

Mayor's report to Council

Jan 9, 2015

Good afternoon.

On Dec 16th I attended the inaugural meeting of County Council. The municipal representatives were sworn in to office by Jim Hutton, the County CAO. Warden Emon was sworn in by Justice Barry Morin who at one time served as County Warden. Five of the County Mayors from the larger municipalities offered their congratulations and best wishes to the new County Council. Of interest is the addressing of members of County Council as Councilors and not as Reeves or Mayors. This was done to avoid confusion and to reinforce that you are there primarily to act as a County Councilor. The City of Pembroke will consider rejoining County. Seating in County Council chambers was changed to have a mix of experienced Councilors next to inexperienced Councilors.

Council passed the assignments to the committee structure bylaw and I am serving on Property and Development and on Social Services. Both these Committees meet next Tuesday, Jan 13th.

The County meetings schedule is attached and is also available on the County website.

On Dec 17th I attended the first of a two day orientation for the new Council. This was held at Miramichi lodge in Pembroke and the following day at Bonnecher manor in Renfrew. The agendas for both days are attached for your perusal.

Observations:

I was somewhat surprised at the magnitude of the County operation, especially in social services. I was impressed by the competence of the department heads and by the presentations they delivered and their ability to answer any and all questions. The orientation sessions were very well organized and prepared and pretty well stuck to schedule. I came away with the sense that County staff will bend over backwards to provide assistance to the member Municipalities.

I will forward agendas of all meetings to each of you when I receive them. This will save you the bother of looking for them online and will let you know the subject matter in case you have any comment or questions.