

Dear Councillor Chorley:

I wanted to write to you about today's meeting because I found it somewhat disappointing.

I believe there were factual errors in the discussions today. For example, unless the documents sent to us were mistaken, the solar panel contract does not expire until September 17th 2035. If correct, that means it still has over 13 years to go, not the 8 years frequently quoted earlier today. This is important to the CFFM proposal because it was mentioned more than once today that this would be in conflict with our desire for a 10 year plus lease. Therefore, unless you decide to break the contract, a long lease to the CFFM will not be an issue. I would ask that you please bring this to the attention of the committee and correct the mis-information re. the solar contract.

I was also disappointed over the discussions about issuing an RFP. Although doing so makes complete sense, it is something that normally happens at the beginning of a process rather than mid-stream. There was a comment made about the Port Hope RFP related to George Hamilton School (which we also made a proposal on). What was not mentioned was that the process utterly failed because there were not enough proposals submitted to allow the municipality to make an informed choice. The RFP was eventually withdrawn and was supposed to be re-issued, but that still has not happened and as a result Port Hope still bears the responsibility and the costs of maintaining the property and the building.

The CFFM made enquiries about the arena before your sub-committee was formed. We waited patiently for the process to unfold, made a well thought out written proposal and followed that up with an in-person presentation and attendance at subsequent committee meetings. We have been mindful of explaining how our proposal meets with the cultural plan and other requirements set out in the process. It is thus slightly discouraging to hear a new RFP being discussed at this point, however, you may be assured that if that is the path chosen, the CFFM will reapply.

If the RFP contains all of the information provided to those who made proposals to date, including the desire to have at least some affordable housing, have a multi-use facility, continue to supply electrical power to the Curling Club, not overload the parking lot or negatively impact the neighbourhood with traffic, noise and on street parking; there may not be many takers. Our proposal fits the requirements like a glove. What's more, is that we have always had a strong desire to make the museum a major community hub, wherever it is finally located. Providing spaces for outside agency displays and rooms for meetings, learning, clubs and the like.

The CFFM would also work with other cultural organizations, be an employer, provide many volunteer opportunities, maintain and improve the property, honour the solar contract and the arrangement with the Jack Heenan Centre with respect to its electricity supply. We understand the critical need for affordable housing and would gladly share the property for that purpose. We offer you rent, not a share of profits which may or may not

materialize and we are looking to make a long term investment in, and commitment to, the community.

Our proposal would also save Cobourg the cost of maintaining the property, provide an income, and draw tourists which will have positive spin-off benefits to other businesses. We are looking for a long and renewable lease, but everything is negotiable. We would naturally have to weigh our investments in the building against the length of time we would be allowed to use it. The rent we would be willing to pay and the renovations carried out would likewise depend on how long we could reasonably expect to call this location our new home.

The CFFM is very much a going concern, in spite of currently being without a home. We feel very strongly that we can be a great attraction, and partner, for Cobourg. Whatever form the process takes moving forward, we at the CFFM look forward to working closely with you and the municipality to create a bigger and better museum which we believe will benefit everyone.

Cheers: Will Lambert