



**THE PUBLIC MEETING OF COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF ESPANOLA**

**Council Chambers
Municipal Office**

**April 24, 2018
7:30pm**

Deputy Mayor B. Foster presided over the meeting.

Present:

Councillors: R. Dufour, K. Duplessis; R. Duplessis, H. Malott,
B. Yocom

Staff: C. Townsend, CAO/Treasurer; T. Denault-Roque,
Recording Secretary

Absent:

R. Piche

The Deputy Mayor stated that this meeting will be live streamed.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof.

Public Hearing

None

Councillor K. Duplessis suggested that because the delegations were not submitted within the allowed time frame, Council should propose a motion to cover themselves, he then proposed the following:

K. Duplessis – R. Dufour

Notice of Motion:

Be It Resolved That: Council allow delegation(s) to speak on matters related to the OPP costing proposal at this meeting.

The Notice of Motion was then moved by Councillor K Duplessis and seconded by Councillor Dufour.

Ms. Townsend then reread the resolution, Councillor Foster called for a vote, all of Council was in favour.

Delegations/Petitions

Councillor Foster reminded all in attendance that the time limit for a delegation was 10 minutes, you were there to make a statement but not ask questions. He further advised that one of the delegates, Bill Noon, was unable to attend but he did send a statement which was passed out to Council prior to the meeting.

Councillor Foster called on Gord Hipel to present his statement. Mr. Hipel stated that after attending the meeting last Thursday night, he was unable to understand why the Town CAO was the person to give the presentation for the OPP, as an employee of the town. He stated his question was, did the OPP reimburse

the town for those services, if they didn't, he wanted to know why not and who authorized her to do this report and presentation. Is it not standard that when we ask for tender prices we don't tell them what our price is? He further stated that he fully agrees with the majority of the town's people at the meeting that the figures don't add up. The possibility of savings as reported is not realistic. Councillor Foster thanked Mr. Hipel for his statement.

Jim Bailey was next to present. He stated that if the Town does go to the OPP it will come back to haunt us, it will come back to haunt the party of the people elected to represent the town. He stated it may not take 2 or 3 years but in 5 years when they start giving the fatter bills, and he believes it will come back to haunt the town and the people that were voted for. Councillor Foster thanked Mr. Bailey.

Councillor Foster then called John Boyuk up next. Mr. Boyuk was not present.

Sheri Commission was called to the podium next. Ms. Commission stated that she as well had attended the meeting last week and had quite a few unanswered questions; one of which is the amount of lost revenue when we lose the dispatch for the 5 neighbouring fire departments, the same with dispatching public works after hours or hydro. She stated that no one seemed to be able to provide any answers. She questioned how a decision could be made without having all the information. She advised that she is totally against going OPP, she is happy with the services being offered by the local police and agreed with the two previous speakers that the town will pay in the long run after the initial contract is over, the cost will go sky high and as a tax payer in Espanola she is not happy with that. Councillor Foster thanked Ms. Commission for her statement.

The next resident to speak was Mike Pichor. He stated that after the meeting on Thursday night there were definitely some concerns raised, one thing that wasn't discussed is how the fire department will be dispatched and the cost related to that service. He further stated the he has come up with some figures and if we do loose our dispatchers, which would be a hard enough hit, the additional cost to do that job is in the neighbourhood of \$21,000/year. Not only will there be an added cost to get this service it will never be the same, for one, our dispatchers do a fabulous job and they know this community, they know the people, they know the businesses. He further stated that more than likely this would affect response times, dispatching to an outside service, which he has done in the past, causes delays in relaying the information from one organization to another and that increases response times. He advised that while he has been in other municipalities he has had long wait times as well as being sent in the wrong direction on a call because the dispatchers do not know the area. He

stated that the loss of jobs will hurt the community.

Mr. Pichor then reminded Council that a couple of years ago the municipality conducted a Oracle Poll in regards to Police Services, at that time 85% of the people surveyed were either, strongly satisfied, satisfied or had no comments to the police services as it was, he questioned if Council was listening to the majority or the minority.

He told Council that he has worked with OPP in the past and has waited for up to an hour for them to respond while on a service call and stated that kind of service is unacceptable.

Mr. Pichor then advised that no one knows what will happen after 5 years, if there will be savings down the road that has yet to be seen and there will be no turning back. Councillor Foster thanked Mike for his presentation.

Frank Beer was next to speak to Council. He stated that 4 years ago when Councillor Foster was campaigning he stated there would be a savings of 10 million if the town switched to OPP, which included severance payouts. In the same presentation, residents were told that Deep River was switching to the OPP, however in 2017 Deep River retained their own police services and the 10 million in savings is now reduced to 5 million, during the public consultation it was stated that the municipality will save 1 million a year after year 4. Mr. Beer advised that this number was purely theoretical and he doesn't believe this is possible. If 90% of the budget comes from salaries, then the only way to see those savings is to reduce the cost of salaries and therefore reduce the number of bodies in our community. He stated that during the last provincial election, the OPP Police Association canvassed and advertised to back the Liberal Party, shortly after that election the OPP was awarded an 8.5% increase over 3 years. Mr. Beer pointed out that an OPP helicopter that was stationed in Sudbury has been relocated to the Orillia and from a services perspective this does not make sense, he further stated that the OPP makes decisions based on what services the OPP want and not necessarily on what best serves the communities they work in.

