

Mayor's Message

Hello residents and taxpayers. It's been 5 weeks since your new council completed the swearing-in ceremony. Thank you to all of those who attended. It was much appreciated and meant a lot to all of us. Since then, we have been very busy having our Regular Council and Planning meetings.

We also spent a full day of training on a course entitled a Council Members Guide to Success held in the Roseneath Fire training room. We learned the responsibilities the province has allocated to Municipal governments, both Lower Tier (townships and small towns) and Upper Tier (County and Regions). These responsibilities mandated by the province are designed to support provincial policies and procedures.

We learned the responsibilities of elected officials and how they differ from staff, hired by the municipality. The role of a council is to represent the public, the best interests of the municipality and determine the services to be provided, and ensure the decisions of Council are being followed by staff and the services are effective.

The CAO is hired by Council and is the senior person on staff. She or he is the only person that reports to council. The CAO's responsibility is to implement the decisions of the council through staff.

By statutory law, all municipalities must appoint a Clerk, Treasurer, Chief Building Official, and Fire Chief.

We also learned that the two most important responsibilities and documents are the annual budget and the Procedural Bylaw, which is used by Council and all other boards and committees to ensure meetings are controlled and legally held.

Council also spent a full day with senior staff on a road tour where we visited all of the buildings, parks, and cemeteries, as well as many roads and bridges connecting our communities. This road tour will be of great benefit to council, during budget deliberations scheduled for the new year.

Just for your information, the replacement value of the above-mentioned is \$407 Million. So that's what your council manages for you.

Finally, both Council and staff appreciate those who took the time to send in their comments and complaints through the township website. Staff report an update in submissions since the subject was brought to your attention in my previous column.

The Council "Meet and Greet" that was held on Thursday, December 8th from 2:30 to 4:00 at the Roseneath, Alnwick Civic Center was a success. Thank you to everyone that attended.

On behalf of Council and Staff, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Stay safe John