

Re: 14 Dec 2020 Council meeting, Consent Agenda item 6.1 Letter from Clair Tucker-Reid.

I was grateful to Councilor McLeod for opening a conversation on the J I. However, I was disappointed that this did not lead to any real discussion, nor to any mention of a special Public Meeting on the Judicial Inquiry. I believe that Council should have scheduled a full public meeting on this before now. Justice Marrocco's Report was released on November 2nd. There was a "round the table" opportunity at Council on November 16th for the Mayor & Council to comment, but so far there has been no opportunity for public input.

CAO Skinner last night indicated that the Staff Report might come to a S I Committee, in late January or early February 2021 and that there would be opportunity for public input at that committee meeting. That would be about 3 months after the issuance of the Justice's Report. Public comment would be limited to just 5 minutes at Standing Committee. I submit that this is far too little, and far too late.

Further, the Staff Report needs to look not only at implementation of the Justice's recommendations, but also the issue of the massive cost overrun. What was the origin of the original \$1.3 to \$1.6 million projection? Who prepared that, and on what evidence or basis? Was Council deliberately misled? Were warnings of a potential massive cost overrun suppressed? If so by whom? Should this matter be referred to the Integrity Commissioner to investigate and report?

Additionally we need a complete public breakdown of the costs that went into the \$7.7million. The pie chart on the Town's website is completely inadequate. We need to know specifically who billed how much, at what rate, and for how many hours. Massive sums were paid to various legal firms, but not so far publicly detailed.

There needs to be an analysis into the value of the Inquiry. Is there \$7.7 million of worth in it? Perhaps the Town's auditor should be tasked to conduct an in-depth audit to find out.

The issues involved in the J I are so numerous, and so important, that a 5 minute public comment opening, buried in an unadvertised Committee meeting on a Staff Report, completely fails to meet Council's supposed standard for transparency. Instead, this looks and feels like it is Council's desire to lull the community to sleep on the entire issue.

I respectfully request that someone on Council propose a motion to hold a full, advertised, public meeting (necessarily via Zoom) on the subject of the Judicial Inquiry.

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