STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON

PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 693
Councillor Benham questioned if Councillor Steeves, as Chair of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, believes there should be a review of the amalgamation of Fire and Paramedic Services.

Councillor Steeves advised that the policy of Council was to go with the integrated model and there has been no deviation with that model; adding that it was not his role to personally reverse a Council policy decision.

Councillor Benham questioned what Councillor Steeves meant when it was reported that he said "I just want to change it to whatever makes sense. We want a strong Fire Service. We want a strong Paramedic Service".

Councillor Steeves advised that there was on-going discussion with the administration on this issue and changes could potentially be made to help improve the operation of the service without a formal alteration of the big picture integration model.

Councillor Benham further questioned what steps the Chair of Protection and Community Services would be taking to improve the situation to which Councillor Steeves replied that he did not have a list of the steps that he is actively pursuing, but noted that he works with the administration and offers support, where he can, but stated that he was not taking any steps beyond the grander policy direction of Council.

Councillor Smith questioned why the Chairperson of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services had not released to the public the details of the settlement made with the Fire Fighters Union inasmuch as the report of the incident at the Osborne Village Fire Hall was widely reported in the news.

Councillor Steeves advised that what was released was agreed to be released and that he did not have any authority to release anything beyond what had already been made public.

Councillor Smith questioned if the Chair would share his knowledge of the settlement In Camera with the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services; to which Councillor Steeves advised that he would take the question under advisement.

Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services – Question Period (continued)

Councillor Smith inquired if Councillor Steeves thought the members of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services should know as they are the ones responsible for the service to which Councillor Steeves replied that he believed the committee members should be fully informed.

In noting that there was an increased demand for ambulances, Councillor Wyatt questioned if talks are ongoing to improve the service to which Councillor Steeves agreed to take the question under advisement and report back to Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt requested that Council be provided with an update on the policy for waiver fees for City owned pools and facilities to which Councillor Steeves replied that he would provide this information.