

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – APRIL 14, 2008

Minutes of the meeting held on April 14, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

Present: Councillors: Garbutt, Nygard, Racicot, Vezina
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Mr. Kelly Johnson, Leadhand

Acting Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared a pecuniary interest in items number 16 c) i), ii), and d) as his spouse is an employee of the township.

1. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY,
MARCH 25, 2008 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT MAYOR NELSON BE MARKED ABSENT DUE TO WORK.

Carried

Acting Mayor Vezina asked Mr. Johnson if he wished to address Council on any personal matters. He replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand was welcomed to the table. Timesheets from February 25 to March 7, 2008 and March 9 to 22, 2008 were read. Questions on the timesheets were asked. The road department Monthly Workplace report for March 26, 2008 was read.

Mr. Johnson reported on the current status of the garbage truck. He has contacted another supplier and the price is still very high for a new cylinder. Mr. Johnson has spoke with the City of Thunder Bay and they may have another truck coming for sale this year but they are sure when. Recool may have some used parts available. Mr. Johnson also has not reach the contact from Schreiber who has a truck and parts for sale. Council informed Mr. Johnson that after speaking with the contact, if he feels it is necessary, he may go to Schreiber to take a look. It was decided that no final decision with regard to the compactor will be made at this time. Mr. Johnson will continue to see what he can find in this regard.

A bridge study for the Township's five bridges was discussed. It was decided to put a request for quotation out right away so that an accurate price can be included in the budget. Quotations will be requested for the May 12, 2008 Council meeting.

Roadwork in general was discussed. The clutch fan on truck #9 is gone and they are currently waiting for the new part to come in. They are trying to keep up with the frost heaves and potholes.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending.

The bills to be paid were passed around the table and it was

3. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded G. Garbutt

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR MARCH 31,
2008 TOTTALLING \$82,310.66 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The statement of revenue and expenditures to March 31, 2008 were reviewed.

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By-laws were discussed as follows:

The revisions for the load restriction by-law, as discussed at the previous meeting were reviewed and it was

4. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2008-06 BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW NUMBER 2003-04 BEING A BY-LAW TO RESTRICT THE WEIGHT OF VEHICLES TRAVELLING ON THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HIGHWAYS BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

The draft By-law number 2008-07, Code of Conduct for Council, was reviewed and discussed. Further amendments will be made and an affidavit and formal complaint form will be added as schedules to the by-law. This By-law will be brought back to the next meeting.

A letter was read from the Ministry of Transportation informing the township that as announced in the 2008 Provincial budget, the Township of O'Connor has been approved to receive funds in the amount of \$45,196.00, to be used towards municipal roads and bridge capital investment needs. An authorizing by-law from the township is required to receive this money. It was

5. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2008-08 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF THE FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO AND THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

As was discussed at the previous meeting, due to the final closure distribution of funds from the District of Thunder Bay Home for the Aged, Pinewood Court, the By-law to establish and maintain the home would need to be repealed. It was

6. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2008-09 BEING A BY-LAW TO REPEAL BY-LAW NUMBER 678 TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A HOME FOR THE AGED IN THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsements were read as follows:

- a) City of Ottawa requesting that the Province of Ontario pay a proportional share of MPAC costs. It was

7. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF OTTAWA REQUESTING THAT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO PAY A PROPORTIONAL SHARE OF MPAC COSTS RELATED TO EDUCATION PROPERTY TAXES BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- b) City of Port Colborne regarding Provincial funding to offset Municipal Costs relating to compliance with O.Reg. 429/07. It was

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8. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF PORT COLBORNE CALLING UPON THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO TO PETITION FOR AND WORK WITH THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION OF A PROPER AND FAIR PROVINCIAL FUNDING MECHANISM TO ASSIST MUNICIPALITIES AND OTHER PROVINCIALY FUNDED PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS IN COMPLYING WITH THE PROVISIONS OF O.REG. 429/07 SO THAT THE FINANCIAL BURDEN IMPOSED BY THE REGULATION IS FAIRLY SHARED BY ALL THE RESIDENTS OF ONTARIO BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- c) Township of North Frontenac requesting support for the Province of Ontario to exempt municipalities of Ontario from paying Provincial Sales Tax to assist with supporting infrastructure in small rural municipalities was filed.
- d) Townships of North Frontenac; Lanark Highlands; Greater Madawaska and Addington Highlands recommending that the government immediately base the Federal Gas Tax transferred to municipalities on year-round population was filed.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Government of Ontario, Revenue Service Centre – 2007 Actual Policing Services reconciliation. The township will be receiving a credit in the amount of \$8,571.00 from the 2007 policing billings.
- b) AMO – i) Budget Provides an Additional \$1 Billion for Municipal Infrastructure
ii) Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) Program Plan
iii) Municipal Infrastructure Funding – Building Canada Fund
- c) MFOA – i) 2008 Provincial Budget Updates
ii) 2008 Provincial Budget, March 25, 2008
iii) Allocation of \$400 Million Road and Bridge Fund
- d) Bill Mauro M.P.P. News – Fixing Roads and Bridges in Thunder Bay Region.
- e) Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Introducing Bill 35, the proposed Investing in Ontario Act, 2008.
- f) Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce – Positives for the North in the Provincial Budget
- g) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing News regarding Greening Communities across Ontario – McGuinty Government Encourages Municipal Retrofits
- h) North West Local Health Integration Network – Chair not seeking reappointment
- i) Shelia White, Hamilton Centre email regarding Statement delivered in the Ontario Legislature regarding the state of municipal finances

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under old business, Council discussed:

- a) AON Reed Stenhouse quote regarding insurance renewal with clarification was reviewed. It was

9. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT THE QUOTE FOR INSURANCE RENEWAL FROM AON REED STENHOUSE TO COVER THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR INSURANCE NEEDS EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2008 AT A PREMIUM OF \$26,646.00 BE ACCEPTED.

