

**DUNDAS CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, June 19, 2008
Dundas City Hall
8:30 p.m.**

Present: Mayor Chad Marks
Councilors: Mary Amy, John Cruz, Tresa Mazurek, John Zander

Others Present: Sean Adams, Tom Seesz, Gene Kruse, Janie Machacek, Pauline Koester, Dawn Kruse, Doug Kurtt, City Attorney Paula Callies, City Administrator/Clerk John McCarthy and others.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Marks called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. Roll call taken. A quorum was present.

POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFFING AND SERVICE

Mayor Marks explained there is a suggestion to negotiate with the City of Northfield to provide police protection. He requested this special meeting to determine if the City of Dundas should consider contracting. He further explained the Council would need to balance potential costs savings with service and local control.

McCarthy explained there is a difference in understanding of certain portions of the union contract which impact the hiring a second full time officer. He will be meeting with the union representatives next Thursday to try to work out the differences.

McCarthy said staff from the City of Northfield has suggested the City of Dundas consider the possibility of having Northfield provide police services to Dundas. The cost would be determined based on reported incidents, currently 8% for Dundas. The first year cost would be \$208,000 for the first year. He reviewed what he called a worst case/best case scenario which indicated possible savings over the next 4 and 1/2 years between \$80,000 and \$280,000. He felt there would be no savings until 2010. Four graphs were presented which represented projected Annual (Cost)/Savings, a comparison of the Levy, projected tax rates and the estimated tax on a home valued at \$175,000.

Marks stated Council has to decide if the increased cost to the taxpayers of the City is justified by retaining local control. The data presented is necessary for an informed decision. He continued to state, if Council was comfortable with continuing with current method of providing police protection, then the conversation is over.

Councilor Amy stated, although she has her own personal opinion, she would like to hear from the community.

Sean Adams expressed concern about service. He stated there was potential for a decrease in the level of police protection.

Tom Seesz stated his experience with local government suggested the call ratio would be adjusted to allow Northfield to get their costs back.

Gene Kruse stated he agrees with the previous speakers. As a former employee of Northfield, he knows they are going to get their costs back.

Janie Machacek stated the community is spoiled by their officers, the community trusts our officers.

Pauline Koester stated she prefers the current officers. To save costs perhaps some day shifts could be reduced.

POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFFING AND SERVICE (con't)

Dawn Kruse likes the personal service and stated everyone works together.

Tom Seesz said Northfield's primary responsibility is to Northfield.

Mayor Marks explained the Finance and Legislation Committee and the Council will be dealing with the budget and this information was necessary to make the best decision.

Councilor Cruz stated it was important the community had the opportunity to explain their feelings, and the Dundas police force is a value to the City.

ADJOURMENT

The Special Meeting was adjourned by Mayor Marks at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

John M. McCarthy, Administrator/Clerk

Chad Marks, Mayor