

Salary parity valid 'but execution flawed': councillor

From page 1

to hell," he said in open council.

"It's not a soap opera. I'm not trying to get pity. ... Don't feel sorry for me. I know this job," he told The Sun-Tribune.

In 2014 the mayor and councillors will receive another raise equivalent to the cost of living.

These increases will bring the mayor's salary to \$44,900 (2012) and \$48,900 (2013). It is currently \$42,148.

The six part-time councillors' salaries will go from their current \$27,729 to \$29,900 (2012) and \$32,900 (2013).

"They still will be behind in our comparative group," Mr. Emmerson said.

The average salary for councillors in the northern six grouping within York Region is \$33,828, according to the revised motion put forward by Councillor Hargrave. The average mayoral salary is \$64,194.

Each mayor in the region also receives about \$48,500 in salary from the region, plus benefits and expenses.

Councillors Hargrave, Clyde Smith, Richard Bartley and Phil Bannon voted in favour of the revised wage hikes. Councillors Susanne Hilton and Ken Ferdinands opposed the raises.

"I believe that the premise of trying to bring the salaries of this council closer to the range of salaries paid to our counterparts in municipalities adjacent to our boundaries is valid but the execution turned out to have a number of major flaws, one being the absence of an effective mechanism to fully vet the proposal," Mr. Ferdinands told Tuesday's meeting.

The councillor also noted the resolution inflicted "considerable damage to our collective credibility" and that council failed to explain the reasons why the initiative had merit.

Ms Hilton, who has been opposed to the process since the beginning stated: "we need more information than we have at this point".

"We need to have an assessment of our roles and responsibilities that helps to find the monetary value of this work in the broader marketplace, bearing in mind that public service is an important component. The public is not aware of what our roles and responsibilities are, nor what executive and management skills are required to fulfill our duties," she said.

Ms Hilton said she works about 25 to 30 hours a week as a councillor.

The Ward 4 councillor suggested the town



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Former mayor Sue Sherban called council's proposed pay hikes "nothing but greed".

should approach the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and other councils "with a proposal to develop guidelines that can assist us when we are deliberating compensation issues".

Also opposed to the wage increases was former mayor and councillor Sue Sherban.

"I call this nothing but greed," she said during the budget meeting.

Ms Sherban asked council to set aside the motion and form a community panel to review their remuneration.

Another former member of council saw things differently.

"I have been where you are today. It is not

part-time, it is 24/7. I support you, I thank you, good luck," said Wilf Morley.

Along with the wage hikes, the mayor and councillors receive an increase in their car allowances.

For the mayor, his goes from \$7,352.80 to \$8,000 this year and to \$8,500 where it will remain for 2014.

The councillors' car allowance moves from \$2,626 to \$3,500 this year and to \$4,000 in 2013, where it remains the same for 2014.

If they request one, councillors will receive an electronic device.

The increases are retroactive to Jan. 1.

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