



Safety: police and firefighting services

This safety workshop will encompass two of our essential services which take up to 19% of the City's annual budget: policing and firefighting services. The cost of these services is not easily reduced because of Quebec governmental regulations in matters of safety.

We are nevertheless reviewing our citizens' level of satisfaction with respect to these services – do you feel safe in Deux-Montagnes? – and about ongoing projects which could have an impact on taxpayers.

The following subjects will be dealt with during the general meetings:

1. The cost of police services

Regional police services in Deux-Montagnes amount to \$3,37 million dollars for the citizens of our city and take up to 13% of the city's annual budget (19% for the police and firefighting services). However, the total costs of \$8,000 million dollars are shared throughout three other adjoining municipalities which are also served by the same police force. Nevertheless, we must review every aspect of these existing services in an effort to reduce our expenses.

What could we do? Should we concentrate on the following aspects?

1. Intermunicipal agreements in order to reduce the portion assumed by the City of Deux-Montagnes?
2. Maintaining the status quo and absorbing costs incurred by these services and even increase their level because our safety is of first importance?



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Are there any sectors where police vigilance could be practised with more regularity in an effort to increase citizens' sense of security, more specifically, in and around parks?

Are our methods of managing traffic (traffic lights) and slowing it down (stop signs, speed bumps) in strategic locations effective? What about our attempts to respond to bad drivers (fines)?

Is car speed in our City frequently excessive? Do we have a real problem? If so, what compelling methods do you propose which would help curb speeding and help observe our speed limits?

In your opinion, what aspects of police work are vital for the safety of our population?

2. The cost of firefighting services

Because of new regulations pertaining to risk coverage, which will soon be required by the government, the cost of firefighting services will increase by thousands of dollars every year. This situation will be compounded by the City of Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac's decision whether to remain a part of the agreement presently in effect with the City of Deux-Montagnes for these services (Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac is part of the present agreement but refuses to sign a long-term agreement). Should our neighbour withdraw, Deux-Montagnes will be required to go it alone in terms of costs. As well, our fire hall is in serious need of repair work and the city of Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac is presently looking into building its own fire hall.

What should we do?

1. Continue with the present state of our fire hall and wait for the government to impose renovation measures?



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2. Wait and see if Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac will renew its agreement with us before we make a decision?
3. Perform the required renovations along with the help of subsidies and work toward establishing profitable financial agreements with all interested parties in order to reach a maximum security protocol?

In other respects, a budget analysis of these services informs us that false alarms are responsible for more than 23.6 % of firefighting operation costs. The City's regulations allow for fines to building owners responsible for false alarms but this regulation is rarely implemented.

What should we do?

Implement this regulation across the board and fine those responsible for false alarms?

Beef up the regulation or perhaps increase fines?

Do nothing for fear of owners unplugging their alarm system which would endanger the life of every building resident?

In other respects, should we hire a fulltime fire prevention inspector in order to better inform the population about the importance of implementing preventive behaviour patterns which would reduce the risk of fires and incurred damages?

In your opinion, what aspects of firefighting services are vital for the safety of our population?



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3. 911 services

Maintaining the 911 services could cost the City thousands of extra dollars in salaries and assets if the City complies with Quebec requirements.

What should we do?

1. Perform the work required and absorb inherent costs which will be apportioned through the municipal tax bills?
2. Because our intermunicipal agreement with respect to police services will end in less than 2 years, should we enter into discussions with our other municipal partners in order to gain knowledge of their intentions before making any decisions?
3. Should we consider all available options while preserving the safety of our citizens and supporting the City's financial situation?

Other comments and suggestions.