

The Corporation of The City of Dryden

April 15, 2019

Minutes of the Police Costing Committee Meeting held at 4:00 p.m. on the above date in Boardroom 1 at City Hall.

Present: Chair CAO R. Nesbitt, Councillor M. MacKinnon, Councillor N. Bush, Police Chief D. Palson, Police Services Board Chair J. Green, Treasurer S. Lansdell-Roll and Deputy Clerk A. Euler. Mr. A. Skene joined the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Present
by
Phone: Councillor D. McKay.

Absent: Councillor J. Carlucci and City Clerk D. Kincaid.

1. Call to Order:

Chair R. Nesbitt called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature thereof:

(a) For the agenda for this meeting:

Chair Mr. Nesbitt called for declarations of Pecuniary Interest, and the general nature thereof, under The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act with respect to the Agenda for this meeting and the response was negative.

3. Additions to or deletions from the agenda:

Chair Mr. Nesbitt asked if there were any additions or deletions to be made to the agenda and the response was negative.

4. Approval of Minutes:

(a) March 21, 2019 Public Meetings.

- 1 *Green THAT the Minutes of the Public Consultation Meetings
MacKinnon held March 21, 2019 be approved.
- CARRIED.***

5. Agenda Items:

- (a) Creation of Recommendation to Council - CAO.

Mr. Nesbitt advised he'd ask each voting committee member to provide him with their recommendation on accepting the OPP costing as well as the reasoning behind their recommendation. He advised he'll write a report containing the committee's recommendation summarizing the thoughts of the committee members. Mr. Nesbitt noted that Service, Governance and Financials had been the main priorities from the MNP report and that he'd like each voting member to speak to them in their reasonings.

Councillor McKay advised he'd recommend staying with the DPS mainly because of affordability at this point in time, noting we can't drain the City's reserves to move to OPP. He noted that a future Council will need to re-visit this issue due to regulatory demands, increased calls for service and material increases in costs related to the DPS. He advised he hasn't had anyone express an interest in moving to the OPP to him.

Mr. Skene advised he likes community policing, he sees gaps in the OPP proposal, there's uncertainty about the costs with OPP after the initial 3-year period and there is no conclusion to the pensions issue. He also spoke to the fact that the DPS officers wouldn't know if they'll be employed by the OPP until after a decision has been made by Council. He advised the community enjoys the full-time Community Services Officer position and he's unsure if this full-time position will exist under the OPP. Mr. Skene recommended staying with the DPS.

Ms. Green advised she'd done a lot of thinking about this issue. She advised she felt the differences in governance models between a municipal police force and the OPP should have been broken out and explained more in the MNP report. She noted that under the OPP, City Council would lose any input into the annual budget and there would be no budget appeal process available to them. She stated that currently Council has the ability to hire and hold to account the DPS Chief and that this wouldn't be possible under the OPP model.

Ms. Green noted the survey results which indicated governance was important. She noted the many programs the DPS has taken the lead on in an attempt to make Dryden a healthier community. She spoke to what she considered too many assumptions in the MNP report regarding financials and stated it makes no sense to deplete the City's reserves to move to the OPP. Ms. Green also noted the number of issues the OPP had not been able to provide answers about. In closing, Ms. Green noted either service would serve Dryden well, but she recommended staying with the DPS.

Councillor MacKinnon stated the people of the DPS are very important to him, that finance is also very important to him and that this would be a huge decision for him to make. He spoke to his concerns regarding the loss of control for Council, the possible loss of a full-time Community Services Officer and issues with OPP response times. He advised his biggest issue with moving to the OPP concerns the City's finances. He stated the City's Treasurer and CAO would find a way to pay for the move to the OPP but that he doesn't want to use all of the City's reserves or to refinance its debts to make it happen. He advised the City needs its reserves to deal with its current infrastructure issues. Councillor MacKinnon advised he supports the DPS and sees no reason to change forces at this time.

Councillor Bush advised he was finding this a difficult decision to make. He advised that the only reason this issue is being discussed is because of the City's financial position. He noted that under governance he sees no material differences between the two models. Under service, Councillor Bush noted both are very professional organizations with well-trained and well-equipped officers. He advised he doesn't share the view that OPP officers will have less affinity to Dryden than DPS officers. He advised he expected many of the DPS officers would be hired by the OPP and that there would be no service reduction. He stated he sees the regional policing model as stronger than the community policing model as it is more adaptable to changing needs and he stated under the OPP there'd be 3 officers per shift rather than 2 under the DPS. Councillor Bush noted the \$4.5 million cost to transition to the OPP with an 8 year payback period stating this would reduce the City's operational costs by approximately \$1 million annually and that these savings could be channeled to infrastructure repairs. He advised the biggest issue for him is that if the City must drain its reserves to move to the OPP he wouldn't support the move, noting the hard-earned dollars sitting in reserves. He asked the Treasurer if the City would be able to move to the OPP

without breaking the bank. Mr. Lansdell-Roll advised that in order to accommodate the \$4.5 million transition fee, the City would have to refinance its debt and tap into its reserves. Councillor Bush advised that in that case, he recommends staying with the DPS and getting the City's finances in order from a debt perspective.

Mr. Nesbitt advised that the City would be able to continue to track the OPP and DPS cost differential going forward now that they have the costing formula. He advised he'd draft a report summarizing the thoughts of the voting members and would circulate it to the committee members before putting it on the agenda for the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting on May 2, 2019 where it would be presented to Council.

6. Adjournment:

(a) Adjournment:

**2 Green THAT this meeting do hereby adjourn.
MacKinnon - CARRIED.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.