

## STATEMENT AT COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 01, 2008 - Councillor McCann

I have had to make a very difficult decision as to what proposal I would support in this process. Putting aside the issue of cost for the respective proposals, I will first deal with the model each police service has proposed. On the evening of December 18, 2007, both the Kenora Police Service (KPS) and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) presented their model to provide city wide police service to the Council Police Costing Review Committee.

The policing models put forth by the respective services were in response to meet the requirements as determined by the RFP approved by the CPCRC. The RFP was specific in questioning both services as to the level of service and personnel required to meet the objectives in the RFP.

In the KPS model of 51 uniform officers the entire presentation was directed toward "proactive policing". If I were to consider the further proposed KPS model of 46 uniformed officers I believe the loss of these 5 positions would drop the KPS back into a "reactive" model of policing as they have indicated they are currently in. As I mentioned, the RFP questioned both services on the number of personnel required to address the identified policing concerns in our community. The additional proposal submitted by the KPS was received after the pre determined date set to receive proposals from both services and received after both services made presentations to the committee on the resources required to address the requirements of the RFP.

In comparing the model of 51 uniformed officers proposed by the KPS to the 42.56 proposed by the OPP the difference between the integrated model and the stand alone or dedicated model is clearly evident.

I would like to be very clear that both proposals regardless of the difference in dedicated staffing numbers would provide adequate police service to the community. The two services have different compositions, however, the front line complement in both could be considered adequate.

Court security in both models is provided by civilian special constables.

In the OPP model there is no need for a training officer, forensic identification officer, intelligence officer or dedicated guns and gangs officer as these positions are provided by the North West Region and Provincial resources assigned to Kenora. These services are provided at no cost. In the KPS proposal these 4 positions are staffed by uniformed officers.

In the OPP model the Chief (Inspector) and the Deputy Chief (Staff Sergeant) are both .53 of a uniformed officer. In the KPS proposal both the Chief and Deputy Chief are full positions. The difference in the OPP integrated model is 5 uniformed officers (.5 plus .5 plus 4 = 5) less than the stand alone KPS model in these particular positions alone. In the OPP model there is one more officer on each platoon and a sergeant that is part of the patrol complement to provide direct supervision to the officers on patrol and respond to calls for service. Additional uniform constables are available at the Kenora Detachment if the need arises. Also additional sergeants are available through

the Communication Centre to provide guidance and direction to police officers on the road should it be necessary. There are more police officers on the street in the OPP proposal as compared to the KPS model, based on the complement in each platoon. The OPP model is not bound by an agreement that places 2 officers in each patrol car from 1600 until 0700 hours every day, which reduces the KPS presence significantly. This will create up to 8 police patrol vehicles in the OPP model. The OPP address officer safety by way of policy and type of call for service that the officers are responding to.

The cost difference between the two policing models to provide adequate policing services to the City of Kenora is \$1.73M annualized. I cannot support the KPS model that has such a huge price attached. Last year, 2007, a 1% increase in the mill rate would have brought in \$152,132. If I were to accept the KPS proposal I would have to justify why I would not accept a saving equal to a mill rate increase of 11.37% annually. Over the term of a 5 year contract the difference in price is \$8.65M. Let me put this into a perspective of a home assessed at \$150,000. Theoretically a homeowner with a home assessed at \$150,000 would have to pay an additional \$214.34 (if you assumed that the entire difference needed to be added to the tax levy) in municipal taxes based on the \$1.73M annually. Over a 5 year contract that same owner would pay \$1071.70 more in municipal taxes. That is if the mill rate stayed the same.

I would like to address comments that have been made that there would be a loss of control by the community of their police service if an OPP proposal was chosen. Under the Police Services Act the Police Services Board is responsible for the police service that is chosen and the Police Services Board is supposed to be representative of the community interest. The public has access to the Police Services Board which has regularly scheduled meetings and accepts deputations. Nothing will change from the present. The City has been well served by both police services for more than eight years and there is no time that the OPP have been less than responsive or respectful of the Board.

In closing, as a member of City Council it is my responsibility to make decisions. The decision I make must be for the overall wellbeing of this City. The two most important factors that I considered in making my decision are financial and the fact that the OPP proposal will have more patrol cars on the street between the hours 1600 and 0700.

I will vote in favour of the proposal submitted by the OPP.