

## **OPP costing – December 18, 2017**

The Mayor's response to the NB Taxpayer's regarding the OPP costing issue is not based on the facts. There appears to be severe lack of reality on his part as he incorrectly represents the points made by Councillor King and the Association.

The suggestion that there won't be a loss of jobs has never been made. As a matter of fact in the Association's letter it was indicated that, while there is empathy to be expressed for those who will be affected, we must remember this situation is a direct result of the demands that unions and associations have made over the years that has now priced them out of the market. Over 90% of the police budget is salaries so it only stands to reason that is where savings will be realized. The Mayor's suggestion that we or Councillor King have indicated that there will be no jobs lost is incorrect.

With 90% of the budget being wages and benefits, for all intents and purposes there is presently no local input into the police budget. A costing by the OPP will at least give residents a chance to negotiate a deal, whose costs will be known for the life of the contract, after determining if the service can be acquired at a lower price. The Mayor is mistaken if he does not see this as an opportunity to protect the citizens of North Bay regarding taxes.

Councillor King's remark regarding the 911 system being 20 years behind the curve was not singling out the NB Police in any way. He was referring to the fact that currently we have dispatches handled by OPP, City Police, Fire Department, Anishinabek Policing, West Nipissing Police Services, Northern Communications, DSSAB Ambulance and amalgamating these services would result in a more efficient less costly system.

In the meantime, the public still has no idea why the Mayor is so vehemently opposed to tendering police services for the City and why, as a member of the police board, he is not tending to taxpayers interests in this regard.

The Mayor's employs a well known tactic in his letter. It is a commonly used by those who have no basis for the position they are taking. It involves attributing statements to your opponent which they have not made and do not believe nor stand for and then arguing against those fictitious statements.

The Mayor accomplished this by misquoting public statements made and then arguing against those misinterpretations. He also introduced the professionalism, leadership and dedication of police officers. By doing this he is hoping to leave the impression that anyone who supports the idea of OPP costing is against the police department and its personnel. The OPP costing proposal has never been about the quality of service, it is about the affordability of that service.

Since the Mayor has put the lie to his press release in January/17 which indicated that he does not debate individuals or groups, will he now be willing to debate the millions of dollars being lost to taxpayers because of the Mayor's Plan?