

Jack's Recap

August 10, 2015: Smile! You're on Candid Camera.

I may as well start by addressing the elephant in the room. After numerous attempts by Councillor Dubeau to bring order to council meetings presided over by Mayor Black, feelings boiled over tonight the result was an outraged Mayor stepping down from his pulpit to admonish Councillor Dubeau on his apparent lack of respect for the new Mayor. I must caution everyone out there who might pass judgment without full knowledge that this has been brewing for a long time. The genesis of this controversy was the time when the 'barely out of his councillor's chair and into his new role as Mayor' Steven Black announced that he would not support a certain resolution. The rules of governance does not permit a Mayor to attempt to sway his council one way or the other by making such statements. Councillor Dubeau immediately enacted a point of order, pointing out that the Mayor was contravening the rules of governance by publicly stating his opinion on the issue before a vote. The mayor and the CAO Joe Torlone giggled like two school girls and the mayor laughingly stated that he withdrew his earlier statement that he was not in support of the resolution: A Double Whammy! So that's how it started....The mayor knows he has at least 3 sure allies on council and that whatever he proposes or objects to will be up held or voted down by at least these three councillor's. I won't mention their names but will instead inform you that if you watch these meetings as carefully as I do, it will become instantly apparent to you who is an independent thinker on this council and who is a follower. Again at this meeting Mayor Black announced from the bully pulpit that he was not in support of the resolution brought forth by Councillor Dubeau. When Councillor Dubeau enacted a point of order, Mayor black again thought it was funny and this rightfully angered Councillor Dubeau who interpreted this as a lack of respect for his resolution. The Mayor immediately stepped down from his pulpit and with a finely rehearsed admonishment he told Councillor Dubeau that it was he that showed no respect for the Mayor and not the other way around. I will end my dissertation on this subject by saying this: Councillor Dubeau is a retired firefighter of some 32 years in which he also served as the Union Negotiator. I believe he holds a special place in the hearts of Timmins residents as one of their heroes and let me just finish by saying that anyone can be a boss but it takes hard work to become a leader. First you must lead. Respect is not due to anyone. You must first earn it. Dividing the council into factions is no way to lead and don't forget when you least expect it: beware of candid camera.

The Timmins Bear Committee put on a very informative session telling us that the Bear Wise hotline is manned 24/7 and that due to the very poor berry crop season that we are experiencing this year, the bears are looking for alternate food sources (ie. our garbage). They informed us that bears are very smart animals and can differentiate the grey bins from the blue ones. They also asked to be deputized as By-Law enforcement officers with power to ticket households who feed any animals and those that do not observe the times in which garbage can be placed on the curb side. Even they were not current with the present By-Law which states that garbage can be placed at curb side by 8:00pm the night before collection. I suggest that the MNR bone up on our By-Laws before they ask to enforce them.

A presentation by Dr. LESSARD tells us that children today in the north are not as healthy as those in southern communities and our children don't have equal access to children's medicine. The north east is lacking badly when it comes to children's care. He is proposing a \$35 to \$40 million dollar children's wing attached to the Sudbury hospital. This wing would service all of the northern communities of our region. These dollars will be raised through fundraising endeavours. Of course this was well received by our Council, who whole-heartedly supported such a project. All spoke in favour of it, spelling out the many horrors associated with a sick child who must endure many hours of travel and worse separation from loved ones during these terrible and expensive times. I have to echo councillor Doody who spoke favourably for this with his closing remarks station when this 40,000square/ft.project is underway that he would hope there would be a Timmins wing.

As always please view this meeting for yourself at Timmins.ca

That's a rap on this week's recap!