

One way or the other: staff cuts to be settled

Midland council will determine the future of municipal staff who have been threatened by proposed staff cuts at a caucus meeting Monday.

Finance Committee chairman Richard Platt said yesterday "I hope it will be finalized Monday."

Platt explained "the intent of the exercise (of cutting approximately 10 town employees) is to slim down the municipal staff to keep the burden on the taxpayers within reason."

"We are trying to keep the new budget as close to 1981's as possible without jeopardizing the services provided," he said.

When asked about developments on the cutback edict Platt said "The situation still stands."

"I don't see why municipal staff should be exempt from the burden of reducing municipal spending," the Finance chairman concluded.

A total of 10 staff cuts have been recommended by various committees. Three firemen, one policeman, two office staff and four public works and engineering staff are slated for termination.

A budget meeting is scheduled for today, where council will discuss the municipal staff cuts.

Downer approves creation of 150 member association



Liz Downer

Liz Downer says the creation of the Ontario Business Improvement Area association will make it a whole lot easier for the province's 150 local BIA's to get the government's ear.

Downer will represent the Georgian Bay region - one of six in the province - along with Fritz Schuller of Collingwood.

There are 18 BIA's in the Georgian Bay region.

Downer, manager of the Midland BIA for about a year, was recently appointed to the new 12-member OBIA. The organization started up Wednesday with its first annual meeting in Toronto to draft and implement bylaws.

BIA's were created about 10 years ago in Toronto with the intent of improving local business districts and to take advantage of government main street revitalization plans. The Midland BIA started up five years ago.

Firemen ring alarm

The Midland Professional Firefighters Association maintains that the imminent layoffs of three firemen will present a danger for both the community and the firefighters themselves.

Harry Haworth, president of the local association, is one of three Midland firefighters - along with James Ironside and Tom Toole - who have been lined up for layoff by Midland Town Council as part of a personnel cutback program.

The association has taken out ads urging

public support against the move and providing the telephone numbers of council members to enable the public to air their views directly.

Though council hasn't yet served official layoff notices to the three firemen, Haworth says they're forthcoming.

He says the reduction will cut the full-time department staff to 10 people (plus 20 volunteers), which will mean only one firefighter will be on duty in each of 224 shifts during the year.

According to Haworth, another Ontario town made similar cuts in 1980 and a fireman suffered a

heart attack and died while on single duty. Following an ar-

bitration hearing, the town was forced to restore enough per-

sonnel so all shifts carried at least two firefighters.

Jobs can be saved

if firemen

take a pay

cut: Platt

Three Midland firemen will be laid off at the end of this month unless the fulltime town firemen as a group are willing to take a pay cut equal to the \$75,000, plus fringe benefits, now being paid through a year to three firemen, Councillor Richard Platt said Wednesday.

The town will also fire a policeman at the end of this month if it can get the needed approval from the Ontario Police Commission, the councillor said.

He estimated the total value of salaries and fringe benefits for three fulltime firemen to be around \$90,000., or about \$6,700 divided among all of the firemen.



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The following are excerpts from Midland By-law No. 77-13; a by-law to regulate the removal of snow within the municipality;

1. No person shall place snow from private property upon any public sidewalk, road or street, or upon any allowance for a road or street within the municipality.
2. No person shall pile, redistribute, or otherwise cause the accumulation of snow on the travelled portion of any road or street, including sidewalks, within the municipality, in such a manner as to obstruct traffic, or the view of traffic, or obstruct in any way the movement of snow-clearing equipment under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department.
3. The provision of this by-law shall not apply to Municipal Snow-Clearing Operations.

Michael P. Chapman,
By-law Enforcement Officer.

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