see that it is community based policing and will be responding based on those requirements.

MPMP our youth crime rate surpasses the national level at 3%.

Mr. Watkins stated that as part of the RFP they have asked "what will you do to bring that rate down (youth crime)"?

*10. Bob Spencer, citizen (not representing Kenora Police Association)*

Mr. Spencer stated that earlier in the discussion Mr. Watkins indicated that members of Kenora Police are not familiar with the JM or Keewatin areas. Mr. Spencer clarified that he has lived in the area his whole life and he knows all areas of the City, as do many other members of the Kenora Police. He further strengthened the component of the public having the voice in this

decision and putting this decision to a public vote. Mr. Spencer stated “we would appreciate that as a community”.

*11. Randy Nickle, local business owner and citizen*

Mr. Nickle stated that when looking at the RFP outline tonight, with reference to the Provincial Regulations, and how we are going to meet those. Mr. Nickle had hoped that after interviews and workings through the community that it would be clear as to what we want. His concern is although the RFP is out, does Council have a weighted system as to what is the most important aspect of the responses. How do you bring it to the level of service, not just the best price as well as what is the most important aspect? For example, what level of importance would you place on the decision of one force over another if you have to build a new building? Mr. Nickle also questioned what happens if Council does not like what they see from the RFP's, will they be unable to make a decision?

Chairman McCann responded that he could not answer that question until the RFP's are submitted. He further stated that he believed that this group will be prepared to make decision.

*12. Carole Bruneau, City of Kenora employee and local citizen*

Ms. Bruneau inquired into the aspect of court costs and the associated costs with this downloaded service. It has currently been downloaded to the municipality, will the OPP now be charging for this service if they take over? If so, it would be charged at an OPP salary, not KPS salary, which ultimately would result in increased costs. In addition, Ms. Bruneau spoke in regards to the services of by-law and animal control officers currently being administered through KPS. How are you going to compare costing for this service as she is sure OPP are not going to provide this service?

Chairman McCann stated that court security costs do not change if it is the OPP, KPS or hybrid model, Council still gets the bill for these costs. He further stated that by-law enforcement is not part of RFP as they are currently not looking at this service.

Mr. Watkins further clarified that cost of court security is in the RFP and the service is being requested to identify how much it is going to cost to provide this mandatory service.

*13. Randy Smith – Animal Control Officer, City of Kenora, Kenora Police Service*

Mr. Smith stated that it has been identified that his position is ‘transferable’. Mr. Smith wanted to clarify that as a proud member of the KPS, the KPS

dispatchers know where he is at all times. He is faced with very precarious situations on a regular basis including drug addicts, situations of a violent nature and knowing that someone is there to cover his back when he is in the field, is assuring. If KPS is not the chosen service, and his position is 'transferable' who is going to protect his back?

Mr. Watkins indicated that the municipality will have to make those types of decisions. The safety of everyone in Kenora is important to whichever police service is chosen.

*14. Pastor Bill Cowan, Citizen*

Pastor Cowan questioned if when the RFP's come back will the community have the opportunity for any input into the submissions? Pastor Cowan stated that he thought the portion of the presentation with regards to Civilians doing the paperwork rather than officers, was positive and a good idea. He thought it would free up the officers from paperwork and allow them more time to be in the community. He was mystified as to why at the end of that portion of the presentation Mr. Watkins stated that civilian entry could possibly reduce officers.

*15. Laura Madison, Citizen*

Ms. Madison stated that she has worked with KPS and have found them to have nothing but professionalism. Further, many of the things presented here tonight can be done with KPS to reduce costs. Many things stated are based in community policing and can be done with the current KPS. When it comes to community based policing, what are the OPP bringing? She believes that both forces are great and would like to see the submissions when returned. She stated that this process should not be fast tracked.

*16. Mark Bissonnette, local business owner and citizen*

Mr. Bissonnette questioned if Council has thought of having various aspects of the RFP weighted differently? When will the public have the opportunity to review the ratings for each category of the RFP? If costing is weighted at 95% and should have only been 50% in the public's opinion, when will we have that opportunity for input?

Chairman McCann responded that they are not making any decisions yet on that aspect and they have not discussed weighted options at all yet. He further clarified that yes, it will be a public record.

*17. Matt Cederwall, Citizen*

Mr. Cederwall stated that the OPP have all the specialized equipment and specialized training that was identified in the RFP. They also have access to very specialized police facility equipment. If the chosen force is KPS, are we going to be able to access this specialized equipment from the OPP at a purchase price? If KPS does not come with these options can it be deleted out of the proposal from both sides? Mr. Cederwall believed that this is a fast tracked system and doesn't provide much time for thorough review and investigation.

