



GOOD MORNING AND THANK YOU FOR COMING. TODAY A NEW COUNCIL ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF MELANCTHON WAS SWORN IN TO LEAD AND MANAGE THE TOWNSHIP. I AM HONORED TO HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO LEAD THE TEAM AS MAYOR. I AM PLEASED TO SEE JANICE ELLIOTT AND DARREN WHITE AT THE TABLE. SELFISHLY THEIR ELECTION VALIDATES THE DECISION OF THE FORMER COUNCIL TO APPOINT THEM. HOWEVER, THEIR MARGIN OF VICTORY IS A TESTAMENT TO THEIR HARD WORK IN THE CAMPAIGN AND SHOULD GIVE THEM THE CONFIDENCE TO MOVE FORWARD AND FULFIL THE MANDATE WE ALL HAVE BEEN GIVEN. JOHN CROWE IS A VERY WELCOME AND CAPABLE MEMBER WHO HAS ALWAYS HAD THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE TOWNSHIP AT HEART. HE WORKS DILIGENTLY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MELANCTHON. NINCI MALEK IS OUR NEWEST MEMBER. SHE WAS SUCCESSFUL OVER THREE OTHER ASPIRING COUNCILLORS THAT PUT THEIR NAMES FORWARD. WE WELCOME NINCI AND WILL DO OUR BEST TO MAKE THE LEARNING CURVE AS SHORT AS POSSIBLE. WE WILL HAVE OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US BUT I AM CONFIDENT WE ARE UP TO THE CHALLENGE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THIS FINE GROUP OF PEOPLE.

DURING THE CAMPAIGN EACH COUNCILLOR HAS PUT FORTH THEIR VIEWS FOR THE TOWNSHIP. I'M SURE WE WILL HAVE VERY INTERESTING AND FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS. ALL I ASK IS THAT WE RESPECT THE OTHER'S POINT OF VIEW AND DO NOT TAKE THINGS OR MAKE THINGS PERSONAL. REMEMBER EACH PERSON ONLY HAS ONE VOTE. IF YOU FEEL STRONG IN YOUR VIEW AND WANT THE RECORDS TO REFLECT YOUR POSITION THEN PLEASE ASK FOR A RECORDED VOTE. IF YOUR SIDE DOES NOT PREVAIL, THEN YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO FILE A MINORITY REPORT THAT WILL OUTLINE IN DETAIL YOUR OPPOSITION TO THE ISSUE AND BE FOREVER ON THE RECORDS. ONCE THE VOTE IS TAKEN IT IS TIME TO MOVE ON. IT IS A MAJORITY THAT PREVAILS; WE DO NOT NEED TO BE UNANIMOUS.

THE TWO LAWS THAT DICTATE HOW MEETINGS ARE CONDUCTED ARE THE MUNICIPAL ACT AND BILL 130, REFERRED TO AS "THE SUNSHINE LAW", DEALING WITH OPENESS AND TRANSPARENCY. WE WILL ADHERE TO THEM AND BE VERY OPEN AND TRANSPARENT. HOWEVER, NEITHER OF THESE ACTS PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING. THERE IS A DISTINCTION BETWEEN A CITIZEN'S

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RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE AND HIS OR HER RIGHT TO OBSERVE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN PROGRESS.

SECTION 239 OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT SETS OUT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A PUBLIC MEETING.

WHILE MANY JURISDICTIONS HAVE ELIMINATED PUBLIC QUESTION PERIODS IN THEIR MEETINGS, LAST YEAR YOUR COUNCIL DOUBLED THE TIME FOR PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD. IT IS MY DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THAT. HOWEVER, THE HANDLING OF SOME QUESTIONS MAY BE REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE STAFF OR PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT PERSON FOR ANSWERS OR RECOMENDATIONS. THE QUESTION TOPIC MAY BE OUT OF THE SCOPE OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE COUNCIL AND COUNCIL WILL NOT BE PREJUDICED BY AN INCORRECT OR INCOMPLETE RESPONSE.

IN THE PAST THERE HAVE BEEN LENGTHY INTRODUCTIONS AND MANY QUESTIONS ON THE SAME REQUEST. IN THOSE CASES THE QUESTIONS MAY NOT BE HANDLED IN QUESTION PERIOD BUT WHEN RECEIVED WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND ADVISED WHEN A RESPONSE WILL BE GIVEN. IN SOME CASES THOSE ITEMS MY BE REFERRED TO DELEGATION STATUS.

