

City of Kenora
Police Costing Review Committee
Public Meetings
Best Western Lakeside Inn

Additional written comments submitted following the public meeting.

August 29, 2007

- The tri-towns Temiskaming Shores has recently went through the dismantling of their City Police. The Tri-Towns in my opinion has similar characteristics as Kenora (100 km from Quebec border – Kenora 100 km from Manitoba border), similar economy, both district towns, comparable population, tourism, etc.
Why was this not in the report? What was in Tri-Town report? I would be contacting Mayor Judy Pace to ask her questions. Has she been contacted?
- Animal control in Keewatin. Try contacting animal control again after 4:00 p.m. – no overtime authorized (personal experience). I've never seen those cages in Keewatin.
- One police force would mean one phone call. OPP 24 hours.
- Will there still be an OPP presence in the community if KPS is the police force?
- We have small towns in Ontario where the OPP are crippling City budgets (example: Pickle Lake). How can we prevent this in Kenora?
- Ensure that this process is transparent on both sides and both agreements are fully investigated. Is this happening?
- It wouldn't have mattered who was up there doing the costing review and report. He/she would be facing the same questions.
- Consultant stated that traffic enforcement analysis would be completed using actual data from KPS and an estimate for OPP as the OPP did not track incidents for JM and Keewatin separately from the rest of their territory. The formula he will use to determine a figure for OPP traffic incidents may or may not be accurate – there is no way of knowing for sure. Once again, it appears that he will be comparing apples to oranges by using actuals vs. estimates. If he cannot compare actuals to actuals, this part of his analysis should not be used, or be part of his final report. How many other areas is he comparing actuals to estimates?

- I have a concern on the response time with KPS is called. The response time is 2-8 hours if they come at all. When you make another call you are told they are on their way. I live in an area where police are called they take forever to come if at all. I feel they don't care what happens. I get the feeling that its who you know and what you know and how much money in your bank account before something gets done.

The fact that department heads of the city can't even get the police to do their job when needed these so called police need be made aware what they are there for and that is to serve and protect but they don't. I have had to contact the police services board to have anything happen.

In closing, the KPS needs to do their job that they are paid for, then maybe my street won't look like a dump. Enforce the by-laws. Why do you think the KPS is being sued? It is the taxpayer that pays these police wages we expect them to protect us but like I said it is who you know and how much money you have.
- I fully support the work that the Police Costing Review Committee is doing to reduce the cost of policing in Kenora.
- Unfortunately the previous council did not follow through on this initiative after amalgamation with the result that the taxpayers have been saddled with unnecessary additional policing costs for more than 6 years now.
- The present council was elected primarily on the basis of addressing the out of control City cost increases, holding (and hopefully reducing) taxes and encouraging economic development. From what I have heard at meetings with Jack Watkins and conversations with some of the Police Costing Review Committee members, I am confident that this review and the process being followed will in fact reduce policing costs as well as improve the service provided by the police to the City of Kenora. The latter should help businesses and encourage economic development with a safer community.
- Residents After Fair Taxation (RAFT) have contended for sometime now that the answer to holding and reducing taxes is for the City of Kenora to reduce costs. The place to start is with the high cost areas of the City. Policing is one of the high cost areas and has experienced exceptionally high cost increases over the past 7 years.
- Policing is a service that is provided to the citizens. Service is measured in terms of the quality of the service, response and costs. Without having seen the actual Request for Proposal (RFP), my understanding is that the proposed RFP for policing service will address all three of the measures of service.
- I suggest that the RFP should include a requirement for the bidders to state how they intend to improve continuously in terms of a higher quality of service, quicker response times and lower costs. In order to quantify policing service, I suggest that quality of service should be some measure of lower crime rates, appropriateness of response to requests for

police service, visibility in the community and accessibility and accountability to the public. The measure for response should be some measure of response times to various situations. Costs should be some measure related to population size, number and type of crimes and size of police force. Again, the goal for all service providers should be a better service, provided faster and at a lower cost.

- I trust you will find these comments helpful and I encourage the committee to carry on its good work to improve police service for the City of Kenora.

October 4, 2007

- A very good presentation and response to questions by Jack Watkins. I believe as a tax payer he has covered all the issues that concern city residents.
- I commend Dave McCann and other members of Council for finally taking this issue to task and finally being able to make a decision and live with it.
- On another note, Mr. McCann is correct and should stand by his Council's decision that City residents voted for these Council members to make these tough decisions on our behalf. A separate vote is not required, citizen's have already voted.
- Several members of the OPP are homegrown men and women who have returned to their home community for the KPS to argue that their uniformed men/women "know the town better" and its uniqueness is simply an unfounded statement. The OPP are well versed, with the needs of the community, as is the KPS.
- A tough decision by Council but one that is obviously being well researched and approached in the right manner.
- Council – "Keep up the good work".