

Report #30/01/15/804 - A REPORT COVERING THE INAUGURAL CPAC MEETING HELD AT LAURENTIAN VALLEY, JAN. 22ND 2015

BY Councillor David Foote

The opening CPAC (Community Police Advisory Committee) meeting was facilitated at the Laurentian Valley twp. office, Jan. 22/15, by Staff Sergeant Nancy Graves and Inspector Mark Wolfe. This particular committee was to be comprised of a representative from each of the municipalities covered by a non-contracted OPP service in North Renfrew: HCM, North Algona Wilberforce, Laurentian Valley, Whitewater region and Laurentian Hills. The tentative meeting schedule suggested by the facilitators is to be on a quarterly basis. Attendance was not complete at this first meeting, as only HCM, (Councillor Foote), Laurentian Valley (Councillor Brian Hugli), Laurentian Hills (Councillor Dennis Hyde) and the OPP facilitators were present.

The meeting was informal, with a general discussion on what value a CPAC committee could be to each community and questions I tabled regarding the 2015 OPP billing model. Neither OPP officers could answer my concerns on the model, regarding the inclusion of hunt camps and cell towers in the total property count that was used to calculate the "Base Service" portion of the OPP billing charge. (Please see the 24 page outline of the police billing model that you received recently.) It was soon apparent that the officers were not familiar with billing details and their mandate for the meeting was centered on OPP community policing services and any concerns municipalities had in that regard.

Inspector Wolfe gave a background of his extensive experience gained from a very successful CPAC committee in Bancroft. Not only did it serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas to address improvements in the current local OPP service, but it also advised the member communities in steps for crime prevention and provided some additional funding for shared equipment to enhance policing at a local level. The funding was secured by petitioning the Crown for a share of money the court confiscated from drug convictions and stolen property etc. Examples of the equipment that was purchased through this arrangement were electronic speed warning signs of various types to encourage drivers to maintain the posted speed limit. These were portable, so they could be shared between the CPAC member municipalities.

Inspector Wolfe also offered to present an overview of CPAC and answer questions regarding the service and advantages offered by its membership at a council meeting, IF INVITED BY THE MUNICIPALITY. I suggest this may be a way our council could gain a better understanding of CPAC and evaluate an ongoing membership. Mayor Gibson or our CAO could contact Inspector Wolfe through Staff Sergeant Nancy Graves, Upper Ottawa Valley Detachment, 777 International Drive, Pembroke. Nancy.graves@opp.ca. Unfortunately, I neglected to request a contact address for Inspector Wolfe.

The next CPAC meeting will be held at the Laurentian Hills municipal hall, tentatively, on February 5th at 10 am. Attendance permitting, arrangements will be made to set up a formal CPAC structure comprising of a secretary, chair and treasurer. At that time it should be apparent whether all potential municipal members will join and commit to a formal CPAC structure. In my estimation, derived from this first meeting, a CPAC membership will, at the very least, allow our municipality a forum in which to directly communicate with our OPP service provider. The exchange of information via CPAC meetings could well lead to a more efficient policing service in our community. Over a period of time, a resulting reduction in service calls (eg. Inspector Wolfe indicated that erroneous 911 calls, from tripped alarms on protected properties in the Ontario, topped the list.) could lead to a reduction in our OPP service fee which, currently, is a significant cost.