



MAYOR'S SPEECH ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY AND ITS ORIENTATIONS

In accordance with articles 955 of the *Municipal Code* and 11 of the *Act respecting salaries of members of Council*, it is my duty to inform you of the financial situation of the municipality. Of course, it is also an opportunity to touch base with some of you who may not have come to any of the Town Council Meetings throughout the year; a chance to mention some of what's been going on.

The year 2010 ended with a surplus of 631 263 \$. The total revenues were 1 677 641 \$ and the total expenses were 1 557 336 \$, the accumulated surplus affected is of 464 557 \$. In 2011, the forecasted revenues and expenses are of 1 660 775 \$.

The remuneration for the elected representatives is set, in 2011, at:

	Basic Remuneration	Additional Remuneration (committee, special meeting, work session, etc.)	Expenses Allowance
Mayor	6 843 \$	30 \$ on attendance	3 421 \$
Councillor	2 281 \$	30 \$ on attendance	1 140 \$

In virtue of by-law 2005-03 of the Municipality of the Village of Ayer's Cliff, the remuneration of the elected representatives is indexed at 5% per year.

The remuneration for the MRC meetings, for the mayor, is set for 2011 at:

Regular or extraordinary sitting of the council	Committees Meetings
207,36 \$ on attendance	184,32 \$ on attendance

This is the list of contracts comprising expenses of more than 25 000 \$ or of more than 2 000 \$ when the total of the contracts in its whole comprise of an expense surpassing 25 000 \$ as of the 31st of October, 2011:

ARMATURES COATICOOK	43 953,19 \$	Generator and repairs
CONSTRUCTION DJL INC.	195 467,03 \$	Drinking water (construction)
DÉNEIGEMENT TÊTREAUULT	54 513,12 \$	Snow removal contract
GROUPE GPI - 9190-9044 QUÉBEC INC.	26 132,70 \$	Fire Prevention Visits
GROUPE ULTIMA	33 833,00 \$	Insurances
HYDRO QUEBEC	78 053,57 \$	Electricity
M.R.C. MEMPHREMAGOG	66 965,79 \$	Quote-parts + evaluation
MINISTERE DES FINANCES (SQ)	159 273,00 \$	Police (SQ)
PAVAGE ORFORD	54 228,30 \$	Asphalt
RAYMOND CHABOT GRANT THORNTON	27 929,86 \$	Audit + recuperation of taxes
REGIE INTER. DÉCHETS COATICOOK	62 957,84 \$	Burial Site + Compost + Sludge
SERVICES MATREC INC.	28 342,32 \$	Recycling Contract
TRANSPORT ARLIE FEARON	33 383,90 \$	Garbage + Compost Contracts

Well, we're half way through a four year mandate and the team you've elected to govern your municipality has, in my humble opinion, accomplished its mandate in a responsible and forward looking fashion.

I want to thank the community in acknowledging their trust, confidence and faith in our ability to lead Ayer's Cliff in a conscientious manner. We've proven once again that hard work, professional conduct, accountability and ethical decisions, for our collective good, yield a climate of peace and respect. It becomes obvious you have wisely elected a group of people who understand and firmly believe in team work.

I would be remiss if I did not thank my fellow Councillors for their tireless efforts and work over the last 24 months and look forward to the next two years as we forge ahead in the world of municipal politics and governance; a world fraught with provincial legislation requiring small municipalities to offer the level of services, and manage in the same fashion, as much larger and financially able cities across Quebec; no small feat to be sure. Of course, we are fully aware that much of what you have elected us to accomplish is in fact achieved with the passionate, dedicated and committed citizens of Ayer's Cliff through so many volunteer organizations and groups; the veritable "backbone" of a sound community. These too must be recognized for their part in making Ayer's Cliff what it is - home!

2011 is fast coming to an end and with it several accomplishments:

- Establishment and implementation of an inter-municipal agreement for the Ayer's Cliff Fire Department with Hatley; which has resulted in our being able to, cost effectively, acquire new protective equipment - such as a new service truck and lifting equipment;
- In its second year our Day Camp can boast an 85% increase in the number of children participating - from 14 to 26 children;
- The establishment of an inter-municipal agreement with Hatley designed to provide access to the lake, via Les Pères Servites de Marie, at a relatively low cost for our constituents;
- Laying of the initial ground work for an Intermunicipal Emergency Preparedness Plan in our region with Hatley;
- Awarding of a public tender contract for the upgrading of Tyler Park;
- Slight decrease in the municipal tax bill for a second consecutive year;
- A balanced budget and then some...

And the list could go on and on and on... amazing really how much we get done as we work together.

I also want to thank my wife and children, as well as the spouses and families of each elected official, for sharing their loved ones with the town. As citizens may not be entirely aware of the hours put into representing you in these official capacities - but they sure do. So many times, when we'd just want to "stay at home and be with the family", duty calls - and that's OK; but it is noteworthy and thanks are in order to these families.

No doubt there is plenty of hard work ahead, but with this winning equation of elected officials and volunteers - I believe we will achieve sustainable and excellent results for our Community.

Alec van Zuiden, Mayor