WE WILL ASK THAT REQUESTS FOR DELEGATIONS BE PUT IN WRITING AND THE REASON FOR THE DELEGATION BE OUTLINED IN DETAIL. WE WILL MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO ACCOMMODATE DELEGATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR PROCEDURAL BY LAW.

AS A RESULT OF A MEETING WITH OUR MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS REPRESENATIVE THERE WILL BE CHANGES MADE AS TO HOW WE PRESENT INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC AND HOW WE RECORD THE PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL. THE CAO HAS INVITED HER BACK TO MEET WITH THE PROCEDURAL BY-LAW COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE OUR PRACTISES . I AM REQUESTING THAT BY THE END OF THE FIRST QUARTER AT THE LATEST A REPORT COME BACK TO COUNCIL WITH A RECOMMENDATION AS TO WHAT CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE TO OUR PROCEDURAL BYLAW.

THERE WILL BE A LEARNING CURVE FOR US ALL, BUT I'M SURE WE WILL ADJUST.WE MAY MAKE A MISTAKE OR TWO IN THE PROCESS. IF WE DO WE'LL TELL YOU WE MADE A MISTAKE AND WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO CORRECT IT.OUR GOAL AS A COUNCIL IS TO STREAMLINE THE PROCESS, WORK AS EFFICIENTLY AS WE CAN AND COMPLY WITH THE MUNICIPAL ACT IN FULLFILLING THE OBLIGATIONS OF

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COUNCIL AS LAID OUT IN SECTION 224, THE ROLE OF THE HEAD OF COUNCIL AS LAID OUT IN SECTIONS 225 AND 226.1 AND THE ROLE OF THE CLERK AS LAID OUT IN SECTION 228.

ANOTHER ITEM I WOULD LIKE TO WORK ON IS TO EXPAND OUR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEMENT WITH MORE HOURS OR STAFF. OUR CAO IS VERY CAPABLE AND THE STAFF WORKS VERY HARD BUT I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST LOOK AT THE STAFFING COMPLEMENT. I WILL WORK WITH THE CAO TO BRING A RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH. LIFE WILL NOT GET EASIER AS WE MOVE INTO 2011 AND BEYOND.

TODAY ON THE COUNCIL AGENDA WE WILL BE DISCUSSING PURCHASING COMPUTERS FOR THE COUNCILLORS. DEPUTY MAYOR WHITE AND I HAVE COMPUTERS PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY. IT IS MY VIEW THIS WILL ALLOW US TO BE MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE. IN ADDITION, I BELIEVE THEY WILL PAY FOR THEMSELVES OVER THE FOUR YEAR TERM BY SAVING STAFF TIME FOR PHOTOCOPYING FIVE SETS OF INFORMATION, PAPER, AND INK ETC.. ACCORDING THE COUNTY CLERK, OTHER MUNICIPALITIES ARE PURCHASING COMPUTERS UNDER THE COUNTY AGREEMENT THIS TERM.

OUR MPP SYLVIA JONES INVITED ME TO MEET WITH HER ON NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>. SHE SUGGESTED THAT SHE WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH COUNCIL AS A WHOLE TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC OR GENERAL ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN. SHE INDICATED THAT SHE WOULD ASSIST IN GETTING OUR MESSAGE HEARD AT QUEENS PARK. I THANKED HER AND SUGGESTED THAT I WAS SURE WE WOULD BE IN TOUCH IN THE NEW YEAR.

I PROVIDED HER WITH A COPY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS THE TOWNSHIP MADE REGARDING THE PROVINCIAL POLICY STATEMENT AND ASKED THAT SHE TRY TO MOVE THAT FORWARD.

WE DISCUSSED THE GREEN ENERGY ACT AND THE PROBLEMS IT HAS CREATED. HER PARTIES POSITION IS THAT PLANNING AUTHORITY WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IF THEY ARE ELECTED. WE DISCUSSED THE HEALTH ISSUES AND SETBACKS.

I HAVE PROVIDED A SEPARATE INFORMATION REPORT ON THE COUNCIL AGENDA AS A RESULT OF A MEETING THAT I HAD WITH A GENTLEMEN NAMED DAVID COLLING. HIS AREA OF EXPERTISE IS

ELECTRICAL TESTING.

THE GREEN ENERGY ACT DOES NOT ALLOW MUNICIPALITIES TO PASS BY LAWS TO PROHIBIT RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS. THE MUNICIPAL ACT ALLOWS MUNICIPALITIES TO PASS BY LAWS RELATING TO HEALTH SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF PERSONS, PROVIDED THOSE BYLAWS DO NOT CONTRADICT THE INTENT OF PROVINCIAL OR FEDERAL LEGISLATION.

