

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – NOVEMBER 9, 2009

Minutes of the meeting held on November 9, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Leadhand Kelly Johnson

Acting Mayor Racicot called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof. Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 10 c) as he is a member of the O'Connor Fire Department.

1. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by L. Nygard

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2009 AND THE MINUTES FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 21, 2009 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

2. Moved by L. Nygard
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT MAYOR NELSON BE MARKED ABSENT DUE TO WORK.

Carried.

Acting Mayor Racicot asked if Mr. Johnson wished to address Council as a resident of the Township and he replied no.

Leadhand Kelly Johnson was welcomed to the table. Timesheet reports for the period of October 3rd to the 16th, 2009 and October 19th to the 30th, 2009 were reviewed. There were no issues or concerns.

The Equipment Report for 2009 was reviewed. The condition of the 1991 Champion Grader was discussed. The grader occasionally shreds a belt and Council inquired as to what is being done. Most of the belts in the grader have been changed, however the problem has not been identified. The roads crew will continue to monitor the situation. The grader is one of the hardest worked piece of equipment in the Roads Department. Pricing for a new grader was discussed. It is estimated that a grader can be purchased for approximately \$125,000.00, which would be minimum three years old, or new for just over \$200,000.00.

The compactor truck at the disposal site was discussed. The roads crew has recently changed the oil in the truck. Mr. Johnson was asked to construct wheel chucks for use at the disposal site when the truck is stationary and in operation.

Roadwork in general was discussed. The roads crew has been out grading most of the roads and all roads are looking good. The Infrastructure Stimulus Fund signs have been installed. A few culverts have also been installed. A bit of brushing can still be done, budget permitting.

The possibility of an ice storm and the readiness of the Roads Department was discussed. Sand is stock piled in the yard, and if required, emergency contacts numbers are available if more sand is required after hours.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending.

Bills to be paid were reviewed and it was

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR OCTOBER 31, 2009 TALLING \$59,195.03 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried.

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- 4. Moved by L. Nygard
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THROUGH THE ONTARIO DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER 31, 2009 TOTTALLING \$61,102.50 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried.

- 5. Moved by L. Nygard
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR NOVEMBER 2009 BE PAID – THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE NOVEMBER 2009 ROAD AND ADMINISTRATION VOUCHER AND THE OCTOBER STATE OF EMERGENCY VOUCHER.

CK#9084	JML ENGINEERING	\$1,796.55
CK#9085	RECOOL CANADA INC.	315.00
CK#9043	THUNDER BAY CACC	45.00
		\$2,156.55

Carried.

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to October 31, 2009 was reviewed.

Under By-laws and Policies, By-Law 2009-14, being a By-law to authorize the borrowing of money was discussed and it was

- 6. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by L. Nygard

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2009-14 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE BORROWING OF MONIES BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried.

The draft Accessibility Policy was reviewed and discussed. Council had no concerns or issues and the policy will be brought back and presented at the next meeting of Council where it will be adopted by resolution.

Councillor Racicot left the table.

Councillor Nygard resumed the meeting as chair and item 10 c) regarding the stipend paid to Fire Department members was discussed. Council agreed that the stipend outlined in the resolution passed by Council at their meeting held on May 20, 2008, does cover training courses that are available through FireCon and the Ontario Fire College. Since there is no policy in place a policy will be drawn up and brought to Council in the new year.

Acting Mayor Racicot returned to the table and resumed the meeting.

The policy regarding hall rental fees was discussed. Currently the O'Connor Community Club, O'Connor Women's Institute and the O'Connor Fire Department Auxiliary are recognized as non-profit groups and are required to pay hall rental rates for fund raising functions. Council reviewed this policy and have decided that reference to these groups will be removed from the policy and rental fees will be waived as the fund raising event benefit this community directly. By-Law 2002-17 as amended will be amended to reflect these changes. The policy and by-law will be brought to the next meeting for approval.

By-Law 2006-04 being a by-law for the control of dogs running at large within the Corporation of the Township of O'Connor and the policy for dogs running at large were reviewed. Changes will be made to both the By-Law and the policy to reflect the

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change in the fee payable and the procedure followed for second and third time offences to the By-Law. The By-Law and policy will be brought to the next meeting of Council for approval.

Deferred items from previous meetings were discussed. The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Business Plan for the proposed new office building was discussed. Council would like administrative staff to look into where the other municipalities that are involved stand. This item will be brought back to the next meeting of Council.

