

Mayor's report to Council

Sept 11th, 2015

Good afternoon,

A while ago I made the decision to attend a Council meeting in as many of our other municipalities as possible for the main purpose of seeing others in action and comparing our meeting procedures with those of our peers.

Since my last report to Council I have attended a July 15th meeting of Deep River Council and have the following observations which I shared with Mayor Lougheed and which she shared with her Council:

1. I could detect no difference in sound from Councillors whether they used their microphones or not.
2. A microphone at the delegation table would be an asset as the delegators are presenting to Council and have their backs to the public gallery.
3. There was no hesitation from any member to speak to an issue.
4. There was at times a healthy divergence of opinion.
5. You did a good job of maintaining order.
6. The length of the meeting was taking a toll on the civility and attentiveness of some.
7. The new arrangement of the chambers is better than the old.
8. All seemed to be well prepared for the meeting.
9. Your procedural bylaw re recorded votes tends to give credence to the false public impression that the Head of Council carries a tie breaking vote by voting last.
10. And last but not least, I'm really glad we have no lane ways.

The Councilors read the motions and not the chair.

There is a table with microphone for delegations to use.

I attended a July 22nd meeting of Laurentian Hills Council and observed the following:

1. The CAO and the Treasurer sit at the Council table.
2. The chair reads all motions.
3. There is a podium for delegations to use.
4. There is a lot of cross table chatter that does not go through the chair.

On July 21st I attended a meeting of the DRDHF governance committee.

On July 22nd I attended a special meeting of the County Development and Property committee followed by a special meeting of County Council. These meetings were held to deal with issues regarding the construction of the new OPP building in Renfrew. The bids came in quite higher than anticipated so the decision was made to rework the drawings and tender documents and rebid the job. Those tenders will be opened on Sept 22nd. County does not normally meet in July.

On July 1st I attended our Canada Day celebrations and acted as MC for that occasion. The day was a tremendous success and I thank again all those volunteers who helped make this possible.

On July 20th I attended a meeting of the NRERU board and you have made a decision on our participation in that agreement.

I attended County meetings of Development and Property, Social Services, and County Council in August.

On Sept 9th I attended a County Development and Property meeting during which we had a very long and very detailed closed meeting update on the negotiations with CP rail for the acquisition of the rail corridor. I, of course, can not reveal any of those details but I can tell you that progress is being made and the Development and Property committee will be recommending to County Council the acceptance of the resolution that was contained in the D&P report to engage legal services to formalize an agreement with CP rail.

I normally don't include any details of the committee reports because I expect that you have read them, however, the recommendation to County Council re CP rail was worthy of mention.

On Sept 10th I attended a meeting of the County Social Services committee.

That concludes my report to Council.