

A NEGATIVE TAX INCREASE? What madness is this?

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If ever there was an excellent example to revert back to the committee system, as proposed to the city by both the TTA and the Chamber of COMMERCE, last Tuesdays council meeting gave us a prime sampling. I am referring of course to the questioning by councilor Wawrzaszek who asked a very simple question to both our public works managers. Is it cheaper to lease than to purchase 3 new trackless sidewalk rubber tire plows? What we heard from our public works representatives was ambiguous at best and misleading at worse. Our public works representatives both agreed that leasing two pieces of equipment cost the city \$4K per month or \$48K annually. So of course purchasing 3 new pieces at \$512k is in their mind much cheaper. This problem would not occur if the city reverted back to a committee system, Walter would already have those answers, he would probably have pushed for the city to lease these machines, and save the city a ton of tax dollars. As long as we permit each department to set it's own goals and budgets, independent of council, the taxpayers will always pay through the nose for everything, and only buy the very best.

The meeting then pivoted to a very confusing tax rate presentation. i personally spoke to most of my friends asking them the value of their homes. Well holy smokes not one home is valued below \$250,000, and not one home has an assessment that is not rising this year. Why does the city continually use the \$180k as an average priced home.? We all have to realize that this is of course an election cycle, so where was all this great news the last two or three years?

Once again Councilor Dubeau, asked to have deferred the passing of the contract to hire an outside security firm for S&T 2018 regardless of the number tickets sold. It seems that the mayor wants to hire the exact same amount of security personnel, even though the projected number of tickets sold might be 1/2 of what the total was last year. As per usual anything that this councilor might suggest or bring up for a vote is continually shot down for no other reason than the mayor wants it that way. His 6 followers, are then only too pleased to oblige. This next election is the Taxpayers of Timmins's only opportunity to wrestle control from this governing body, who has shown nothing but disdain for it's ratepayers.

That's my recap

Jack Dugas

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