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services' seminar, Essentials of Municipal Fire Protection – A decision Makers' Guide was discussed. No one will attend this session.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) The Corporation of the County of Perth regarding the Residential-Farmland property tax concerns was filed.
- b) The Township of Wainfleet's resolution regarding the Ministry of Natural Resources Provincially Significant Wetlands was filed.
- c) The County of Lambton's resolution regarding the support of a moratorium on major health care restructuring was filed.
- d) The Township of Frontenac Island's resolution regarding the closing of six prison farms in New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta was filed.
- e) The City of Ottawa's resolution regarding the support to permit municipalities to set their own default speed limits was filed.

The report from the Thunder Bay DSSAB regarding the effect of mental health system reform on social services was reviewed.

A letter received from Kathleen Scherban, Housing Regulatory Analyst for the Thunder Bay DSSAB was read. A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at the Oliver Paipoonge Town Hall to address housing strategy for the Thunder Bay District with member municipalities. It was

7. Moved by L. Nygard
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD'S MEETING REGARDING HOUSING STRATEGY- GOAL AND OBJECTIVES TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009 AT 3:30 PM AT THE OLIVER PAIPOONGE TOWN HALL.
REGISTRATION FEE: NO FEE**

COUNCILLOR GARBUTT

Carried.

The 2008 Annual Report from the Thunder Bay DSSAB was reviewed.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Letter from Superior North Emergency Medical Services (EMS) regarding the third quarter levy for 2009. There is an increase of \$486.00 due to the reconciliation of the 2009 weighted assessment.
- b) E-mail from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the proposed changes to the Municipal Election Act.
- c) AMO Member Communication
 - i) AMO Applauds Government for Moving Forward on the Implementation of Early Learning and Child Care in Ontario.
 - ii) Good Government Bill Proposes Municipal Election Changes.
 - iii) Waste Diversion Act Review.
 - iv) Consultation on Blue Box Changes.
 - v) Good Government Bill contains Minor Changes for Municipalities.
 - vi) Presumptive Legislation for Volunteer and Part-time Firefighters.
- d) Letter from the Ministry of Culture regarding the Public Library Operating Grant Program for 2009-2010. The Township has received a grant in the amount of \$1,220.00.
- e) The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

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Under old business Council discussed:

- a) An update on the progress of the construction of the new municipal office was given. The telephone lines for the new building were discussed. Clarification will be made with the consultant, Mr. Jeremiah Gammond, that there will be no new lines added and that the existing telephone service will remain in place.
- b) Under further old business Councillor Garbutt presented Council with the information that was presented at the Northwestern Ontario Immigration Portal seminar that was held earlier this afternoon. The Municipal office will be contact in the next few weeks with information regarding the what is required from the Township to participate.

Under new business Council discussed:

- a) Thank you letter from Joe and Gayle Poohachoff regarding a situation with dogs running at large. They were very pleased with the prompt service that was provided by the Township's staff.
- b) A letter from TBayTel regarding changes to the 911 Public Emergency Reporting Service Data System, in order to comply with evolving industry standards and recommendations, was read. TBaytel will be contacting the Municipal office to discuss any issues.
- c) Registration and information for the upcoming 2010 ROMA/OGRA Combined Conference was reviewed. No one will attend the conference next year.
- d) A letter from the Lakehead University regarding the acceptance of nominations for the prestigious Lakehead University Fellowship Award was read. No nominations will be put forward.

Under further new business Council discussed the Accessibility training that was offered at the Oliver Paipoonge Municipal Hall. Any Council member, employee or volunteer Fire Department and First Response member who did not attend will have to do the training with Clerk-Treasurer Buob. Fire Department and First Response members will have another opportunity to attend training on Wednesday, November 11, 2009.

Council also discussed the possibility of hiring an individual who can relieve the Township's current janitor when required. This position will be offered in the December issue of the Cornerstone.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed were discussed as follows:

- a) Notice from the Hon. Michael Gravelle, Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry was read. The notice is regarding the release and opportunity to comment on the Proposed Growth Plan for Northern Ontario. A copy of the plan was made available for Council's review.
- b) An e-mail from Ms. Cindy Harris regarding Corporate Community Sponsorship was read. They are looking into partnering with companies to bring the Power of Choice program to local students.
- c) A letter from the Ministry of Transportation address to the attention of Mr. Alan G. Jones for Rock Solid Holdings was reviewed. The Ministry of Transportation requires a Entrance Permit for any new entrances or any change in ownership or land use. No permit was issued. Before Council will comment on this issue the administrative staff has been asked to look into other similar situations in the Township of O'Connor. This item will be brought back to the next meeting of Council.

For information purposes one building permit has been approved since the last meeting. The permit is for the new Municipal office.

8. Moved by L. Nygard
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 9:00 P.M.

Carried.

Mayor

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer