

REEVE' REPORT

PERIOD COVERED: February 21, 2008 - March 19, 2008

COUNTY ACTIVITY:

I attended the Health Committee held on March 12th 2008. The preliminary budget was discussed and the business plan put forward to the April 03rd budget workshop day. Labor negotiations continue 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 13th. As noted previously 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 were forwarded for discussion on April 3rd. This committee and it's components have a patchwork of provincial funding arrangements ranging from 80/20 to 50/50 to 100% for each part depending on the program. Social housing continues to be a challenge as the units are older and the repairs get more invasive.

On January February 28th 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 Crown land issue and the County's supposed long term efforts to negotiate \$5 per acre from the province. When I asked five questions the response was to suggest our previous reeves had not made the info available and they would forward the info to me. What they failed to answer was questions about motions and sharing the revenue.

The avoidance was deliberate and the effort to slag the previous reeve's was deliberate so as to make me concentrate on those issues. I have rev'd the info provided. It shows several presentations made to prov'l members over the years. Well written but flawed. There are no motions from local councils, or from county council, no report from staff developing the proposal, and most importantly no suggestion or plan to share the revenue with local municipality. The presentations highlight the county need.

The five questions I asked ad not answered were:

- i. Why are they negotiating with MR right now?
- ii. When did they consult with local municipalities?
- iii. What other info is there to share with us?
- iv. Will there be consultation going forward with local municipalities?
- v. How will the funds be dispersed to local municipalities?

As I feel the questions will be avoided and it is in our best interest to provide solutions I have prepared a motion for consideration tonight. Otherwise we may see no cash in the future. There does not seem to be enthusiasm for our township's questions on this issue

GREATER MADAWASKA ACTIVITY

A regular council meeting was held on February 21st, 2008. I attended nearly all committee meetings held earlier this month in February. The comments from the public meeting on February 10, 2008 have been noted and will be considered while council considers the matter during the Council Meeting of March 20th.

The County has 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. We will respond to their current letter I am concerned with the delay of County Rd 71 and the slow construction schedule for CR 34.

Our Crown harvesting resolution has been circulated and comments are being made by our neighboring municipalities and 60 plus municipalities in the Province of Ontario. 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. Our response went out and has had favorable comment from local municipalities.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

At Good Roads Councilor Mercer, myself and CAO John Baird met with the Tourism Minister and the Minister of Fitness to discuss funding for the website and trails respectively. We also discussed the application for the Festival of Senses. At the provincial receptions I had the opportunity to discuss with Minister of Natural Resources Donna Cansfield the Crown Land issue.

I also had the opportunity to discuss with Minister of Transportation Jim Bradley's assistant the issue as well. In both discussions our brief was presented to them for review. John Baird and myself met with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff to discuss some issues which have arisen.

The sessions on Broadband, on new road standards were educational. I attended the session on Rural Ontario and made some new contacts.

Councilor Mercer, myself and Mr. Baird met with Hydro One to discuss their shore line policy and to discuss the upcoming information meeting to be held in June.

I also had dinner with MPP John Yakabuski and with Reeve Stack of Arnprior, Reeve Green of Renfrew, Mayor Hidlebrandt of Madawaska Valley and Mayor Mintha of Bonnechere Valley. Some very interesting discussions were generated.

On the Sunday prior to the Good Roads Conference starting I attended a very good educational session put on by AMO. Mayor Terry Gibeau of Arnprior and I sat together and had numerous discussions on issues of mutual interest.

MEETINGS WITH GREATER MADAWASKA STAFF

I met with or spoke with the CAO on seven 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 and recreation issues. I met with the Public Works Manager to review an equipment issue.

On March 3rd I met with Calabogie MotorSports to discuss the issue of the second berm on March 03, 2008 and to discuss the issue of build out of infrastructure.

On March 05, 2008 I met with COGECO cable for an interview on the Crown Land issue.

On March 12, 2008 I met with logging executives to discuss the issue of logging in Renfrew County and the need to maximize the industry.

On March 18th, Councilor Pratt, myself and Mr. Baird met with staff of Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority to discuss purchase of the K and P line from Tatty Hill Rd intersection through to the Lanark County border. The discussion went well.

LATER THIS YEAR

As noted previously we will take delivery of our 2008 Pumper in May 2008 the assembly is on schedule. 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