

Deputation to Town of Midland Council  
August 14, 2019

Last Thursday when I saw that the matter of the unauthorized encryption of Midland Police Service records was on tonight's agenda & then reading the report, I felt it extremely important that I come before you to voice my personal support, along with that of many others, of this administration's efforts to aggressively deal with this disturbing situation. Let me explain why.

Breach of contract, conspiracy, extortion, bad faith.... These are just a few of the words that have appeared recently on social media platforms & in the emails of councilor Bill Gordon when referring to his colleagues and in describing this encryption "situation". And while I should not be surprised that he does not single out anyone in particular for alleged impropriety, he nevertheless floats the "suggestions" of possible wrong doing & the "conceivability" of illegal activity on the part of the Town & the, and I quote, "familiar actors". Allegations all made with no basis, context, or supporting evidence yet insisting that it must be all revealed so that the public can make their own determination. This reckless behavior has simply been described to me as the simple "musings" of just one individual.

If you were to look at the City of Orillia's Facebook & Twitter feeds, you would see reams of news regarding the current RFP process happening now with respect to the revitalization & redevelopment of their downtown waterfront & the excitement it is generating. Looking at these platforms from Toronto, the internet tells us how the Mayor has gathered together local stakeholders, two levels of law enforcement and his provincial & federal political counterparts to sit down and work collaboratively on developing & implementing strategies to combat rising gun violence in the city to restore public safety.

What does the Internet say of Midland Ontario? It points us to those facebook comments that paints this municipality as one lead by corrupt officials enabled by an equally corrupt administration that partakes in potential criminal activity (extortion) and persecutes whistleblowers for trying to expose the nefarious intentions of the town's leadership.

Now indulge me for a moment while I present a hypothetical. Imagine yourself as a high-ranking executive at one of North America's headquarters, and you read this about a location where you have existing manufacturing facilities. What would you think? How about you're in retail development & you're looking at the communities you choose to serve with an eye to expansion & you read this stuff. What would you do?  
Think about that.

Make no mistake my friends, there are indeed victims of this intolerable mess, but it's not the 2 that some would have you believe. It is in fact the more than 17,000 residents of this community who suffer from what is being telegraphed. It is they who bear the branding of these "MUSINGS", perceived as helpless inhabitants of some dark backwater that is undoubtedly doomed. OBVIOUSLY, it must be true because the accusations & innuendo

emanate from a sitting member of the local government! After all, where is the pushback? Where indeed?

Words have consequences. We've unfortunately heard that a lot lately, but it is true. The damage that is being inflicted on this community right now hopefully is not irreparable, but it may become that way. We cannot turn our back on the tremendous progress that has been made in this town over the past few years. You cannot allow us to slip backwards – lose our momentum over something as pathetic as this. Extremely serious yes, yet pathetic because anyone who truly cared about the vitality & prosperity of this community along with those who live & work within it, would never, EVER put it in the position that they have & in ever so public a manner.

Not to put too fine a point on it, it's treasonous.

So I'm going to appeal to you my good councilors to align yourselves with a local special interest group. Not with one of the two usual local suspects no, I urge you to align yourself with a 3<sup>rd</sup> local special interest group that being the Town of Midland and it's aforementioned 17,000 plus souls who look to you to defend their honour and to advocate on their behalf. To make good on your pledge to work to the best of your abilities to create the best possible local environment, so that they may have the opportunity for the best possible future that can be imagined. Can you do that?

This public relations dumpster fire has smoldered for far too long & must be extinguished before it's too late. As an individual who has a vested interest in this particular file, I welcome & indeed applaud the recommendations in this report and urge you to take aggressive action by all means available to you, including the criminal justice system.

Demonstrate to the citizens of this community – and to the world – that Midland Ontario is not doomed. We are in fact now a vibrant, progressive municipality with strong values, guided by principles and an unwavering faith and belief in the rule of law.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Saltsman