Mr. Watkins stated that what is included in the RFP is the standard in Ontario and in the RFP it clearly states that if you don't have it, how will you get it. It further requests the service to indicate how they are going to meet the requirement and at what cost.

*18. Emily Goss, business owner and citizen*

Ms. Goss stated that she liked the way the RFP has been flushed out and it is a strong Community Policing model. The strength of the community policing model is the members. Her concern is that the OPP has a habit of rotating their members very frequently. What creates a stable police force is by knowing their community and the community knowing their force. Does the RFP give the police services the specific requirement to not rotate the members out every 2 years? Ms. Goss requested that this aspect be included in the RFP as it is very important.

Mr. Watkins expressed that we need to see what they tell us when the submissions are returned. It is an aspect of the OPP model that some areas of the Province are designated where members relocate in a certain period of time.

**8:36 p.m.** *Councillor Poirier arrived at the meeting.*

*19. Pat Brett, Police Services Board*

Mr. Brett questioned as to why the cost of infrastructure would be included. He stated that it is the city's obligation to provide what is necessary for a police force to operate. He believes that this should not be part of the submissions or included in the forces costs. Mr. Brett questioned if there will be a space after the RFP's come in and before Council makes the decision, that the public can look at this again. He believes that once Council has identified the recommended model, the public should have further input before any final decision is made.

Chairman McCann stated that Council specifically requested costs of capital to be included in the RFP. He further clarified that the police costing meetings are open to the public and the public can continue to make deputations.

*20. Shawn Clifford, Citizen*

Mr. Clifford asked if Council will also offset the severance costs in the RFP?

Chairman McCann indicated that they are looking at it totally separate.

*21. Colin Wasacase, Police Services Board*

Mr. Wasacase stated that it is very ambivalent to request the costs of who is going to do the policing when you still have on the board the hybrid process. Mr. Wasacase thought that Council passed a resolution that removed the hybrid model as an option.

Chairman McCann indicated that he can't give an answer to hybrid model other than that yes the resolution was passed, but they have to wait until the RFP's come in.

Mr. Wasacase referred to optional services that were in the RFP summary and that there should be a section that is optional services, a cost that is existing, but it is not in the RFP.

Mr. Watkins stated that during his public interviews it was a very clear message from the public that they want more of a community based policing model.

Mr. Wasacase stated that there is very little message around traffic and questioned if it is included in the RFP.

Mr. Watkins stated that currently the two forces are sharing with each other the amount of traffic related incidents including, fatal, personal damage, etc. They will be developing their costs based on those statistics from each other.

Mr. Wasacase requested clarification on the public consultation process. He inquired if this is the public's last opportunity for input. He stated that the public was only given a draft of an outline, not a full document, which no one had access to. He feels the public should have further opportunity to review the full document prior to it being finalized for distribution.

Chairman McCann stated that he does not support a plebiscite. He stated that he will put this item on the agenda for next regular police costing meeting to bring to Council. He further encouraged the public to continue to make deputations at these meetings and that is one of the purposes behind regular meetings is to continue to receive public input.



Mr. Wasacase requested further clarification from the public meeting. November 30<sup>th</sup> the police services must have to have their RFP submission back to Council. On October 9<sup>th</sup> the public will have access to full RFP document. Mr. Wasacase questioned what if there are things that the public want to provide input into even after the RFP is out. He further questioned if a specific date in January had been set to make a decision.

Chairman McCann stated that they do not have a specific date set for January as there may be further questions with the submissions that will have to be clarified before they can move forward to make a decision, therefore, they cannot set that date until they review the submissions.

Mr. Watkins clarified the timelines. The RFP will go out to the public including the police services on October 9<sup>th</sup> following a recommendation to Council from the police costing review committee. On October 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Council will be requested to approve the document. Mr. Watkins indicated that between now and Monday (October 8<sup>th</sup>) he will add into the RFP process any content that has been missed from tonight's input. Then between November 30<sup>th</sup> when the submissions are due, and the 15<sup>th</sup> of December they will be reviewed by the committee as well as the consultant. Anything that the committee is not clear on, the police service will be asked to clarify. In addition, if the committee feels there is an area that they feel the service did not address in their submission, they will be asked to provide their reasons why. The Chiefs will then have the opportunity to present their submission to Council. November 30<sup>th</sup> is the firm date for the original RFP submissions to Council, but there may be a need for clarification on some aspects of the submissions.

Chairman McCann read the resolution from Council with regards to the hybrid model decision.

