

REEVE' REPORT

PERIOD COVERED: January 24th 2008 – February 21, 2008

COUNTY ACTIVITY:

I attended the Health Committee held on February 13th 2008. The a preliminary budget was discussed and the business plan put forward. Of the approximately \$140 million a year County budget the Health Committee and its' components has allocated around 11% per annum. This portfolio includes Homes for the Aged, Paramedic Services and the Emergency Plan. The preliminary budgets put forward by the Miramachi Lodge, Bonnecher Manor and the Paramedic Service include some capital projects and new equipment purchases. Labor negotiations are being initiated with the staff of the Paramedic Service and with the Nursing staff at both Homes for the Aged.

I attended a Social Services Committee meeting on February 14th. This committee has responsibility for funding child care, for Ontario Works, Social Housing and for some aspects of the Ontario Disability funding. The preliminary budget discussions for each component total approximately 61% of the annual county budget. It has an interesting array of provincial funding arrangements.

On January 30th I attended the County Council meeting. The minutes for all county committee's and County Council are available on the County Website. Discussion was held on the issue of Valley Manor and the County is not willing to assist in solving their monetary concerns with an increased financial contribution, a position at this time I support. It also has decided not to assist in a political fashion, a position I do not support. I feel Valley Manor's finances will not improve given the operating costs have risen across the board for every business and public service in Ontario. A discussion was held on doctor recruitment was held and no decision was made from that non action I have prepared a motion which I think will assist the five recruitment initiatives across the County.

At this meeting the County passed their 10 year Public Works Capital Expenditure Plan although myself and Mayor Campbell of McNab-Braeside asked for a further period to examine the document for changes based on the previous round of input. I still support the concept – not the execution and time frames of the plan.

GREATER MADAWASKA ACTIVITY

A regular council meeting was held on January 24, 2008. I did not attend all committee meetings held earlier this month in February due to illness. All of council met with members of the community regarding the noise bylaw on February 10th, 2008. The comments from the public have been noted and will be considered while council considers the matter during the March Committee meetings and the Council Meeting of March 20th. I have arranged a meeting with Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority to discuss the acquisition of the section of the K & P from Tatty

Hill Road intersection to the Lanark County border and we will also discuss their source water testing program.

The County has not yet responded to our letter on their 10 year Capital Works Plan. Our letter to the County will be posted on the municipal website for review by the public.

Our Crown harvesting resolution has been circulated and comments are being made by our neighboring municipalities. I want to repeat this issue will not be settled over night. The Warden has responded on behalf of Renfrew County with a memo to all municipalities in the County. I will be responding to this shortly.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

On February 19th I attended a meeting of the Economic Development Committee and a presentation by Dave Lemkay from the BRAVO Task Force. This is a volunteer committee who have had success accessing broadband for pockets of Renfrew County. Mr. Lemkay and the Chair of Economic Development, Bruce Parker will be exchanging information in the future. There are some interesting developments which could assist Greater Madawaska in filling the service gaps in our municipality.

On February 04th I attended the Carnival breakfast at the DACA centre. It was quite good and I was amazed at the activities planned for the day long event. The enthusiasm of the people in the area is inspiring.

I was out of town for the Carnival this past weekend. It, by all reports was an beautiful day with a lot of good activities for children and their families.

I am looking forward to the meetings with Ministers and the Good Roads Convention next week in Toronto. This is always an excellent opportunity to gather new information. The briefs submitted by the municipality will be posted on the website after our return from Toronto.

I want to note the remuneration and expense statement by-law being discussed this evening and congratulate council for its' willingness to be frugal with the dollars on hand. Given the amount of travel necessary to conduct municipal business the amounts are very encouraging.

MEETINGS WITH GREATER MADAWASKA STAFF

I met with or spoke with the CAO on five occasions to discuss municipal business and to sign cheques and by-laws. I spoke to the Deputy Clerk with regards to severances and planning issues. I met with the Public Works Manager to review an equipment issue. We had continued discussions on the equipment procurement schedule and the life span of our existing equipment.

I also was involved in a telephone conference with Municipal Solicitor, Peter Mirsky and staff to discuss the Flying Club Road, the Power Line proposal for the Stones Lake area and other issues. On February 19th I sat in on meetings of the Strategic Planning Committee and also the managers meeting. At the managers meeting several issue of service delivery were discussed and some long term planning will need to be initiated and brought to council and the public for consultation and eventual action. A philosophical discussion was held about Recreation service delivery and also about municipal property maintenance. Solutions both long and short term are being considered and will be further discussed.

LATER THIS YEAR

As noted previously we will take delivery of our 2008 Pumper. Our scheduled review of all municipal policies and procedures as per our commitment to upgrading them every three years will soon commence. Our zoning by-law review is still being scheduled. Our capital acquisition plan is being revisited by the managers and it will be tweaked with updated timelines and acquisition schedules.

Respectfully Submitted

Peter R. Emon
Reeve