

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – APRIL 14, 2009

Minutes of the meeting held on April 14, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

Present: Mayor Nelson arrived at 9:20 p.m.
Councillors: Garbutt, Nygard, Racicot, Vezina
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Leadhand Kelly Johnson
Darren Henderson, Taranis Contracting

Acting Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 17c) as his spouse is an employee of the township.

1. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
MARCH 23, 2009 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Mayor Nelson is traveling back from out of town and will be late for the meeting.

Acting Mayor Vezina welcomed Mr. Henderson to the table to discuss the draft road agreement for Strom road. Council read through the agreement and each member of Council expressed any concerns or comments they had with regard to this second draft. The name in the agreement changed from Rock Solid Holdings to Taranis Contracting to cover the insurance coverage requested by Council. Not all of Council's concerns were addressed in this second draft. The times of operation were not agreed upon. A new clause could be added to the agreement to allow for extra time to fulfill obligations of deadlines beyond normal working hours. Council would still like no Sunday hauling. The annual tonnes of granular A gravel to be placed on Strom road was discussed and it was agreed that 300 tonnes would be placed annually. In regard to the dust control Council do not want the statement "at least to the level of application it applied such chemicals during the 2008 calendar year." It was agreed that this will read "as per policy statement". Also in the second draft there was no mention of a water truck as was previously requested by the township. The term of the agreement was negotiated and a seven year term was agreed upon. Other typing errors were noted and will be corrected. The changes discussed will be put forward to another draft. Council will not sign the agreement without the township lawyer reviewing it.

Mr. Henderson asked Council if this agreement would satisfy Council's concerns included in their objection to their application for an A licence for their pit and if they would be willing to revoke their objection. The objection was discussed and Council stated that they would not make that decision until all Council were present and it was discussed further.

Mr. Henderson also asked if Council would support their active pursuit to have the Ministry of Natural Resources sell the piece of property in Marks Township which abuts their two lots to Taranis Contracting. He requested that the township submit a letter to the Ministry stating that the township is in favour of the sale to allow them to build a road on their own property and to stay off of Strom road. Council will consider this and if a letter is sent a copy will be forwarded to Taranis Contracting.

Mr. Henderson was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table. Timesheets for March 8 to 21 and March 22 to April 4, 2009 were read. Roadwork in general was discussed. The road department has started doing some grading of the roads and steaming culverts. A half load paper has been signed for a wood chip haul at night on Strom road.

Mayor Nelson arrived at 9:20 p.m.

The date for a township inspection was discussed.

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2. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR A TOWNSHIP INSPECTION.
MAY 8, 2009 AT 9:00 A.M.**

Carried

Councillor Vezina's vehicle will be used for the inspection.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending.

The bills to be paid were passed around the table. It was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR MARCH 31,
2009 TOTTALLING \$97,057.96 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS
VOUCHER FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THROUGH THE ONTARIO
DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR MARCH 31, 2009
TOTTALLING \$5,478.38 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

A COMRIF addendum to the funding agreement was discussed. Due to the fact that there is still a small balance of the funding not spent and the deadline was March 31, 2009, COMRIF is willing to extend the funding by another year provided that a municipal By-law is passed designating the signing officers and authorizing the execution of the addendum to the funding agreement.

5. Moved J. Vezina
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2009-06 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE
EXECUTION OF AN AMENDING AGREEMENT TO THE FUNDING
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
O'CONNOR AND HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF ONTARIO FOR
"COMRIF" DATED JUNE 25, 2007 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE
BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

The decision for the consent application 1B/01/09 was read. Council had a concern with the letter informing them of the decision. This letter stated that the decision was from the committee of adjustment, Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge. This should read Lakehead Rural Planning Board. Ms. Martyn, Secretary-Treasurer will be notified.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan regarding Volunteer Firefighters Inclusion of Presumptive Legislation Regulation was filed.
- b) City of Thunder Bay – i) regarding shortfall in funding for the CBC.
ii) regarding support for funding for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). Both resolutions were filed.
- c) Municipality of Grey Highlands – regarding removal of local land use planning controls for renewable energy facilities. It was