## *22. Shane Miles, Kenora Police Association, President*

Mr. Miles requested clarification if October 9<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for any changes to the RFP. Mr. Miles questioned if this is the last opportunity for the public to have input into the RFP. He further clarified that this means that there are exactly 5 days left to have these changes included. He clarified that the public are faced with a timeline that ends on the 9<sup>th</sup>. He would like to know what discussions or changes this public input has had and what impact any of the public input had on the RFP. He questioned if the RFP is simply going to go out and then it is too late. Mr. Miles questioned how to get feedback from the meeting with such short timelines and he is referring specifically to this meeting. Mr. Miles questioned how the public is going to find out the impact on the RFP as there are several key issues that have been brought up today that are not part of the document. Mr. Miles stated that it is fair to say that we (the public) will not get another opportunity after tonight.

Chairman McCann indicated that the committee would be meeting following the meeting to review the public comments and decide if there are any other areas that need to be included in the RFP before it is recommended to Council for approval.

Mr. Watkins further clarified that they will be reviewing what else will need to be included. He stated that he believes that he has effectively covered everything that was discovered during his public consultations, but they will review closely again following the meeting tonight to ensure it is complete.

**9:00 p.m.** - Chairman McCann asked if the public wished to continue the meeting. The general consensus was that the meeting would continue as there were additional questions from the public to be presented.

*23. Laura Madison, Citizen*

Ms. Madison felt that this presentation was stacked one way and would like to see the public have more time to look at it. She questioned as to how things could be done that quickly and that it is unfair. We all know what the OPP brings to the table, but we should look at what costs can be brought down with KPS. She stated that she doesn't see a purpose in what we are doing looking at other options when what we have works and bringing down the costs could only improve it. She would like to see KPS have an opportunity rather than a competition.

Mr. Watkins stated that the regulations for requirements are in the RFP and both services will have the opportunity to explain how they will meet those requirements.

*24. Dot Kufflick, Citizen*

Ms. Kufflick requested clarification if anyone could come to a Council meeting and have their say through a deputation. She also questioned if you get five minutes or can we say what we want to say.

Chairman McCann clarified that the determined time limit is five minutes, but if you know in advance that you plan to take more than this time, just advise the clerk in advance and the committee would be open to providing the additional time requested.

*25. Mandy Spencer, Citizen*

Ms. Spencer stated that regardless of what the proposals come back as, there is a real mistrust out there with the public and there is a big fear amongst the public that the decision has already been made. Ms. Spencer directed her statement to Chairman McCann and Council as a whole, that if someone approaches you stating that there should be a vote, you should be open to looking at this option. Further, if you are asking for people to provide input, your attitude should be open to that input. You should be encouraging people to provide this input and be open to their suggestions, not to have a confrontational type response.

Chairman McCann stated that Ms. Spencer is entitled to her opinion as well as he was.

*26. Pastor Bill Cowan, Citizen*

Pastor Cowan stated that he watched the presentation tonight and his thoughts are that the KPS and OPP services only get 45 minutes to flush out and give their input into what they have been presented. He feels that both police services should have a little more time to review the documents and provide their feedback. He would appreciate after the RFP has come in and both police services have put in their submissions, the public should be able to discuss what is contained in the submissions. He strongly feels that it is not just about money and would like to come back to this room again to discuss the submissions.

*27. Gary Lindstrom, Citizen*

Mr. Lindstrom stated that any time he has needed the KPS they were there just like that. Mr. Lindstrom wants Council to keep KPS so that the dog catchers and dispatchers would have a job.

*28. Dan Jorgensen, Chief of Police, Kenora Police Service*

Chief Jorgensen stated he had mixed feelings as he stood before the crowd tonight. He stated that there is a lot of support for his service and he was appreciative of the support. Chief Jorgensen stated that it would be awful tough for his colleagues at the OPP to sit silently without comment. He believes that there is so much support for KPS because people realize what is at stake, and the Chief is saddened that things in Province have declined so much that now they are competing against friends, and it is a fight for survival. That is why the support is here tonight. There has been municipal policing in Kenora since 1882 and that is on the line right now and people are concerned that they don't want to lose that. Chief Jorgensen was pleased to finally see RFP and to get down to business. He is quite confident in his service and will put forward the best proposal he can. He will do what he can to make sure municipal presence stays in Kenora.

*29. Pat Brett, Police Services Board*

Mr. Brett wanted to provide clarification to the public on specialty teams. The public should be aware that the OPP provides any services that we do not have internally and have been for many years. Should the proposal go to KPS, we would expect that the OPP would continue to provide any services that are not in the KPS model and it would continue to be in the OPP mandate.

Mr. Watkins clarified that there are some services that are provided provincially but there are other services that are regionally based that may not be provided. When a major crime happens they will always come and always will.

*30. Laura Madison, Citizen*

Ms. Madison stated that she also supports and appreciates the OPP service. She personally wishes for KPS to stay in Kenora as primary policing agency.

*31. Pastor Bill Cowan, Citizen*

Pastor Cowan asked the group if anyone would object to a prayer for wisdom, and the Pastor then conducted a prayer.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.**