

Jennifer Allan

From: Bill Longworth [bill_longworth@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 03, 2007 10:42 AM
To: clerks
Subject: Request to address Accountability and Transparency Sub-committee

Good Morning...I would request to address the Accountability and Transparency Sub-committee when it meets to discuss my request to have Oshawa's Auditor General audit The City of Oshawa's efforts in reaching the expectations of the Supreme Court of Canada and Elections Ontario in properly and adequately informing Oshawa voters about the details of the plebiscite question...

- 1) Why the question was asked,
- 2) The anticipated benefits to the City of Oshawa,
- 3) The perceived shortcomings of ward voting such that it had to be changed,
- 4) Why the terms used in the question were not defined for voters,
- 5) Why the question was worded the way it was,
- 6) Why Councillors felt the need to continually re-word the question,
- 7) Why voters were not told the ramifications of the alternative answers,
- 8) Why council kept the important question such low profile as to not promote any public debate or discussion,
- 9) An evaluation of the Mayor's public pronouncement and obviously City Council's position that the city had no responsibility to inform the public---that this was the responsibility of interested ratepayers themselves despite Municipal Elections Act hurdles against third party campaigning,
- 10) Why voters were not entitled to know the history of the general vote in Oshawa,
- 11) Why voters were not entitled to know that the general vote is virtually unused in Canada but it is widely used in the USA with political parties,
- 12) That political parties necessary to make the general vote work in a large city requires the use of municipal political parties which are not provided for in Ontario Municipal Elections Law,
- 13) Why city council voted to deny information to the public on the issue,
- 14) Whether council in their political wisdom feels that a democracy requires an informed voter,
- 15) Whether communication about an issue council seeks public opinion on is at least as important as communicating about Oshawa's downtown restaurants, pesticide use, walking trails, etc.,
- 16) Expenditures on communicating to the public about the plebiscite was at least as important as expending large amounts of money for submissions to the LIVABLE communities contest in England recently where a professional writer was hired for the submission and a delegation was sent for a week in England to accompany the submission,
- 17) Whether council feels that a vote by an uninformed voter is a valid measure of the public opinion they purported to seek.

With more time and thought, I will obviously come up with many more serious issues the committee should consider in its deliberations...including future council action in consideration of its seriously flawed plebiscite process.

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