

THE FOLLOWING IS A RENDERING OF A FACEBOOK POST BY COUNCILLOR KYLE CYBULSKI THAT TRIGGERED AN INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER INVESTIGATION.

TEXT IS IN ORIGINAL FORM AND NOT EDITED. ORIGINAL SPELLING AND GRAMMAR. SMALL STYLISTIC CHANGES FOR EASE OF READING

Double It

Upcoming Council meeting Tuesday September 9th

My pre notes and thoughts for tomorrow's agenda (select items)

(Please note: the below are still to be debated, discussed, voted on at council. Nothing is final yet. Also, I am only representing my opinion and not any one else's)

MA-TE-WAY BALL DIAMOND LIGHTS

It has been a year since this was first brought to council, and we are finally at a point to approve a contract. As always, we are recommended to select the lowest bid. But how is it possible for the low bid to come in at \$99,975 and the high bid to come in at \$239,766? How can a spec project have such a huge difference in price. Or is the spec so vague, so incomplete, so open to interpretation that one company can be so much cheaper than the other? Or is this project going to double or even triple in cost? My bet is on it doubling... It's been the common theme for any project we have had engineered in the last few years. I can't support the way this has been presented to council on paper.

CIP GRANTS

Two previous recipients of CIP Grants are back looking for more. Both well within their rights to apply and tomorrow night will know how council votes. Both are looking for a tax break on their newly renovated income property. One as per the CIP grant is entitled to \$19,997.41 in tax savings over 10 years and the other \$114,970.91 in tax savings over 10 years. (funny thing is the one building was sold by the Town of Renfrew for less than the tax saving request, however many years ago) I can't support things like this when I know how difficult it's been to not increase the budget.

TENDER AWARD FOR SEVENTH STREET

Another road project with no drawing or design attached. Another project potentially to fall victim of doubling in cost. Back to the recurring theme. Dominion and 8th to name a few with massive, unexpected increases. I did get a motion passed to allow council to weigh in on all design projects, but no final decision has been made yet as the motion will come as part of the Procurement policy change. No date selected for that yet, that I'm aware of. I'll say yes to this project. But I am very disappointed there is no drawing attached, even though I have made this expectation clear.

SCOPE CHANGE FOR STEVENSON CRESCENT

Yep, you have guessed it.....its more then doubled. Let's add \$350,000 in estimated cost to the \$290,804 project. It appears that the engineering has missed the fact that Renfrew is built on clay. Here is a snip from the agenda.

(On September 2, 2025, the project began, and the asphalt surface was removed. During the removal process, it was noted that the existing road base was saturated and unstable and struggled to support the loading of traffic. Town staff reached out to the consultant responsible for design, as well as the consultant who conducted the geotechnical investigations during the design process. Both firms conducted a site visit, and it was determined that the original recommendation made by these firms was no longer viable.)

Our area has just come from a zero tolerance for fires as the drought has been for 6 plus weeks and they say the road was saturated. The engineering team missed this when they did the design in 2024. Pretty sad. All I have been asking for is the full picture and cost and now a simple job has more then doubled.

CLOSURE OF INVESTIGATION

Yes, the 3rd party review has been completed and all documents handed over to the OPP and our Lawyers. They have done their due diligence and now we have our answer. Close the investigation on the MyFM center. This means that no one will be held accountable for this project. The project that should have never been built, more then double over the advertised price tag and yes, has raised your taxes is now laid to rest. No one is being held responsible for the mistakes made except for the taxpayers of Renfrew. I'm so sad that this has happened to the good people of Renfrew.

We kept saying throughout the process of MyFM that we would learn from our mistakes and make sure they are never to be repeated. If you have read this far, you can clearly see we have not learned much. It appears the term "Double It" is the way it is in Renfrew. I'm a very embarrassed elected official for the town of Renfrew that feels his hands are tied.

COMMENTS

Krystle Bennett

Thank you for posting this. I appreciate the time you spent on this to keep us all informed and try to do what's best for Renfrew.

Jeff DeJong

Municipal expenditures are ridiculous. In these small towns, the employees that normally right the tenders and approve contracts have zero business doing so. Poorly written tenders/ contracts are the root of most cost overruns.

1. The employee writing the tender is not qualified to do so. Spending a bit of money to have a third party that's an expert in the field write the tender is often well worth the money. As is

having a competent lawyer look over the contract. It's very important to have someone from far out of town do both of these (see #4)

2. Contractors specifically look for errors and omissions in the tender. Your example with the clay above, I would not be surprised if the bidder knew about the clay, bid low to get the job knowing they would make \$\$\$ once the clay was exposed.

3. The high bids can sometimes be misleading. I call them "fuck-off" bids. The contractor is not interested in doing the work, so they throw a stupid high bid in. Don't stress too much about one high bid. But this only applies if there are several bids.

4. Corruption. Small towns especially, it's rampant. Both elected officials and employees. 3rd party "reviews" "estimates" "engineering" etc are often not true 3rd party. Lots of back door dealings and payouts.

Bob Dillabough

Kyle, thanks for trying to keep an eye on these expenditures. It's a shame everything doubles while no one takes responsibility. I appreciate your honesty

Daniel Sulpher

Transparency is KEY. Thank you for actually caring about the average taxpayer in this municipality and thank you for the info in this post!!! I'll be watching tomorrow as usual!!!

Doug Sidock

Kyle we should have the engineers firm write the proposal and be responsible for there estimates .Any over runs they pay the over run.we might get better engineering

Tom Megrath

As to the My FM Centre,what did you expect, it's government holding government accountable. They always find no wrongdoing. Same with the hospital

Justine Loader

Can you advise if there is a resource within the town that is qualified to review the tender packages and if there is a qualified resource that reviews the bids coming in against the tender documents?

Also, is there a qualified resource that manages the contracts? Oversees the construction, installation, reviews the progress on site against progress claims to ensure the work/materials billed for are accurate?

Skylar Shannon

As said before in another comment.. Thank you for the honesty and transparency and the time you put in on this post. This is what the people of this town need is for things to not be sugar coated.

Geo Kel

GOOD FOR YOU **Kyle Cybulski !!!**

Judi Gilmore

Thank you for your honesty..I see the meeting is on hold, I would guess it is to give the mayor more time to make up some excuses for what you (thank you) have pointed out to us!

Stuart Mason

Thanks Kyle. I don't envy your job.