

October 3, 2006

A meeting of the Finance & Administration Committee of Council was held this evening with Chair Deputy-Mayor Scott presiding and all members of the Committee in attendance with the exception of Councillor Levasseur. Staff members present were L. Eckford, Treasurer/Deputy-Clerk and D. Noffke, Recording Secretary.

MINUTES:

On motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Severin, the minutes of the meetings of the Committee of September 5, 2006 and September 11, 2006 were approved, as circulated. CARRIED.

1. PRESENTATIONS

(a) SRB Technologies (Canada) Inc.

Stephane Levesque, President of SRB Technologies (Canada) Inc., came forward to address the Committee. He noted that this is his bi-annual report to the Committee and was pleased to be here.

Mr. Levesque stated that SRB has been operating in the City of Pembroke since 1991. It employs 36 local residents and is regulated by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. SRB is, and always has been, committed to the safety of the public, the environment and its employees. SRB is, Mr. Levesque emphasized, meeting or exceeding all safety requirements imposed by the CNSC.

Mr. Levesque assured the Committee and the public that SRB is continually monitoring its tritium releases from its stacks and takes monthly air samples, does daily liquid effluent tests, takes weekly urine samples from its employees and does yearly tests on local dairy products and locally grown vegetables.

As a requirement of SRB's current license, Mr. Levesque noted that an independent study of groundwater had to be undertaken to define groundwater contamination on and around the property, determine the sources of it and assess potential adverse impact of the contaminated groundwater. A consultant was hired to undertake this work and another Dr. (Dr. Ranasara Osborne of Ranasara Consultants Inc.) was hired to review the results of the report.

Tests were undertaken on 12 monitoring wells, 7 residential wells and two area rivers. The level of all wells in the area except one were well below the Ontario drinking water guideline of 7,000 Bq/L. One well, which is the closest well to the stacks of the facility, had a reading of 60,000 Bq/L. Following the review of the study, SRB took several actions to remedy the problem and on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 reported these to CNSC.

Responding to CNSC's letter of June 30, 2006 asking for additional information, SRB had confirmed with the City that any future use of the land contaminated by tritium would be subject to a rezoning and/or site plan agreement. Any development or re-development of the land would require an Environmental Site Assessment and all recommendations of the EA Assessment would have to be implemented prior to the issuance of any building permits.

Following the results of the tests done on three additional wells installed on site, CNSC issued a 'Designated Order' requiring the submission of a detailed report on what the Company would do to reduce further contamination of the groundwater under the stacks. Following a request by SRB to amend the Order to allow SRB to operate while an Action Plan could be developed, CNSC, on September 5<sup>th</sup>, reinstated SRB's right to operate but only during times of no precipitation.

At this point Mr. Levesque assured the Committee at no time was the public's health ever at risk. CNSC had stated that in their June 30<sup>th</sup> review of the study. Tritium emissions have been steadily declining since 2000 and public doses of tritium are well below the allowable CNSC annual public dose limit of 1.0 mSv. He pointed out that the typical maximum annual dose to the public due to SRB would be approx. 0.2 mSv. compared to 2.4 mSv received on average from exposure to all natural sources or a dose of 7.0 mSv's which you would get from having a brain scan.

In answer to a question from Councillor White, Mr. Levesque advised that the September 5<sup>th</sup> decision will be addressed again on October 25<sup>th</sup> following CNSC's review of SRB's plan to reduce groundwater contamination. As SRB's license is up for renewal November 30<sup>th</sup> a further hearing is scheduled for November 27<sup>th</sup>.

Councillor O'Neill noted that the CNSC order is confusing. Renowned scientists say the risk to public health is minimal while others say we should be concerned. On one hand you do not want to lose jobs in the area, but on the other hand

you don't want to risk people's health. Council wants a resolution that will be fair and safe for all concerned. Councillor O'Neill did express his concern about the disposing of tritium through the City's sewer system and, therefore, into the Ottawa River.

Councillor Henderson asked if there is a concern with the cumulative effect of tritium down the road, say 40, 60 or 80 years from now? Mr. Levesque stated that tritium does not have the same palpable effect as other sources of radiation. Tritium has a  $\frac{1}{2}$  life of 12 years, which means that in 12 years the tritium level would be half of what was emitted into the water or air in 2006.

Responding to Mayor Jacyno's question, Mr. Levesque noted that a Nuclear Plant worker can be exposed to an annual dose of 50 mSv, compared to a CNSC annual public dose allowed of 1.0 mSv. He further noted that a person riding in an airplane would not be exposed to tritium, but rather, they would be exposed to a dose of radiation.

