

REEVE'S OPENING REMARKS FEBRUARY 11, 2008

1. It is a distinct privilege for myself & Council to hold this historic Regular Council meeting in North Augusta. To the best of my knowledge this is the first opportunity this Council has taken to actively bring the current business of the municipality to your community. We sincerely appreciate the invitation and experience. Your attendance is very important to Council as is the presence of the press – Including the Recorder & Times, Prescott Journal and EMC.
2. Since our January /08 Council meeting, a number of interesting meetings and issues have occurred.
 - a) Councillor Banning, Pakeman and myself attended an OFA sponsored meeting in Spencerville re: Planning. Our municipality intends to address the update of Augusta's Official Plan and accompanying Zoning By-law; and our staff and members of Council will be very involved in this public process and report on the progress.
 - b) Our CAO Mr. Bennett and myself have had several meetings with the M.P.A.C. reps who are responsible for the assessment role and property valuation. It is my belief that this rapport will give our Township better cooperation on assessment issues.
 - c) No doubt you are aware of my role as the Counties rep on the Health Unit. Mr. Kinsella, who is the other Counties rep, and myself continue to put forward unequivocally the Counties position as it relates to the 5% cap on their budget. The Health Unit Budget discussions continue. Meanwhile our Township will be making representation at the ROMA conference in Toronto at the end of February, regarding Health Unit funding.
 - d) I was invited to a meeting of the Brockville Kiwanis Club on Jan 17th to present my views on Volunteering in Augusta. Simply put, my position is that volunteers in our municipality are PRICELESS!!
 - e) On Jan 29th our Council held a joint meeting with the entire Elizabethtown-Kitley Council. This 2hr session covered many topics of mutual concern such as boundary roads, recreation, fire services, development fees, and Boundary 2020 regarding school closures. I believe this was a worthwhile exercise and anticipate further co-operation and exchange of views.
Incidentally Augusta Council will be meeting with Edwardsburgh/Cardinal Council on Wed Feb 13th, to expand our contacts and follow-ups on previous meetings.
 - f) Your Council held a preliminary budget meeting last Monday. Finals figures for 2007 are not complete as yet, although I am optimistic the results will be positive. I would add however, that staff and Council will be challenged to control costs particularly as they relate to our roads

and the assessment of the current roads status as outlined in our Roads study. That draft study has been presented to Council however the engineering firm will speak to Council shortly with the final version of the study and subsequent recommendations.

- g) On Mon Feb 18th the second stage of budget discussion will take place in the Council chambers at Maynard.
3. Last Thursday evening, your Council met with concerned citizens from the Domville area regarding the future of the recreation facilities in that area. Staff is assisting Council in consulting with the area residents as to the disposition of a parcel of property in the original Kelso Subdivision which was designated as parkland. Further to their input, staff is investigating all possibilities and will be relaying our findings to all concerned.
 4. In view of the shocking increase costs of supplies (particularly oil-based products) and the impact it is having on the maintenance of roads, the County Engineer, Les Shepherd has agreed to appear at a convenient Township Committee Meeting, to explain the Counties roads system and upkeep program. As we have several kms of county roads, which run through Augusta, I am looking forward to his appearance at our meeting.
 5. The Broadband initiative in Leeds and Grenville is continuing. I expect an improvement on high speed internet service to be available in Augusta. Mr. Brian Huels, the Counties MIS Manager has agreed to appear before Augusta Council to discuss this effort and answer our questions. As soon as the contracts are signed we can arrange his attendance. We will keep the public informed.
 6. Augusta Council has received the support of UCLG when addressing the MTO in Toronto at the Ontario Good Roads Convention. Councillors Banning, Swan and myself will speak to the Minister regarding our request for an interchange at the Blue Church Road and 401. It is our contention that a great deal of traffic would be diverted from County Road 15 and that this proposal would be a win win for residents of our township.
 7. Subsequently, I was able to further Augusta's request to the UCLG to examine what improvements are necessary on County Road 26 in the area of the Maynard Landfill Site. Such improvements as a left turn lane, new signage and extended speed zone will be investigated.
 8. The suggestion to Council is for our staff to pursue the request of a report and costs relating to streetlights in North Augusta plus intersections such as 26 & 18. If not exorbitant, these improvements should be included in the 2008 budget.

9. Compliments to our office staff for supporting Council on many meetings we have undertaken this past month. Also our roads crew for the diligent manner in which they are keeping up with the challenges of this winter. Thank-you to all.
10. Mrs. Joan Hodge, our trustee from the UCDSB has emailed the township indicating she is unable to attend tonight's meeting. She also phoned me with the same response. It seems to me that Council should seek a public meeting with the UCDSB at a mutually acceptable time and location, in order to support Councillor Swan's position on the ARC Committee as well as explain the reasons behind our opposition to school closures in Augusta and the impact such a decision would have on our township.
11. For you information, our staff has introduced a new debit service in the office at Maynard. Our staff will now accept your debit card to pay for municipal services. The cost to the Township is minimal however the cost of accepting VISA or Mastercard, and the fees associated with those cards, are too expensive for the municipality to absorb at this time.

Supplementary Comments - February 11, 2008

1. Special recognition of the Internet News Service being reported this evening by Mr. & Mrs. Elliott from BrockNews.ca website. Incidentally, these folks reside in Augusta and we wish them well in their endeavour.
2. As previously reported, our Township Roads Superintendent has been instrumental in establishing an Augusta Health & Safety Committee for all employees. John Simcock has been directing this venture and developed a Health & Safety manual. The support of all employees is crucial to the success of this program and I am encouraged by their participation. It boys well for the safety of staff and subsequently our organization and residents.
3. The Township office recently received notification from the Meteorological Service of Canada that a new weather radio service will be installed along the seaway this summer. This is a free service with access to weather reports 24/7 for all of our residents. The broadcast is on VHF and available on many types of radios and will be especially important in Emergency situations. It is expected this service will be available in May 08 at which time council may have further remarks.
4. For the past several months, our Township has benefited from the Co-op student project in co-operation with the SGDHS and teacher Mrs. Jill Montgomery. This student, Melissa Hughes, has worked directly under the guidance of Mrs. Kelly Shipclark in our Maynard office and this has proven to

be a very successful undertaking. As this semester is now complete, we thank Melissa for her interest in our municipality and Kelly for her supervision. Congratulations to both of you. I believe our CAO, with the encouragement of Council; is looking forward to continuing this opportunity as a joint effort with South Grenville High School.