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6. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF GREY HIGHLANDS REQUESTING THAT THE PROVINCE UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE POTENTIAL HEALTH AND LAND USE IMPACTS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ASSOCIATED WITH THE PLACEMENT OF ALL RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES; AND REVIEW THE PROPOSAL TO REMOVE LOCAL LAND USE PLANNING CONTROLS UNDER THE PLANNING ACT THROUGH BILL 150 BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- d) Tay Valley Township regarding MNR Fishery Council of Zone 18 implementing a limit on sunfish was filed.
e) Egg Farmers of Ontario regarding Buying local was filed.

There were no DSSAB correspondence to discuss. No report has been received from the DSSAB representative. A request was made to the Municipality of Neebing office after the March 9, 2009 meeting and nothing has been received as yet. Council would like a formal letter sent to Councillor Schmidt with the letter being cc to the other municipalities she represents.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) AMO – i) Invitation to Consult – Great Lakes Vision, Goals and Strategies
ii) Budget Confirms Offsets for the Cost of PST/GST Harmonization and Anticipated Infrastructure Stimulus Investment
iii) Committee Hearings on the Green Energy Act. It was noted that there are no hearings on the Green Energy Act north of Sault Ste Marie.
iv) Energy Minister Extends Deadline for Public Sector Regulated Price Plan Eligibility
v) Federal Gas Tax Funding Reaches Maturity for Municipalities
vi) AMO Position on Bill 150, Green Energy and Green Economy Act
b) Shirley Hunt, TBDHU representative report for meeting held February 26, 2009
c) Stewardship Ontario – regarding Industry's 4th contribution to the Municipal Blue Box Recycling Program for 2008. The Township has received its final 2008 payment.
d) Ministry of Transportation, Mr. Larry Lambert – reply to Council's supporting resolution from the Town of Marathon related to distance markers. The policy for distance markers has been finalized and is expected to be published in the Ontario Traffic Manual, Book 8 later this spring. Ministry regional offices will be identifying and prioritizing their first installations in the summer of 2009.
e) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding Ontario's investment for social and affordable housing in the 2009 Ontario Budget. The Province has made available for social and affordable housing \$622 million in the budget.
f) Grant Thornton – 2009 Ontario budget summary
g) MFOA – 2009 Provincial budget summary to municipal treasurers
The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Memo from the Clerk-Treasurer regarding Rock Solid's "A" License. Mr. Henderson has earlier in the meeting asked Council if they would be willing to revoke the township's objection to the "A" licence. Council did discussed this issue further.

7. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

TIME BEING: 10:30 P.M. THAT THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING CONTINUE.

Carried

At this time Council will not revoke their objection until they get more information on what this decision will mean to the township. Due to the fact that there is an ongoing investigation with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Council would like more information on the matter. If an agreement is in place and all issues are settled they will consider lifting the objection after an agreement is signed. Council would be willing to

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pass a resolution stating this.

- b) Insurance policy – i) update from the Clerk-Treasurer regarding policy quotes and coverage value for Municipal Office and Community Centre. After speaking with another insurance company with regard to getting a quote, it was decided that due to the timing of the request it would not be feasible. Quotes were requested last year and our current company was the lowest and the costs are very close to last years, it was decided that quotes will be requested in November of 2009 for the next terms coverage.
- ii) Township of O'Connor's insurance renewal breakdown and the replacement value of the municipal office/community centre was addressed. The question of what Council's plans would be if something were to happen to the building and whether or not the estimated value of the building was sufficient was discussed. It was agreed that an appraisal should be done on the building as well as any vehicle over 20 years old to be sure that we are not under insured and for asset management purposes. It was agreed to leave the coverage as is until we get an appraisal.

8. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT THE INSURANCE INVOICE FROM AON REED STENHOUSE FOR 2009 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,196.96 BE PAID. THIS BILL WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE APRIL 2009 ROAD AND ADMINISTRATION VOUCHER.

Carried

- c) Jeremiah Gammond's submission of the final sets of design drawings for a new municipal building were reviewed. Funding will continue to be pursued for the construction of this building.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) E-mail from Anna Krassilowsky, Mayor of Dryden (forwarded by Ken Taniwa) regarding the Northwest Response Forum to be held in Dryden on April 22 to 24th. No one from the Township of O'Connor will be attending.
- b) E-mail from the Madeleine Meilleur regarding Accessibility Advisory Committees Regional Forums. There will be a forum held in Thunder Bay on May 1, 2009. This information will be brought back to the next meeting after Council hear a presentation at the NOMA conference on Accessibility.
- c) Federation of Canadian Municipalities regarding Open Letter to Municipal Councils – update to Federal Infrastructure Funding from Minister John Baird and FCM President Jean Perrault. The Clerk-Treasurer will continue to look further into this information to see what funding will be available for the Township.
- d) NOMA – 63rd Annual General Meeting and Conference – draft agenda and 2009 resolutions for consideration at meeting. The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that she will not be able to attend NOMA.
- e) Ontario Provincial Police – i) 2009 Cost estimate revision due to New Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
ii) OPP Costing summary – Actual policing costs for 2008 and copy of estimate for 2008 for comparison. The Township will be receiving a \$10,302.00 credit in 2009.
iii) Thunder Bay Detachment 2009 Business Plan
- f) Report from Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot regarding Waste Diversion Act review and the consultation session she attended
- g) AORS/WESA Small Landfill Operations training – to be held in Thunder Bay on May 20 & 21, 2009. It was

9. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE AORS SMALL LANDFILL SITE OPERATIONS TRAINING TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON MAY 20 & 21, 2009.

REGISTRATION: \$420.00

KELLY JOHNSON, LEADHAND

Carried

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- h) A letter from John Rafferty, M.P. informing Council that he would be willing to meet with them in an effort to continue to keep in touch with the constituents in his riding. He would be available to meet with Council possibly on Friday, May 1, 2009. Council would not be available on this date and would rather meet with him some time in the fall. The Clerk-Treasurer will also inform Mr. Rafferty of the Mayor's proper title.
- i) Anthony Rota, M.P. requesting support for a Private Members' Bill, which aims to create a permanent Economic Development Agency for the Region of Northern Ontario. This letter was filed.
- j) LAS – Municipal Energy Performance Benchmarking Project. The township will not participate in this survey at this time.

Under further new business, Council discussed the possibility of setting a training budget for staff and they would decide what training they would attend rather than Council passing individual resolutions for each training session. It was agreed not to do it this way.

It was also suggested that an O'Connor Day planning meeting should be set. It was

- 10. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT A MEETING FOR O'CONNOR DAY PLANNING BE SET FOR
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Carried

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Ministry of Natural Resources regarding Bear Wise Program application for funding. It was agreed that the township will not apply for funding this year.
- b) Regional Food Distribution Association regarding a request for financial support for building repairs and to purchase a fork lift. This organization provides food to 25 food banks in Northwestern Ontario including the rural food cupboard in Kakabeka Falls. This item will be brought back to the budget meeting, as well it will be forwarded to the O'Connor Community Club and the information will be put into the next cornerstone to see if any of our residents or local businesses would be willing to sponsor the association.
- c) PRO – Risk Management webinars – April 23, May 7, and June 9, 2009. The township will not participate in these webinars.

Due to the fact the draft agreement with Taranis Contracting was already discussed with Mr. Henderson, Council agreed that they did not need to discuss this matter further under closed.

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

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE BUDGET MEETING TO BE HELD
ON MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009 AT 6:00 P.M.**

TIME BEING: 11:42 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer