

My input as originally promised to you by the deadline requested.

Thanks,

Tony

First of all, I am running for office out of a sense of civic duty. I grew up in the Northern Townships and have a personal attachment to the area. I have a strong business background in business planning, budgeting, labour relations, teamwork and leadership. I am highly organized, like to get things done, and strive to make informed decisions.

My responses to your questions are somewhat generic, however they hopefully give you some insight to my approach.

1. What is the single most important issue facing Council over the next four years ? Why ?

Essentially I would like to see an overall vision and strategic direction for our community in terms of what do we want it to be as a place to live, work and visit. Tied to this are all aspects of what is important to the ratepayers in terms of Health Care (Family Health Teams, Clinics, Ambulance), Roads, Environment, Forest Management, Waste Management, Development, Business Development etc. The biggest challenge is always having the right mix of services, delivered in a common sense method, by municipal leaders (Council) making solid informed decisions, using a tax base that is fair and affordable.

2. Over 95% of (AH) municipal tax revenue comes from residential properties. Over 60% of residential properties are owned by seasonal residents. How will you reach out to these taxpayers to ensure that their needs are given significant consideration and what specific programs would you support from your existing understanding of such needs ?

This comes down to good communication and collaboration between the Association and the Council. I expect there are a number of ways to do it, depending on the issue and circumstance, the liaison would be through meetings, one on one, email, telephone or otherwise. Participation is the key of course.

I would like to have a better understanding of the SCRA's views on issues (needs, wants, etc) prior to being able to constructively comment on a specific program.

3. What are possible sources of additional operating revenue ? Is it necessary to pursue these aggressively, (e.g. no permits required and/or discounted service costs for potential new businesses), or should Council concentrate on providing best value per dollar to existing taxpayers and accept 'incremental' growth ?

I definitely do not believe the approach is all one way or the other. First of all, there will never be all the money available that any Federal, Provincial or Municipal Govt would love to have to operate it is not realistic and will never happen. We need to encourage economic development in our area, but in a way that is sustainable to our environment.

4. What value do you place on the input and expertise provided by lake area associations ? In what ways do you see lake associations working together with Council ?

The Associations should provide constructive valuable input to the Council in areas such as roads, environment/waste management, health care (Family Health Teams, Clinics, Ambulance), Fire Protection, Libraries, development, economic/business development and community activities such as recreation. The Council and the Association would collaborate when either party worked on an issue of significant importance to the other.

5. AH and NF, (and potentially other neighbouring Townships), have significant duplication of effort that could be transformed with further consolidation of services for the benefit of taxpayers in both Townships. Do you support consolidated services ? Less ? More ? New Areas ?

To be fair, I would require a much better understanding of the operational details around our services prior to making an informed comment on potential for consolidation.

6. What is your view of 'lake plans' that are approved by members of lake associations and how do you see them fitting in with the Official Plan and Zoning by-laws ? What planning strategies do you think would be effective in helping to reconcile conflict between economic activities and the natural environment ? If elected, how would you demonstrate a commitment to sustainability ?

I have not been involved in any 'lake plans', and would need to know more to constructively comment.

With respect to economic activities and development, we need to ensure that they are managed in a sustainable method. All parties need to be at the table to work through any development proposals, however the bottom line should focus on ensuring we have managed the environment properly and made good decisions for the future generations.

7. Is it possible to achieve a better balance between regulation and enforcement ? (i.e. the municipality has an Official Plan and supporting by-laws, but can only afford part-time building inspection and by-law enforcement).

I believe that the right balance between regulation and enforcement is in the beholders eye, so it varies dramatically between ratepayers and is also based on an individual's personality and biases. Obviously we all should want our OP and by-laws followed per their intent. Every individual in this community has a role to play in by-law enforcement by raising issues of concern (e.g. they see a problem or know of one) in an appropriate method. If we all do our part by complying and coaching our neighbours and friends to, it will reduce the cost strain for this service. If part time Building inspection can visit the projects as required, then that should be fine. Also, I don't support full time by-law 'enforcement' at this stage.

8. The timeliness and detail reported from municipal meetings and about programs, (especially via the township website), are below what is available in many other jurisdictions. Should the municipality be more open and proactive in reporting its operations ? If Yes, What areas ? How ?

First of all, any municipality should be open and proactive in reporting its operations. I am not judging how well our current administration is doing, as I personally have not experienced any issues. Each ratepayer/citizen and the Municipality all have a role to play to ensuring good two way communication.