

To: Pearson, Maria
Subject: RE: Minutes of our meeting dated Oct 28, 2014 @ 2:00 pm

Dear Members of A&A committee

I profoundly regret to inform you, Members of A& A Committee, that your report "Review of Hamilton Police Services Issues" was released over a month before the A& A meeting.

I was assured that the report would not be made available to any one prior to the meeting, however, the report was released at least a month before the A&A meeting. **See e-mail below to confirm it.**

The report contains flaws. Some simple examples follow:

1: Concerning savings on the amalgamation of departments, there are currently two senior accounting positions currently making \$300,000 including benefits (that will be more when contracts are settled for 2013, 2014 and 2015). They would be replaced by one financial analyst making \$85,000 including benefits. The net savings would be over \$200,000.

2: City files could be added to Police Legal services and Police legal secretarial services to fill their work load resulting in significant savings to City. **The question to ask is, why is there a separate legal service from that of the City? That has not been addressed.**

3: Concerning the merging of departments, I provided a link to the Toronto City amalgamation study because it contains **over 700 pages**. But your **response that the information is not available is not accurate.**

4: Concerning the issue of financing reserves, I attempted to explain how reserves lost interest by not setting up the current year provision in a reserve account as soon as the current year budget was approved. I even provided written examples. **The auditor had difficulty in understanding and it shows up in the report. Missed the point...auditor.**

5: Why did the former Deputy Chief and current civic employee and Police accountant misinform the PSB and me on more than one occasion by insisting that an external audit costs \$250,000. **This misinformation has not been adequately addressed.**

6: With respect to the transfer of base from 2012 to 2011, all relevant documents were provided including **the written response from Mike Zegarac, General Manager of Finance. The report doesn't adequately cover the issue, instead smoothes out the transfer, saying it was not done maliciously.**

7: I provided the auditor with my partial job description from when I was a City employee, to show what one person, with very limited staff, can do and still produce reports accurately and on time.

I have provided the auditor with all relevant documentation and I have all correspondence pertaining to the issues. **I was told that the report would not be shown to anyone before it was presented to A&A, nevertheless, it was released. Was I consulted prior to the report being released? "NO". Do I agree with it? "NO"**

Nevertheles, the audit report does clearly indicate that the Police Act does not prevent City Council from appointing an external auditor not does it prevent the amalgamation of responsibilities.

That said, Ms. Chairperson and Members of A& A committe, as a concerned Citizen, I appeal to you all to exercise your vote, keeping tax payers interests in your heart and forward my comments to City Council for their consideration of external auditing and amalgamation. I hope A&A and City Council will take a closer look at this report.

Respectfully submitted
Shekar, concerned Private Citizen