He stated that an inspector and staff sergeant will be available only 20% of their hours where our police chief is involved in several partnerships on the North shore, he advised Council that a 20% chief would not be able to continue those partnerships.

Other considerations that Mr. Beer spoke of included the shift change at the highway where officers would report to work, leaving our community without coverage except a phone to a central dispatch located somewhere in North Bay. He stated that there may be times we would be left without any coverage if the officers were needed to respond elsewhere, for example to respond to a fatal accident on Highway 17. He reminded Council that during the presentation an OPP officer stated if that were the case an officer from the Manitoulin area could be

moved closer. Mr. Beer stated that the Manitoulin has an area of 2766 sq km compared to our 93 and their residents are complaining about the lack of coverage there.

He went on to say that Ontario Infrastructure is modernizing several police stations throughout Ontario and according to the plan we will be paying for this upgrade. Infrastructure Ontario has plans to build 9 new stations throughout Ontario but not here.

Mr. Beer stated there was a recent shooting in northern Saskatchewan, where property owners have to rely on protecting their own property because the Police Force is too thin. He wanted to know what would happen if there was a violent incident at the high school, which seems to be on the rise across North America, and our children and our teachers have to wait for an officer to come from Blind River or further. He stated in his opinion, the only way to maintain the level of service in the community is to reject the OPP proposal.

Councillor Foster thanked Mr. Beer.

Jill Beer was next to speak to Council. She stated that the meeting on Thursday night was widely attended by the community and there were a lot of concerns mentioned at that time that are being heard again tonight. She stated that a google search for soaring OPP costs will reveal article after article of the upward spiraling of these costs, with many of these articles written after the new costing proposal came into effect. In a CBC report dated August 19, 2016, the mayor of Kenora is lobbying for change to lowering OPP costs, she stated this was ironic as that community switched to OPP to lower police costs. Ms. Beer advised there are many other communities with the same lobbying efforts because once they made the switch to OPP in an effort to save money, the OPP costs are spiraling out of control, even with the new costing model that was announced in 2016. She further stated that of the 324 municipalities policed by OPP, 207 have seen increased policing costing from the new model, and this is according to the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. Ms. Beer stated 2/3's are seeing OPP cost increases from the new model and advised there is a problem somewhere in the new model being presented. She stated that the new formula does not save communities money and the numbers just don't make sense, approximately 90% of the budget is based on salaries and wages, in the transition period there is little savings when moving from 12 current officers to 12.4 officers with the OPP. She questioned Council that once the transition period is over how can they realistically expect to see a 50% savings in cost AND maintain the current level of service. She stated that OPP will not be absorbing those costs; the savings will be a result of a reduction in services.

Ms. Beer then reminded Council that they were told during the public consultation that OPP officers would be expected to

attend accidents at Hwy 6 and Hwy 17. She further advised that if a major accident were to occur at that location the residents can expect to see officers out of the community for several hours. The OPP's response to this was to have a shift in officers from neighbouring municipalities brought into our community, she questioned where these officers would come from and if they are coming from the Manitoulin, then they would now have two communities with less than adequate coverage; she questioned how long it would take for an officer that was located on the other side of Gore Bay to reach Espanola. She advised Council that the current police force takes an average of 8 minutes to respond to a call.

Ms. Beer advised of a time when she called for OPP assistance when her vehicle broke down and advised the dispatch to send someone from the McKerrow location, dispatch sent an officer from Coniston which resulted in a call for assistance taking 45 minutes.

Ms. Beer advised that this integrated policing model relies on the minimum number of officers and as widely dispersed as possible in order to meet their costing. She further stated that Section 10 Police Boards have very little input into OPP Policing and no say whatsoever in policing costs and those costs are directly transferred to the municipalities.

Ms. Beer spoke of the renovations to the infrastructure needed at the Hwy 17 location and stated it was not fair that Espanola taxpayer's money is spent in other communities, stating that renovations of older buildings are often higher than anticipated, she questioned if the \$450,000 needed for those renovations would actually be enough. Ms. Beer also wanted to know how much detailed work has gone into those costs.

Ms. Beer summarized by saying during your mandate you promised an OPP costing, but did not promise to automatically switch to OPP. She pleaded to Council to do the right thing for the community, stating we are proud of our local police force and she believes they heard that Thursday evening. She stated that the projected savings of \$5 million in 10 years are not likely to be realized; further a decision to switch to OPP will tie the hands of future Councillors.

Question Period

None

CONSENT AGENDA

CA-007-18 R. Duplessis – H. Malott

Be It Resolved That: Items A1 to F4 contained in Part 1 Consent Agenda be adopted.

Carried

Items A1
Council Minutes

18-063 R. Dufour – R. Duplessis
Be It Resolved That: The following Minutes are hereby accepted; Regular Meeting of Council of April 10, 2018.

