

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – MAY 25, 2009

Minutes of the meeting held on May 25, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

Present: Councillors: Garbutt, Nygard, Racicot, Vezina  
Clerk-Treasurer Buob  
Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas  
Gunther Lengfellner arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Acting Mayor Garbutt called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Garbutt declared an interest in item 13d) as her spouse is the By-law Enforcement Officer.

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

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009 AND THE BUDGET MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

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

**THAT MAYOR NELSON BE MARKED ABSENT DUE TO WORK.**

Carried

Acting Mayor Garbutt invited Fire Chief Mattas to the table. The fire department report was read. There have been two fire related calls and two first response calls since the last report. Six members of the fire team attended MNR training held in Conmee on May 1 and 2, 2009 and four members attended the Mod A training held May 21 to 24, 2009 in East Gorham.

The appraiser was out and looked at the fire trucks and first response vehicle. A report will be coming within a week. This information will be used for both insurance purposes and accounting purpose to establish opening balance for capital tangible assets. The department is continuing to do maintenance on the equipment.

The final budget decisions made at the May 21, 2009 budget meeting were discussed with the Fire Chief. Fire Chief Mattas was informed that the SCBA air compressor was cut from the budget. Council asked Fire Chief Mattas about the different options he would have to refill the air bottles. It was noted that there is a limit to the number of air bottles that can be transported together in a private vehicle when they are full. If more tanks are transported together the vehicle would have to have a plaque cover. The City of Thunder Bay can fill the tanks for us but it is very inconvenient. The compressor did pass the last testing and is due for another. Fire Chief Mattas will make arrangements to now have it tested. If it passes they will continue to use it. The cost to rebuild this one would be approximately \$4,000.00. If it fails the test Superior Safety will be contacted to see if they would be willing to take this one as a trade in for either a new one or a rebuilt one. Fire Chief Mattas will get back to Council after the air test is completed.

All money in the fire department reserve was pulled and put into the budget to cover the capital items already purchased. Fire Chief Mattas was informed that Council approved an increase of fifty dollars per month for his honourarium. This will be retroactive to January 2009.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending.

Mr. Lengfellner, a resident of the Municipality of Neebing, was asked if he wished to address Council. He said yes and asked Council what the Township of O'Connor does with regard to the removal of survey stakes. He explained his situation and Council informed him that because it was not an O'Connor issue and the problem is between property owners we could not help him. He was informed that it was an offense to removal survey stakes and he could possible contact the land registry office to inquire what his options are. Mr. Lengfellner left the meeting.

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The following By-laws were discussed and it was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2009-07 BEING A BY-LAW TO ESTABLISH THE TAX RATIOS FOR THE YEAR 2009 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

A review of the third draft of the 2009 budget was reviewed. The Clerk-Treasurer explained the final changes made to the line items after the budget meeting held on May 21, 2009. The changes were agreed upon by Council and it was

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

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2009-08 BEING A BY-LAW TO ADOPT THE ESTIMATES OF ALL SUMS REQUIRED DURING THE YEAR 2009 FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSES OF THE MUNICIPALITY, AND TO STRIKE THE LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2009 AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF TAX RATES AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR PENALTY AND INTEREST IN DEFAULT OF PAYMENT THEREOF FOR 2009 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

5. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00 BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE DISPOSAL SITE RESERVE TO THE WORKING CAPITAL RESERVE AS PER DISCUSSION AT THE BUDGET MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009.**

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of Woolwich requesting extension to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Amendment Act to include Coverage for Volunteer and Part-time Fire Fighters was filed.
- b) Township of Centre Wellington regarding Bill 221, Workplace Safety and Insurance Amendment Act 2007 (Presumptions for Firefighters) was filed.
- c) Township of Sioux Narrows regarding harmonizing sales tax plan was filed.
- d) City of Ottawa with regard to seeking leave to appeal the decision of the Ontario Municipal Board respecting the application by Minto Communities Inc. to amend the Secondary Official Plan for the village of Manotick was filed.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) AMO – i) Labour Mobility Changes Affect Ontario Municipalities  
ii) Government Announces Bridge Funding for 2010-2011 to Support Ontario's Municipalities and Families in Looming Child Care Crisis  
iii) Green Energy Act Regulation Posted on EBR for Comment  
iv) AMO Signs Memorandum of Cooperation with Union of Municipalities of Quebec  
v) Government of Canada Launched \$348.9 Million – Community Adjustment Fund for Ontario  
vi) AMO Continues to Push for Successful Implementation of AODA  
vii) Participate in the Count Me In! Community Challenge Launch  
viii) Province Passes Green Energy Act  
ix) Invitation – Proposed Enhancements to the Ontario Dam Safety Program
- b) OGRA to Participate in a Consultation on Bill 118
- c) MEPCO – Specified Change Proposals to OMERS Plans

Acting Mayor Garbutt left the room.