Carried

- b) The date of general budget meeting was discussed. The date set at the last meeting falls on the Statutory Holiday – Victoria Day. It was

10. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT THE BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, MAY 19, 2008 AT 7 P.M. BE RESCHEDULED TO TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008 AT 6 P.M.

Carried

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It was agreed to have pizza brought in for this meeting due to the early start time.

- c) As per Council's request at the last meeting, a breakdown and comparison of the operating expenses for the Thunder Bay Homes for the Aged from Lorraine Huard, Board Chairperson was read.
- d) The Hydro One Grant program for children's sports and recreation facilities was again discussed. A report from the Clerk-Treasurer showing information with regard to some of Council's suggestions for funding was read. The upcoming deadline for funding is April 30, 2008. Council agreed to apply for funding for various upgrades to improve the outdoor rink area.
- e) The Clerk-Treasurer's report regarding false alarms and the possibility of imposing fines for these false alarms was read. A copy of the City of Thunder Bay's fine By-law was also read. It was decided not to impose a by-law at this time. A reminder will be put in the Cornerstone every few months for residents to keep their alarms in good working order and to try to prevent false alarms as they are considered police calls to our township, which impacts our policing costs.
- f) The Clerk-Treasurer's report regarding the publication "Essentials of Fire Fighting Manual" used by the Fire Department for training was read. This publication does meet all the NFP standards. A new edition has just come out in 2008. Council feel that the Fire Department are meeting their training requirements if they are using this book for department training.
- g) The Deputy Clerk-Treasurer's report regarding a new tax/accounting program was read. Information with regard to the Asyst program and the Munisoft program were discussed. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer and the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer to go to both the Township's of Gillies to see the Asyst program and to the Township of Conmee to look at the Munisoft program and to get further information from their Clerk-Treasurers.
- h) Honourable Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services replying to Council's resolution with regard to firefighter training
- i) Office of the Prime Minister reply to Council's endorsed resolution regarding the Employment Insurance program.
- j) A report from the Clerk-Treasurer regarding drawings for a new municipal office and Council chambers building was read. It was agreed to discuss with Mr. Jeremiah Gammond a design drawing for a new one floor office with Council chambers. A price will be requested for this service. With these drawings, Council could then request quotations for construction documentation and engineer reports, should Council wish to build or funding becomes available for a new one level, handicapped accessible office. Councillor Vezina will provide further information required as requested by Mr. Gammond.

Under new business, Council discussed

- a) Bill Mauro, M.P.P. letter announcing funding for the Township of O'Connor for investment in roads and bridges.
- b) Infrastructure Ontario regarding the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MIII) letter notifying us that the Township of O'Connor was not selected for funding.

It was agreed to move item 16 c) i), ii) and d) to the end of the meeting.

- e) Administration Monthly Workplace Inspection report was read.
- f) The need for a multi media projector for the township was discussed. The information will be also forwarded to the fire department and it will be brought back to Council at budget time.
- g) Association of Mining Municipalities of Ontario looking for Members to attend NOMA conference to discuss the reinvigoration of the Association
- h) OPSEU, CUPE Ontario, CAW Canada requesting support for paramedics to be provided with a normal retirement at the age of 60. Council did not endorse this request at this time.

Under further new business, Council discussed the press release called by Bill Mauro, M.P.P. with regard to Lakehead University and the impacts for Northwestern Ontario that Councillor Vezina and Racicot attended on Friday, April 11, 2008. The Councillors spoke with Mr. Mauro after the press release and he would like to set up a meeting with Council if they have any concerns they would like to discuss. It was decided that at this time no meeting would be set up.

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Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing letter regarding the introduction of Bill 35, the proposed "Investing in Ontario Act, 2008".
- b) Ministry of Northern Development and Mines – Approval of the Summer Jobs Service 2008 program. The Township has been approved for two students under this program, one for the office and one for the road department, if needed. The second program applied for has not yet made any announcements.
- c) 2007 Township of O'Connor Annual Financial Building Permit report for Council's information was read.

Councillor Racicot left the meeting.

The balance of the new business items were discussed as follows:

- c) MFOA – i) PSAB Training – webinars – 6 sessions. It was

- 11. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT THE CLERK-TREASURER AND DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER PARTICIPATE IN SIX MFOA PSAB TRAINING WEBINARS TO BE HELD ON VARIOUS DATES IN BOTH THE SPRING AND THE FALL.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$35.00 PLUS GST PER WEBINAR.

Carried

- ii) MFOA and AMCTO's Budgeting and Accounting for Tangible Capital Assets, May 15 in Thunder Bay. It was

- 12. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE AMCTO AND MFOA – BUDGETING AND ACCOUNTING FOR TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON MAY 15, 2008.

REGISTRATION: \$197.13

CLERK-TREASURER BUOB AND DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT.

Carried

- d) AMCTO – Financial Management Basics for Non-Finance Staff. No one will attend this session.

- 13. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE BUDGET MEETING MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2008 AT 6:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 9:09 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer