



Troy Davey, charged with first-degree murder in the death of Cobourg Police officer Chris Garrett, is brought into a Cobourg court Thursday morning by OPP Detective Constable Tim Lefave.

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Davey preliminary hearing begins May 19

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COBOURG — The preliminary hearing for the man charged with first degree murder in the death of Cobourg Police officer Chris Garrett, will begin Thursday, May 19.

Troy Davey made a brief appearance in a Cobourg courtroom Thursday for a pre-trial hearing between Crown attorney David Thompson and defense lawyer William Trudell in front of Judge John Payne.

In the gallery were friends and members of Constable Garrett's family, and Mr. Davey's mother.

Following the pre-trial, which is held behind closed doors, Justice Payne stated both sides have mutually agreed about how the preliminary hearing will be conducted. Of the 16 witnesses who will be called to testify, only half will do so in front of a judge.

The preliminary hearing will begin Thursday, May 19, and con-

clude Tuesday, June 7.

"We accomplished a lot this morning," said Mr. Thompson, who noted the issue is progressing well in terms of scheduling.

"We have a spirit of co-operation here," said Mr. Trudell. "There is no animosity and I anticipate the preliminary hearing will go smoothly."

There will be a publication ban on evidence heard during the preliminary hearing.

Former CAO to work for Sioux Lookout

When asked at the time why council had taken this route, the Mayor said three council members could no longer work with the former CAO. The mayor claimed that the council members cited numerous complaints and calls from ratepayers in defense of their decision to end his contract 16 months prior to its expiry on Dec. 31, 2005. Some of these concerns related to lack of accessibility to council.

Unrest in the community was identified by Mr. Dewing as early as September, 2002. Mr. Dewing released a report to council then, where he acknowledged that some of the business practices that he had instituted had caused "some degree of angst with members of Council, Committees, staff and the public".

The decision to let Mr. Dewing go cost the township over \$169,000, including township legal costs. He has been paid in full.

— BOB OWEN

Former Cramahe Township CAO, Merlin Dewing, has landed a new job as CAO for the Municipality of Sioux Lookout in northern Ontario.

It was confirmed this Monday that Mr. Dewing, who was fired in September, 2004, will start his new position later this month. He was one of five candidates for the position.

Sioux Lookout is north of the Trans-Canada Highway and is accessed only by rail or air. It has a population of about 5,500, similar to Cramahe's.

In a recorded 3-2 vote last Sept. 4, council removed Mr. Dewing from his duties, ending his personal services contract effective immediately.



Resident wants reasons why CAO was fired

By Bob Owen
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It began as a criticism of comments made publicly by Cramahe Deputy Mayor Ray Kelly. But that's not all that's bothering Cramahe resident Frank Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins was at council on Feb. 15 to contest Mr. Kelly's version of the effects of Merlin Dewing's firing as township CAO.

According to Mr. Hawkins, council would have been better off to leave Mr. Dewing in his position and not extend his contract after December 2005. He estimates that would have cost taxpayers about \$99,000 instead of the \$161,083 paid out in the settlement which followed Mr. Dewing's firing September 4, 2004.

The deputy mayor argued that the township would get the money back that it had paid out in 16 months because no one was being hired to fill Mr. Dewing's position.

That wasn't good enough for Mr. Hawkins, who felt the Township would have been better off to let Mr. Dewing "sit on his butt instead of paying him for 19 months." He went further, criticizing Mr. Kelly for explaining his position in the paper.

Mr. Kelly responded that the township had already saved \$36,000 by not paying the former CAO for the past four months.

Mr. Hawkins' concerns have been brewing for awhile.

In a phone conversation last Sunday he expressed his unhappiness that the township had demoted road superintendents Jim Black and Brian Williams and hired someone to oversee the works department.

He's not sure why the township fired Mr. Dewing but he intends to find out. Mr. Hawkins plans to be at the March 1 council meeting, and he's going to ask each member of council why the CAO was fired. He expects they'll say nothing.

If their answers aren't good enough he plans to ask for information under the Freedom of Information Act. He wonders if the firing was related to the Colborne Creek development.

Mr. Hawkins is convinced the township shouldn't be in the development business. He asked last summer at a public meeting what the lot prices would be for the Colborne Creek development being managed by the township. He says they didn't know then but Mayor Lee Dekeyser assured him that the money would be recovered in taxes. He asked again last week at council and the lot price still hasn't been established. It's not enough to have "roundhouse" figures on servicing, in his opinion.

He's getting tired of the "childish carrying on," saying his taxes have risen by 50 per cent in five years, and "they're throwing it away."

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