AS A RESULT OF MY MEETING WITH MR. COLLING I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH COUNCIL THE POSSIBILITY OF INVITING OUR PLANNER AND LAWYER TO DISCUSS THE DEVELOPING A BYLAW THAT WOULD ESTABLISH LARGER SETBACKS BASED ON THE SIZE OF TURBINES, ENSURE THAT ALL HYDRO LINES ARE BURIED AND THAT A "SIGN OFF " WOULD BE DONE BY THE PROPONENT AND HYDRO ONE OR THE OPA THAT INDICATES THEY HAVE NOT INTERFERED WITH THE HYDRO HOOK-UPS OF ANY HOMES ALONG THE BURIED CABLE ROUTE.

THE SUPREME COURT RULED IN 1991 IN THE SPRAY TECH CASE IN HUDSON QUEBEC THAT A BYLAW THAT SIMPLY SETS A MORE STRINGENT STANDARD WILL NOT BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION. I BELIEVE A BY-LAW AS PROPOSED WOULD BE MORE "DOABLE" SINCE THE ISSUE OF STRAY ELECTRICITY AND THE IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS IS SIMPLY TOO HARD TO QUANTIFY AND PROVE. THE LOW FREQUENCY NOISE BY LAWS BEING PROPOSED, IN MY VIEW ARE AS COMPLEX.

ANOTHER INITIATIVE THAT I WOULD LIKE TO START IN THE NEW YEAR ARE INFORMATION SESSIONS. I HAVE INDICATED ON MANY OCCASIONS THAT SEVERAL LAWS PASSED BY THE CURRENT PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAVE STRIPPED AWAY THE RIGHTS OF THE CITIZENS OF ONTARIO AND HANDCUFFED LOCAL COUNCILS. MY INTENT WOULD BE TO BRING EXPERTS TO THE TOWNSHIP, EXPLAIN THE ISSUES AND ENGAGE THE PEOPLE TO PUSH FOR CHANGE. KNOWLEDGE IS POWER AND WE MUST BECOME MORE INVOLVED.

ONE OTHER BENEFIT THAT COULD COME FROM THOSE SESSIONS WOULD BE TO HAVE MORE PEOPLE, A YOUNGER GENERATION BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN LOCAL POLITICS.

WE ALL KNOW THAT THE BIGGEST ISSUE TO FACE THIS COUNCIL WILL BE THE PENDING APPLICATION



FOR ZONING CHANGE AND OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT TO BE MADE BY THE HIGHLAND COMPANY. AS A COUNCIL WE ARE OBLIGED TO REVIEW THE APPLICATION AND RELATED STUDIES OBJECTIVELY. WE HAVE OUR TEAM COMPILED TO DO THE PEER REVIEWS. COUNCIL WILL DECIDE HOW WE PROCEED ONCE THE APPLICATION IS FILED.

WHILE WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO BE OBJECTIVE, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF OUR CITIZENS. WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ENSURE THAT ANY CHANGE TO OUR PLAN REFLECTS THE GREATER GOOD AND PROVIDES FOR THE PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MELANCTHON RESIDENTS. WE WILL DO THAT.

TO REITERATE, OUR GOAL WILL TO BE AS OPEN AND TRANSPARENT AS WE CAN BE. WE WILL DO THAT BUT IT WILL BE DIFFERENT THAN IN THE PAST. THE AGENDA WILL BE SET BY THE CAO AND I WITH INPUT FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBERS IF THEY WANT ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION. THE CHANGES ARE A WORK IN PROGRESS AND AS SUGGESTED WILL HOPEFULLY BE DONE BY THE END OF THE FIRST QUARTER.

AS WE START THIS TERM I WOULD LIKE TO STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT IF YOU ARE NOT CLEAR ABOUT SOMETHING CONTACT ME. I WILL GIVE YOU A STRAIGHT ANSWER OR EXPLAIN WHY I CAN'T. IF IT WAS AN IN CAMERA DISCUSSION I WILL TELL YOU AND ADVISE IF AND WHEN IT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC. WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.

IN CLOSING, IT IS MY VIEW THE VOTERS OF MELANCTHON MADE THE RIGHT CHOICES. TO THOSE THAT DID NOT SUPPORT US, WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO TRY AND WIN YOUR TRUST AND RESPECT. I ASK THAT YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE YOUR TEAM.

THANK YOU

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO SOME LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND A 15 MINUTE BREAK SO WE CAN TAKE A FEW PICTURES AND THOSE THAT HAVE TO LEAVE WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO.