

REEVE'S COMMENTS DEC. 13/10

1. It is always a pleasure for me to welcome guests in our Council chamber in addition to our media reps present.
2. Beginning this new term of Council, our residents are expecting a steady hand in our deliberations - with concrete results. The swearing in exercise of Dec. 1/10, was the beginning of new obligations for all who sit at the Augusta Council table.
3. This evening, I trust Council will approve the assignment of responsibilities outlined in the Committee resolution on our agenda. All of these tasks bring challenges & rewards. I readily assure Council & staff that I am available at any time to assist in any manner needed. Likewise, my obligation to the public is to continue my well established practice of having an open door office every Friday afternoon. I am also prepared to meet with any constituent at any other convenient time, which can be arranged upon appointment with the municipal office.
4. On Sat. last, our Fire Chief Lorne Dougherty officially retired after serving more than 44 years of exceptional service to the residents of Augusta Township. Thanks again Chief Lorne!! Our newly elected Fire Chief Rob BOWMAN will be officially appointed with the passing of the appropriate by-law this evening. We are looking forward to his leadership of the Augusta Fire Dept. following the footsteps of previous Chiefs. Deputy Cameron Morehouse, has also been elected to new responsibilities. Congratulations & thanks to each of you for accepting these onerous tasks.
5. Continued dialogue & input from our PW Mgr. Kevin Hart, should assist Council in addressing the Tanney Drain maintenance issue. Also, a detailed report for the 4th. Conc. drainage project should be forthcoming from Mr. Hart. & is expected to be before Council early in 2011.
6. The issue of the request from the Ministry of Culture & Tourism, seeking a marine archeological study to be done on the South Nation Municipal Drain in Augusta Township prior to commencing the maintenance work, needs the attention of this Council. My personal view is this is a ridiculously unnecessary demand & Council should respond to the Ministry with a very simple solution - if you expect that study to be undertaken - You pay all the costs - which are estimated to be in the \$30,000 plus range. And by the way the urgency for maintenance is NOW, we need to place a timeline on the Ministry for a reply.
7. A recent meeting in Tor. with representatives from Hydro-One, I was joined by Mayor Pickard from the Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley. Our mission was to serve notice of the public safety concerns relating to the proximity of the Hydro poles to the travelled portion of the Second Con. Road. We are still awaiting their response as to the options being considered. On the subject of stabilizing a further 10 Hydro poles along the shoulder of the 2nd. Conc. in Augusta, I was accompanied by Dep. Banning, PW Mgr. Hart, our engineering consultant, the contractor's project supervisor during an on site meeting with the local Hydro Mgr. It is now Council's decision on how best to proceed with the request by Hydro to undertake remedial work at our expense.

8. Many volunteers are returning to offer their knowledge on several Township committees. Several new members are willing to serve at the committee level ; I thank each of them & applaud their interests.
9. I sincerely appreciate the support of Augusta Council for their encouragement during my successful bid to become the new Warden of LeedsGrenville. I pledge to work hard on behalf of the Counties & promote Augusta's interests when appropriate.
10. Only last week Augusta Fire Dept. took ownership of the new Rescue Truck which is being based in the North Augusta Fire Hall. We thank all of those firefighters who were involved in the selection of the equipment on board. Council trusts this vehicle, which was budgeted for in 2010, will serve our residents for many years to come.
11. The issue of garbage dumping along Augusta roads, has risen its ugly head again. This recent case has been dealt with in Court & an appropriate fine imposed. We will prosecute every similar case which is supported by the necessary evidence, in an effort to curtail this nonsense. Again, we are seeking the support of Augusta residents to assist Council & staff in identifying the culprits & reporting this foolish behaviour.
12. On a LIGHTER note, it is great to hear the compliments relating to our new street light which was recently installed at the County Rd. 18 & 26 intersection. My recommendation to Council is the need to budget atleast one light per year at those busy intersections requiring better identification.
13. Since Council does not have another regular scheduled meeting this month, I will take this opportunity to wish ALL a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year/

Respectively,
Mel, Reeve.