Carried

Board and Committee Reports

None

Matters arising from the "In Camera Session"

None

Business Arising from Board and Committees

None

Bylaws and Resolutions

Item E1
Confirmatory Bylaw

18-064 R. Duplessis – R. Dufour
Be It Resolved That: Bylaw No 2838/18 be adopted, being a Bylaw of the Town of Espanola to confirm the proceedings of Council at its Meeting of April 10, 2018.

Carried

Reports
Items F1-F4

18-065 R. Dufour – R. Duplessis
Be It Resolved That: The following reports are hereby received; Public Works Department

Carried

PART II
REGULAR AGENDA
Bylaws and Resolutions

Item G1
Regarding Summer Students

18-067 R. Dufour – H. Malott
Be It Resolved That: Public Works Department hire 8 summer students in 2018.

Deferred

A discussion ensued.
Councillor R Duplessis advised that during the start of budget deliberations some Council members indicated that they would like to look at reducing the amount of summer students because of the reduction in grant funding and that he was not in favour of this resolution.
Councillor Malott asked the CAO if funding was approved for this year to which the CAO advised the municipality had not heard yet if we have been approved.
Councillor Yocom reminded Council that PWD has been denied their request for a temporary replacement for a full time

equipment operator off on sick leave, students are not able to do operator tasks, therefore if students are not hired Council needs to decide what regular maintenance services will be cut or delayed, such as work at the cemetery or ball fields. Councillor Dufour stated he would consider 6 students. No other members commented.

Councillor Yocom then questioned again, what services will be cut or reduced if summer students are cut. There were no responses from Council.

Councillor Foster asked if Council would like to defer this motion until the budget meeting. It was the consensus of Council to do so.

Item G2
Tender Award for
Phase 2A

18-067 H. Malott – R. Duplessis

Be It Resolved That: Council award the Tender for Phase 2A of the Infrastructure renewal project to Belanger Construction.

Carried

A discussion ensued.

Councillor Foster advised this will fall under our grant that was received which is divided between water and roads.

Item G3
OPP Costing Proposal

18-068 H. Malott – K. Duplessis

Be It Resolved That: The OPP Costing Proposal dated September 20, 2017 be accepted; and That the Mayor and the CAO/Treasurer be authorized to execute an agreement between the Town of Espanola and the OPP, through the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to provide integrated policing services for the Town of Espanola.

Carried

Councillor R Duplessis acknowledged that this was a very large decision to make and will divide families, organizations, work place relationships and will displace some residents in the community, but Council must make a decision that affects all the residents.

He explained that residents will not likely see a reduction on their tax bills but what the savings might do indirectly would save on the amount they have to increase to provide services such as upgrades to our infrastructure.

Councillor Yocom stated that he has always considered this as a service proposal with a costing component and he had to be satisfied in his own mind that residents would receive effective policing at an acceptable cost. He acknowledged that if there was a shift in services there is a human element to it which is life altering for individuals and families.

Councillor Yocom stated that both ESP and OPP are professional organizations but he has become satisfied that the community will receive effective policing from the OPP and there will be significant costs savings to be realized. He advised that it will be up to future Councils to use the funds

generated to use for projects like infrastructure or seniors housing.

Councillor Foster advised he has spent a lot of time looking at this and always thought of there being two sides to the equation; one being saving a substantial amount of money and the other is residents being satisfied with the policing in the community. He advised that OPP do a number of surveys and they show that residents are satisfied and feel safe in their communities. He has also spoke to different municipalities that have made the switch and they are happy with the services they are receiving.

A recorded vote was taken.

RECORDED VOTE

	For	Against
Mayor R. Piche	_____	_____
R. Dufour	✓	_____
K. Duplessis	✓	_____
R. Duplessis	✓	_____
B. Foster	✓	_____
H. Malott	✓	_____
B. Yocom	✓	_____

Correspondence For Information Only

None

Information

This information was previously circulated to Council. If required a copy of the information is available at the Municipal Office.

Michael Mantha MPP correspondence re: Fire fighter certification
Ernie Hardeman, MPP correspondence re: Landfill sites
Costal Centre correspondence re: Board conference
Lincoln Alexander Award

Conference and Conventions

None

Mayor and Councillors Reports and Announcements

Condolence Letter Council agreed to have a letter of condolences sent to the City of Toronto.

OPP Decision Councillor R Duplessis reiterated that the decision to go to OPP was a large one and realizes that decision will not be popular with a lot of people in the community but hopes that

the savings are realized and they will come to see the decision was made was good for the community.

Future Council Meetings

Special Budget Meeting of Council of May 1st, 2018 @ 1:30 – 3:00 pm
Corporate Services Committee Meeting of May 1st, 2018 @ 3:00 pm
Special Meeting of Council of May 8th, 2018 @ 6:30 pm
Regular Meeting of Council of May 8th, 2018 @ 7:30 pm

Adjournment

H. Malott – K. Duplessis

Be It Resolved That: The Regular Meeting of Council is hereby adjourned. Time: 8:10 pm

Carried



Bill Foster
Deputy Mayor



Cynthia Townsend
CAO/Treasurer