

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

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

Present: Mayor Nelson
Councillors: Garbutt, Nygard, Racicot, Vezina
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot

Visitors: Leadhand Kelly Johnson

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Garbutt declared an interest in item 20a) as her spouse is the By-law Enforcement Officer and Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 20a) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

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

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
DECEMBER 17, 2007 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried.

Mayor Nelson asked Mr. Johnson if he wished to address Council on any issues as a ratepayer and he replied no.

Leadhand Kelly Johnson was welcomed to the table. Timesheet reports for November 19th to December 1st, December 2nd to December 15th and December 16th to December 29th were reviewed. Roadwork in general was discussed.

Agenda item number 15a) i) and 15a) ii) regarding the Ontario government's new Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative were brought forward for discussion with the Leadhand. Funding is available for infrastructure projects that are construction ready. Leadhand Johnson will look into the cost of gravel for resurfacing Township roads and an application will be submitted for funding before the closing date of Friday, February 15, 2008. The possibility of a new bridge on Harstone Road was discussed. Due to the limited time to apply for funding it would be impossible to have a construction ready project for the bridge done by the due date. The application process is a competitive process and funding is not guaranteed.

The policies for the roads department were reviewed. Leadhand Johnson suggested that the Snowplowing Policy be changed to remove the statement regarding third priority roads as well as remove reference to truck #7 and truck #8 as snowplow routes and replace it with North and South section. Regarding the Dust Control policy the second paragraph under First Priority Roads the word "will" will be changed to "may". Regarding the Policy for Brushing and Ditching, under Ditching item 2) the second sentence reading "Ditches must be carried to a natural drainage area so that roadway water is not vented onto private property." be removed. Regarding the Policy for Use of Township Equipment on Private Property, the reference to the Bantam will be removed and rates will be reviewed. These changes will be made and brought back to Council for approval at a later date.

Leadhand Kelly Johnson was thanked for attending the meeting.

Councillor Garbutt declared an interest with the By-Law Enforcement Officer voucher.

The Voucher for December 31, 2007, the Voucher for the By-Law Enforcement Officer and the bills for January 2008 was reviewed and it was:

2. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR DECEMBER 31,
2007, TOTALLING \$64,485.73 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried.

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3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT THE BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER VOUCHER FOR DECEMBER 2007 TOTTALLING \$60.46 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR JANUARY 2008 BE PAID – THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE JANUARY 2008 VOUCHER

CK#7722	AMO – 2008 LEVY	\$480.00
CK#7723	AMO – OMERS SUPPORT FUND	28.60
CK#7724	ONTARIO GOOD ROADS ASSOC – 2008 LEVY	402.50
CK#7725	NORTH OF SUPERIOR PUBLIC WORKS ASSOC	70.00
CK#7726	AMCTO – 2008 MEMBERSHIP	651.00
CK#7727	THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE	229.65
CK#7728	ONTARIO ASSOC. OF FIRE CHIEFS	183.75
CK#7729	B. DENNHARDT	100.00
CK#7730	L. NYGARD	100.00
		\$2,245.50

Carried.

Reserve transfers were discussed. The balance of the Federal Gas Tax Revenues will have to be put into reserves. A resolution will be passed at the next meeting to record the transfer of \$12,322.00 into the Federal Gas Tax reserve, \$5,000.00 into the Office Equipment reserve and \$2,500.00 into the Disposal Site reserve.

The following By-laws were discussed and it was

5. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2008-01 BEING A BY-LAW TO IMPOSE LATE PAYMENT CHARGES FOR THE NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES OR ANY INSTALLMENT BY THE DUE DATE BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried.

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2008-02 BEING A BY-LAW TO PROVIDE FOR AN INTERIM LEVYING AMOUNT BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried.

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2008-03 BEING A BY-LAW TO DELEGATE TO THE LEADHAND THE AUTHORITY TO CLOSE A HIGHWAY TEMPORARILY FOR ANY PURPOSE AND TO REPEAL BY-LAW NUMBER 2002-20 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried.

The quotes for the sign at the Disposal Site were reviewed. Administrative staff will go over the quotes and make a decision as to where the sign will be purchased from.

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Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) The Township of Brock regarding their concern for the proposed changes to the regulatory framework for Non-Agricultural Source Material and requesting the opportunity to be actively involved and consulted on any amendments to the regulations was filed
 - b) The Municipality of Durham regarding the Employment Insurance eligibility and links to increased poverty was read and it was
8. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM REQUESTING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO REVAMP THE CRITERIA FOR EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TO ENSURE EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS AS IT WAS DESIGNED TO BE, WHICH IS AN INSURANCE PROGRAM TO ASSIST DURING PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT, AND THAT THE PREMIER OF ONTARIO BE CALLED UPON TO ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF THE ONTARIO AND THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO TO ENSURE THAT ONTARIO WORKERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ISURANCE PROGRAM BE ENDORSED.

Carried.

- c) The City of Waterloo asking that the Provincial and Federal governments re-examine how municipalities are funded in regards to infrastructure and work together with a view to providing long term and sustainable infrastructure funding was filed.
- d) The City of Waterloo requesting the Province of Ontario to fully exempt all Ontario municipalities from paying PST, with the understanding that the savings realized be mandated to fund existing infrastructure renewal in local municipalities was filed.
- e) The City of Ottawa petitioning the Provincial government to give authority to create a hotel room tax was filed.
- f) The Municipality of North Grenville requesting that the Government of the Province of Ontario commit 1/8th of the current 8% Provincial Sales Tax to Municipalities to fund Municipal Infrastructure Programs was filed.

A letter from the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) written by Mr. Iain Angus to the Honorable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance, was read regarding the 2008 Ontario Budget.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Infrastructure Ontario's letter regarding the new Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative and the program guidelines were moved up on the agenda to discuss with Leadhand Kelly Johnson under item 7c).
- b) A letter from the Ministry of Finance regarding the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) allocations for 2008. The amount of funding will be the same as for 2007, \$337,001.00.
- c) AMO Alerts i) Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) Stable Funding Guarantee for 2008. The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing have confirmed Municipal OMPF allocations.
ii) House of Common's motion calling for permanent Federal Gas Tax funding for municipalities.
iii) Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative. The Province of Ontario has released details about the initiative.
- d) Ontario Provincial Police's 2008 estimated cost for non-contract policing costs and information sheet outlining the costing methodology. Estimated costs for the Township are \$52,518.00.
- e) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's news release regarding the McGuinty Government actions benefiting Ontario Municipalities.
- f) Stewardship Ontario's letter regarding the Industry's Stewardship of Municipal Blue Box Recycling Program. We have received the third installment of \$733.82 and can expect the forth quarter in March of 2008.

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- g) NOMA e-mail from Ken Taniwa regarding the upcoming joint meeting between the Northwestern Ontario Forest Council and NOMA to be held on January 19, 2008. Councillor Garbutt will attend the meeting as a board member of NOMA.
- h) Northwestern Ontario Development Network e-mail from KC Woilford, Development Officer (Youth Intern) regarding the North of Superior Training Board Trends, Opportunities & Priorities (TOP) Report.
- i) Ontario Good Roads Association regarding the Long Service Awards. Council have no names to put forward this year.
- j) Grant Thornton LLP Chartered Accountants letter of engagement for the 2007 Financial Audit.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under old business Council discussed:

- a) E-mail from Lynda Hiebert from Friesens regarding the credit memo for \$750.00 to compensate for the time needed to check the books for errors. Council would like as many books as possible to be checked before January 22nd and pay for the books that are okay to avoid interest charges. As of January 22nd interest will be charged to outstanding amounts.
- b) Information from Fire Chief Mattas on the Fire Underwriter's Survey, Technical Standards Regarding the Age of Fire Trucks was read. The Fire Underwriter's Survey states "Generally, the maximum age of first-line trucks is set at 15 years. From years 16 to 20, these trucks are classed as reserve units. However, if the Fire Protection Specialist, who is carrying-out the survey, determines that a truck has been well-maintained, all documentation is in place and the truck is subject to low call volumes (e.g., a volunteer/part-time department) then, at his/her discretion, the truck could be eligible for a first-line time span of 20 years and reserve span from years 21 to 25." Council noted that the document also stated that the Fire Underwriters' Survey does not have any legislative authority.
- c) A Code of Conduct for Members of Council for the Municipality of Meaford was reviewed. Council would like a similar Code of Conduct for the Township of O'Connor drafted and brought back to Council.

Under new business Council discussed:

- a) The Treasurer's Itemized Statement of Expenses for Council 2007.
- b) A letter from Mr. Konrad Kramer and Mrs. Christel Kramer requesting a Disposal Site Permit was read. A letter will be sent to the Kramers with new permits.
- c) Department of Canadian Heritage letter for the 2008 funding application was read. No application will be made this year.
- d) Councillor Garbutt informed Council that DSSAB issues regarding costs will be brought to the Thunder Bay District Municipal League meeting scheduled in early March.

Councillor Racicot and Councillor Garbutt left the meeting.

It was

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239 (2) (D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 9:05 PM

Carried.

The rate of pay for non-union administrative employee wages was discussed.

- 10. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

TIME BEING: 9:15 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried.

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It was

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

THAT THE CLERK-TREASURER, DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER, DISPOSAL SITE CARETAKER, JANITOR, BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, FENCEVIEWER, LIVESTOCK VALUATOR, WEED INSPECTOR WILL RECEIVE A 2% INCREASE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2008.

Carried.

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

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 9:20 P.M.

Carried.

Mayor

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer