

I would first like to thank the Board for supporting the resolution which made this whole process possible. I know I speak for all Committee members when I say that by working through the process we have come to a much better understanding of the community's view of the state of policing in Lindsay/Ops and of the ways in which the community would like us to approach the future. What appears here is a compilation and distillation of what the **public** had to say when we asked for its opinion. Some who read this report will say: "I already knew that so why go through the expense and the effort of talking to the public?" The answer is simple: "The Report sets down what **everyone** "already knew" so that we all can see the diversity in what everyone knows. It provides the Board with a background of public awareness, and lack of awareness, to consider as it moves towards the future."

I have no intention of reviewing the contents of this Report. The survey statistics and graphs were presented to the Board a few months ago and these have now been joined by the analytical observations that came out of the Committee's examination and evaluation of the statistics, the comments made on the survey, and the "minutes" of the focus groups.

I would caution anyone who reads this report to resist the urge to jump to the recommendations before reading the material that comes before them. There are, as you already know, only two recommendations and they are of necessity broad-based. They represent the end of the first phase of the process which the Board has undertaken and, if adopted, will form the foundation of what is to follow. The objectives of the recommendations are: firstly, to maintain the current services and to enhance their delivery wherever possible, and, secondly, to try to find alternate ways to pay for these services. The recommendations do not provide a quick fix to the rising cost of policing – no such quick fix exists and if it did everyone would be using it. There is no list of individual steps that can be taken to bring about a substantial reduction of the costs of policing at the same time as we maintain the services. While the recommendations are broad-based the Report is sprinkled with suggestions for approaches that should be considered by the Board and the Service as we move to implement – that is why the Report needs to be considered in its entirety.

The reality of policing today is that it is not possible for a police service to be all things to all people and to pay for it from the municipal property tax. From all appearances the Provincial Government – through FPAC – has come to the

realization that it is going to have to adopt a whole new approach to policing in an effort to bring costs in line and to provide better service – but that’s the topic of my second report on today’s agenda.

One item in this report needs to be resolved. On page 4 it states: “These comments have been extracted from the surveys and redacted to avoid privacy issues and are also found in this Report.” This is not the case, however, for two reasons: firstly, the Committee did not have the time to redact them and, secondly the Committee does not have the authority to make such a decision without prior approval of the Board. Should the Board decide to make the comments public I am quite prepared to do the work involved but the Board might wish to have the redacting done by a professional with the appropriate insurance.

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Report of the Public Consultation Committee be received.