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- d) A reply letter from Ms. Mary Bird regarding dogs running at large was read. Mr. Garbutt has been speaking with the owners of the dogs mentioned in the letter and the Clerk-Treasurer will check with him to see if a letter needs to be sent to the dog owners. It was noted that one of the assumed owners of a specific dog in the letter was incorrect.

A municipal enforcement/provincial offences officer for the Township of O'Connor was discussed. The Township has not replaced Mr. Abthorpe since his passing and it was decided that an advertisement for this position be put into the June cornerstone. It was also suggested that Mr. Grant Arnold be approached to see if he would be interested in the position.

Acting Mayor Garbutt returned to the meeting.

- e) City of Sault Ste. Marie – Letter to Premier McGuinty – regarding Biomass Fueled Renewable Energy Co-generation Project  
 f) Ministry of Industry – RINC Ontario Funding Program for recreational project. No application will be submitted.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing report regarding the Township of O'Connor's Financial Indicators Review. There were no indicators that exceeded established thresholds.  
 b) Jeremiah Gammond – i) Architectural services proposal for the new O'Connor Municipal Building were discussed. The information provided by Mr. Gammond was reviewed. Council do not feel that, because of the size of this project, the township will require subconsultants for structural or electrical. They would like to speak with Mr. Gammond about this further. Mr. Gammond and the township's Chief Building Official will be asked to attend the next meeting to discuss the project.  
 ii) Proposals for geotechnical services related to subsurface investigations for proposed new municipal building. It was agreed that the Township will go ahead with the required testing for the slab on grade construction at this time. It was

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
 Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE PROPOSAL FROM TBT ENGINEERING TO CARRY OUT A GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION FOR THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED MUNICIPAL BUILDING FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AT A COST OF \$3,820.00 + TAXES BE ACCEPTED.**

Carried

- c) A copy of a letter to Ms. Jacquie Cottingham from Rock Solid Holdings and her reply letter to Rock Solid Holdings were read by Council. Ms. Cottingham has forwarded these copies to Council for their information. The letter was with regard to the opposition letter for a Class A licence. Ms. Cottingham has no intention of withdrawing her objection to their application at this time.  
 d) Accessibility Directorate of Ontario – regarding deadline reminder for submitting comments on the Employment Accessibility Standards Development Committee's initial proposed Employment Accessibility Standard. No comments will be submitted.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) MNDM – Meeting to discuss opportunities under the NCIR Fund. It was

7. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
 Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT COUNCILLOR GARBUTT AND CLERK-TREASURER BUOB ATTEND THE MNDM MEETING TO DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE NCIR FUND. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON MAY 28, 2009 AT 11 A.M.**

Carried

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- b) The City of Thunder Bay's Noise By-law was reviewed. Council, at their last meeting requested information on a By-law for restrictions on compression brakes. The City was contacted and the Clerk-Treasurer was informed that this information is included in their Noise By-law. Council read the by-law and would like the Clerk-Treasurer to draft a new noise By-law for the Township of O'Connor and present the draft at the next meeting.
- c) MNM – regarding \$15,000 transition assistance grants available for environmental companies. No application will be submitted.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed:

- a) Municipal Health and Safety Association Trenching Safety program. It was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MUNICIPAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ASSOCIATIONS TRENCHING SAFETY SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF NEEBING ON JUNE 17, 2009.  
REGISTRATION: \$135.00 + GST.**

**KELLY JOHNSON, LEADHAND, BRENT DENNHARDT, EQUIPMENT OPERATOR #1, CATRIONA EARL, EQUIPMENT OPERATOR #2.**

Carried

- b) Think North – May 2009 Bulletin regarding A Growth Plan for Northern Ontario.

For information purposes a building permits was approved for major house renovations on Concession 6, Lot 4.

9. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LITIGATION OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION, INCLUDING MATTERS BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS, AFFECTING THE MUNICIPALITY OR LOCAL BOARD, PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(E) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.**

**TIME BEING: 9:24 P.M.**

Carried

Comments received from Mayor Nelson with regard to his meeting with the Ministry of Natural Resources were read. The draft Strom road agreement with Taranis Contracting was briefly discussed. Direction was given to the Clerk-Treasurer to continue working with the draft agreement.

10. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**TIME BEING: 9:45 P.M.  
THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried

11. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 9:46 P.M.**

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer