



John Brown lawsuit settled

No details yet, amount said to be \$333,000

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OSHAWA -- A multimillion-dollar lawsuit against the City and several councillors is close to being settled, after council met behind closed doors last Thursday to vote on the matter.

The City was expected to release details this week, but officials said Monday that several signatures are still needed on the agreement. There was no indication when the information would be made public.

Former City Manager John Brown launched a lawsuit against the City of Oshawa and some of its councillors in 2006. Breach of contract and abuse of public office were two of the issues involved.

Mr. Brown believed that he was owed three years' salary as the result of an agreement made with former mayor Nancy Diamond.

Mr. Brown, who was city manager from 1993 to 2003, made a claim against the City, current councillors Brian Nicholson and Louise Parkes and former councillors Mike Nicholson and Cathy Clarke for \$4 million plus costs.

In the original claim, the four councillors were also targeted for an additional \$4 million plus costs.

Two separate council sources said this week the proposed settlement is for \$333,000, of which the City will pay out \$318,000 -- the rest has already been disbursed.

The City is also on the hook for \$44,000 in legal defence costs, about \$4,000 to complete the settlement and some other charges that have yet to be invoiced.

It was not clear whether an existing funding envelope would be used to cover the costs, or if the settlement will have a tax impact.

City staff declined to comment until the agreement is signed and an official announcement is made.

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