

### **Reeve's Comments for January 14, 2008**

1. Firstly, welcome to council, staff, public gallery and especially members of the press. Happy New Year to all at our 1<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting of 2008. As busy as 2007 was for each of us, we will be facing new challenges in 2008 and I am sure this Council is up to the task, supported by staff and volunteers alike and we thank each of you for that.
2. The whole school issue in Augusta as the Boundary 20/20 discussions take place involves many aspects of life and the future of Augusta. Councillor Swan is doing an excellent job of attending the meetings, seeking info and having impact on the proceedings and we thank her for that. Because of the major impact that these proposed changes will subject many of our residents too, our children and future development in Augusta, it is my recommendation Council pass a resolution directed to the UCDSB opposing the timetable, methodology and requesting a report confirming savings to be generated by this radical proposal.
3. The UCLG has passed a resolution requesting the Health Unit to keep any 2008 municipal levy within the 5% cap. It is my belief that our Council should direct a similar resolution to the Health Unit with a copy directed to the UCLG
4. As noted in a resolution prepared for this meeting, following discussions at our Committee of the Whole meeting on January 7, the 2008 version of standing and ad-hoc committees have been established and will be confirmed with Council's approval. A number of citizens have come forward to offer their energy and ideas to improve our municipality and we thank them for that.
5. Further to the Committee list is the expected update to the Augusta OP and the accompanying zoning by-law. A number of volunteers have agreed to sit on this ad hoc committee to have input into Augusta planning future. Additionally I am recommending to Council that we immediately request staff to prepare an RFP for planning services and the updating of the OP and zoning by law.
6. Letters have been sent to residents in the Domville subdivision as well as Kemp subdivision regarding the future of the recreation facilities in those areas. I expect from the feedback received so far, that our CAO will recommend Council hold a public meeting to receive input from each community and I concur.
7. Since the arrival of our Road Superintendent., Mr. Simcock has been very busy – firstly the enormous snowfall, next the thaw and in between, has developed in concert with staff, a new safety Committee of inside and outside employees. This is vitally important and I am sure very much

supported by WSIB. The safety and health of all our staff is likewise very important to me and I support this endeavor.

8. This afternoon I had the opportunity of attending a pre-budget meeting in Cornwall which was hosted by the Ontario Minister of Finance, Mr. Dwight Duncan. It was an experience to express our concerns re the lack of Provincial support for municipal infrastructure particularly as it relates to roads, bridges and municipal buildings. Augusta Council is sending Councillors Banning and Swan to Toronto to the ROMA – Good Roads Conference. I will also be present representing Augusta with the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville team. A number of sessions with several ministries are being promoted and we will keep you posted on further details.
9. For the information of staff and the public, I would like to explain my remuneration at the UCLG. As per my statement issued by UCLG, the monies which I have received in total for the year 2007 amount to \$20,655.24. The approved by-law will permit me to receive \$20,500.00 for the year 2008. Not only is this less than I received in 2007, but is contrary to any newspaper report suggesting a 400% increase. I am releasing these numbers so the ratepayers of Augusta know the facts.
10. The new committee structure at UCLG is now operational with a few hiccups as we all adjust to the magnitude of the agenda and the subjects to be included. Our neighbour Mayor Pickard of Elizabethtown-Kitley Township is now the new Warden, Mayor Larry Dishaw the 2008 Chair of UCLG Admin & Finance and yours truly as the 2008 Chair of Public Works. Alongside the remaining 7 members of Counties, I believe we have an excellent team working together.