

## **Speaking Notes – KPS Disbandment**

Recently, Bob Stewart had an editorial with regards to policing for Dryden. The editorial ends with a reference to savings for policing for Kenora, noting that savings were just \$200,000 on a \$6.5 million overall cost.

It is true that the 2010 budgeted savings were about \$200,000 in comparison with the 2009 total policing budget. Absolutely – this number was provided by the City, and is correct.

What is important to understand is how much more the City estimates it would have paid for policing had the decision to move to OPP policing not been made.

Based on 2009 actual costs incurred, the City estimates that the costs of hybrid policing for all of 2009 would have been close to \$7.58 million, before provincial funding. In comparison, the OPP policing model would have \$5.64 million, again based on 2009 actual costs and before provincial funding.

This means that in 2009, the City would have paid an additional \$1.94 million to keep the hybrid policing force over what it would have paid if the OPP model was in place for the full year. What does this mean to our ratepayers? Put directly on the tax bill in 2010, this means an increase of about 10.2% on municipal taxes. For the average home in Kenora, this means an additional \$211 in taxes for 2010.

It is also probably worth noting that from 2000 to 2008, the City's net policing costs increased by about 111%. Separately, over this period the Kenora Police Service costs increased by over 123%, and the Ontario Provincial Police costs increased by 78%.

It was time for Council to make a decision on this matter and move ahead, and that is what this Council has done.