In conclusion, Mr. Levesque responded that tritium is very expensive to purchase. It is to SRB's advantage to reduce the loss of tritium as much as possible because it also saves them money. He assured Council every effort is being made to reduce contamination of the groundwater in the area of the plant and that the amount of tritium being disposed of in the sewer system is very minimal. Of the 4 million gallons of sewage being disposed of by the Pollution Control Plant each year, he stated, it would only contain a maximum release of 46 mSv's.

## 2. MONTHLY FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT-September

In reviewing the Department's monthly report, Chief Chaput advised that he was very pleased to advise Council of the official launch of the Canadian version of the 'Risk Watch Program' right here in Pembroke. He noted that the pilot project targets children in school from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Champlain Discovery Public School will be the first school in the area to be involved in the program. The Chief noted that this program has been very successful in the United States where it has been proven that the program works to help reduce accidents and injuries to children.

The Chief also reminded Council that next week is Fire Prevention Week. He noted that the Fire Department had held a colouring contest for grade 2 students and the winner would have the privilege of dropping the puck at the October 8<sup>th</sup> hockey

game. His classmates would be treated to pizza & juice on the Department and, as well, his parents would have supper out on the town. There will be a booth at the October 8<sup>th</sup> game and people will be able to exchange their old fire alarms for a new one. As well, the Department will have a fire extinguisher display at the Pembroke Mall where some training can be given to anyone interested.

To conclude Fire Prevention Week, the Chief noted the Department will be hosting a luncheon on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped, he said, that the new fire truck will have arrived for the occasion as well.

Continuing, Chief Chaput advised that the Fire Department is establishing a "Fire Cause Determination Team" which will make use of both the Fire Department and Police Department skill sets when trying to determine the origin of a fire. The team will consist of one fire fighter and one police officer as well as back up members of both Departments.

In conclusion, the Chief noted that a new fire fighter, Jason McInnis, had started work with the department on September 11<sup>th</sup>. He advised that he will bring Mr. McInnis to the next Council Meeting and introduce him.

### 3. SR. CITIZENS DROP-IN CENTRE - LEASE RENEWAL

Councillor White advised that the five-year lease agreement with the Senior Citizens Drop-In & Activity Centre had expired in February this year. Since that time a review of costs for the building had been undertaken and it is now obvious that a drastic increase in rent is needed to cover costs. She pointed out there are several options open to Council from increasing the rent drastically, to eliminating the grant they now receive from the City to, perhaps, a combination of the two.

She pointed out that the building is old and needs some work, including a new roof and heating system.

Councillor Henderson pointed out this is another situation where a modest increase each year would have helped to avoid a drastic increase all at once. The rent has not increased since 1993, he pointed out, and now a drastic change is needed to help cover costs.

Deputy-Mayor Scott pointed out that CMHC sets the rate for a yearly increase in rent for social housing and perhaps the City should adopt a similar policy.

Mayor Jacyno pointed out that the Drop-In Centre has over 282 members of which 11% are from Laurentian Valley and 5.2% are from Quebec. It is obviously a well-received service that area residents take advantage of.

Councillor O'Neill agreed that the City should be ensuring that operating costs are, in fact, being covered by the rent being paid.

Councillor Lafreniere pointed out that the Club does have a significant amount of money in reserves. She noted that the City is experiencing a shortfall of some \$9,600. and agreed with Councillor White that perhaps the yearly grant from the City should be eliminated to help offset the overrun in costs.

Although Councillor Lowe suggested use of the yearly COLA rate, some of the Council Members felt the determination of the COLA rate often included items that would not really relate to rental charges.

Councillor Severin felt that a combination of the reduction of the grant and an increase in rent might be the best option.

The Committee directed staff to formulate a rental policy whereby the present rent is used as a base figure, plus a yearly increase based on CMHC's recommended increase. The grant amount given to the Activity Centre will be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the budget process.

#### 4. AMO/OMERS SUPPORT FUND

The Treasurer advised that the City had received this invoice from AMO and both her and the C.A.O. were unaware of any commitment the City had made to this program that has come around as a result of the passing of Bill 206, the new OMERS Act.

She questioned if any of the members who had attended the AMO Conference in August had attended this Special Meeting of OMERS Municipal Employers.

Both Mayor Jacyno and Councillor White noted this session had been held prior to the AMO Conference and the short notification of the meeting had not allowed for anyone to attend the meeting.

It was agreed that more information was needed before Council could agree to contribute to the OMERS Support Fund.

What will the City get for the dollars put into the fund and once the funds are in place, what will be done with the money.

**MOTION:** Moved by Councillor O'Neill,  
Seconded by Councillor Henderson,  
THAT the matter of funding of the OMERS Support Fund  
be tabled until further information is received from  
AMO. CARRIED.

The meeting then adjourned on motion of Councillor Lafreniere, seconded by Councillor Severin.