

Mayor's report to Council

April 10, 2015

Good afternoon,

Since my last report to Council I have chaired the public strategic planning meeting held here on Saturday, March 28th attended by five people from HCM and Mayor Jed Rienwald and a five member contingent of the North Renfrew United Landowners Association

On Wednesday, April 1st, I attended the joint Councils tour of Des Joachims generating station. From HCM there were three Council members, three staff members, and two business people and one Councilor spouse. Amy Joyce, the executive director of the Deep river and District hospital foundation attended. There was no representation from Laurentian Hills, Rapides Des Joachims and Deep River. The tour lasted over two hours and for many it was their first time in the plant. Our thanks to Alison Bradley, the production manager at Des Joachims, for an excellent tour of the facility.

On Thursday April 2nd I attended a North Renfrew Emergency rescue unit board meeting at Laurentian Hills attended by fire chiefs Doug Tennant and Kevin Waito, CAO Rick Mcgee, treasurer Chris Carroll (part time), Bruce Boucher and recording secretary Cindy Anaka from Laurentian Hills. The meeting was chaired by Chief Tennant. We reviewed the proposed new agreement and suggested changes which will be incorporated in a new draft to be presented to the respective Councils for approval. Chiefs Tenant and Waito are to bring back to the board a revision for item 18. We reviewed the financial statements with Chris Carroll and noted the absence of any reserve fund for the replacement of the unit. If we were to opt out of the agreement, neither Laurentian Hills nor Deep River would respond to any calls on highway 17 in our Municipality. The chiefs expressed a reluctance to respond in our area now because of the staffing stresses it places on their departments and the travel time to return to their own jurisdictions if the need arose. Chief Waito described some equipment changes that should be done this year that amount to about \$22k to \$24k. This would pretty well deplete the capital account. Legislation exists now that requires a blocker truck to provide personnel protection at the scene. The respective departments now bill directly for the blocker truck outside of the rescue unit financials and I indicated that this methodology hid the true cost of rescue unit responses and should really show as a compensated expense for the unit.

This morning I attended a meeting of the NRERU board to review the revised item 18. This never happened. There was discussion about the agreement in general and I indicated that HCM would not pay any further funds without a complete future costing estimate to the end of the agreement. I prepared and moved a motion for the board to direct the Chiefs to prepare a best estimate of future financials to the end of the agreement and this motion was passed.

It is my opinion that the board is dysfunctional in its present form, the agreement is in desperate need of rewriting and future costing is an unknown.

It is my recommendation to this Council that we hold a special meeting of Council with due notice to deal with the agreement's deficiencies and determine a list of questions that need to be answered before we decide our future involvement in this joint venture.

That completes this report to Council.

Thank you.