

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – AUGUST 13, 2018

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, August 13, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Present: Mayor Vezina  
Councillors: Foekens, Handy, Loan, Racicot  
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 15 b) and c) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by B. J. Loan  
Seconded by K. Foekens

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Mr. Johnson was asked if he wished to address Council on any personal matters and he replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. A Road Department update was provided and roadwork in general was discussed. The road employees have been grading the roads, hauling B gravel to the end of Whittaker Road and stock piling gravel in the municipal garage yard for upcoming culvert projects. They will be cutting the weeds around the guide rails this week and the weed cutting contract has been completed. Mr. Johnson will also be doing the body work on the Ford truck this week.

The Health and Safety Report from June 7, 2018 was reviewed. At this meeting the group discussed heat stress and awareness. Council discussed this further and Mr. Johnson was informed of two incidents from construction company in the area this summer. They stressed the need to ensure we are supplying water and if it is too hot to come back to shop and find something to do inside. Mr. Johnson confirmed that they do try to do the more physical work in the mornings before it gets too hot out and water is being consumed by the employees. The August 9, 2018 report was also read. This meeting focused on personal protective equipment and a question was asked with regard to the suggested use of face shields for the disposal site caretakers. As both employees were glasses, safety glasses are not appropriate while compacting the truck.

The National Disaster Mitigation Program was discussed. Under this program the Federal Government funds up to 50 per cent of the costs of eligible flood mitigation projects. The deadline for application is September 14, 2018. A suggested project from staff under the Investments in non-structural and small scale structural flood mitigation category was the raising of the road on Blaikie Road for approximately ½ km up to the Whitefish River bridge or possibly sections of the Harstone Road along the Whitefish River. Both locations tend to flood when the river is high in the spring or during significant rain events. Upon discussion with the Ministry staff person today, the Clerk-Treasurer confirmed that road projects are on the low end of the priority of the program. There are also three streams required for an application to move forward, one being a engineered flood mitigation plan, which the Township does not have. The Ministry staff member noted that an application could be submitted for such a plan. Council agreed at this time to not submit an application.

A letter was read from TBT Engineering Consulting Group with regard to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation Highway Improvements, replacement of Cedar Creek Culvert on Highway 590, 2.57 km West of Highway 595. The culvert replacement is to take place during the summer of 2019 and is expected to require a temporary, full closure of Highway 590. The Ministry intends to again have the detour route during this closure run along Highways 595 and 588. As in 2017 during a previous closure the Township will contact the local trucking companies to request their cooperation during this closure.

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A Township Inspection was discussed and it was

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by K. Foekens

**THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR A TOWNSHIP INSPECTION,  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2018 AT 8:30 A.M.**

Carried

A work bee for the O'Connor Cemetery was discussed. In 2017 a couple of residents did some volunteer work in the cemetery and made suggestions as to other work that should be done to improve and maintain the cremated ashes garden and the cemetery structures and trees. It was suggested that a work bee be setup to have others come out and lend a hand as well. Possible dates were discussed and it was decided that a volunteer work bee will be scheduled for Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. with a rain date scheduled for Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. This will be advertised in the Cornerstone and on the Township's website.

The Administration and Road Voucher for July 31, 2018 was reviewed. It was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by B. J. Loan

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR JULY 2018  
TOTTALLING \$109,944.27 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to July 31, 2018 were reviewed. There were no concerns or questions from Council.

By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

- a) The Policy for sending flowers and fruit baskets was discussed. This review was suggested at the July 9, 2018 meeting with regard to Council members attending out of town, Council representation events. Council discussed if a Council member is attending, for example, at a funeral of a fellow Council member, and they are representing the Township while in attendance, that their expenses be covered. They would not receive a honourarium, just possible mileage, food and accommodations, if required. It was agreed to have the Clerk-Treasurer inquire as to whether or not other municipalities do so and possibly draft up a new policy, separate from this policy for Council's approval.
- b) By-law Number 2006-04 with regard to Dog's Running at Large was reviewed. In light of a recent dog complaint, the By-law Enforcement Officer noted the incorrect address for the court house in the Township's By-law which will need to be amended. It was also suggested that the fine amounts be adjusted. As the By-law was last amended in 2010 it was agreed to increase the fines and review the by-law further for legislation updates, etc. The By-law will be brought back to council for final review and approval at a future meeting.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Halton Municipalities – regarding legitimate municipal and provincial regulatory role with respect to CN development and it was

4. Moved by K. Foekens  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**WHEREAS UNDER THE MUNICIPAL ACT, ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES HAVE THE  
AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO ADVANCE AND PROTECT THE "ECONOMIC,  
SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING OF THE MUNICIPALITY" AND THE "HEALTH,  
SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF PERSONS";**

**WHEREAS THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAS DESIGNATED ONTARIO  
MUNICIPALITIES TO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY TO ESTABLISH OFFICIAL PLANS THAT MEET  
OR EXCEED PROVINCIAL STANDARDS FOR**

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**MANAGING AND DIRECTING PHYSICAL CHANGE AND EFFECTS ON THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT;**

**WHEREAS CN RAIL HAS DECLARED THAT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO AND THE HALTON MUNICIPALITIES (THE CITY OF BURLINGTON, THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS, THE TOWN OF MILTON AND THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE) AND CONSERVATION HALTON HAVE NO REGULATORY ROLE WHATSOEVER WITH RESPECT TO A PROPOSED TRUCK/RAIL DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING OF THE MUNICIPALITY AND HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF RESIDENTS;**

**WHEREAS THE HALTON MUNICIPALITIES AND CONSERVATION HALTON RECOGNIZE THAT RAILWAYS ARE A MATTER OF FEDERAL JURISDICTION, BUT ASSERT THAT TRUCK-RAIL DEVELOPMENTS HAVE NON-RAIL ASPECTS THAT ENGAGE MULTIPLE AREAS OF PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITY;**

**WHEREAS THE HALTON MUNICIPALITIES AND CONSERVATION HALTON HAVE COMMENCED A COURT APPLICATION TO CONFIRM THEIR LEGITIMATE REGULATORY ROLE IN RESPECT OF THE CN DEVELOPMENT AND THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO HAS INTERVENED IN THE COURT APPLICATION IN SUPPORT OF THE HALTON MUNICIPALITIES;**

**WHEREAS CN'S POSITION THAT ITS PROPOSED TRUCK-RAIL DEVELOPMENT FALLS EXCLUSIVELY UNDER FEDERAL JURISDICTION, IF UPHELD, WOULD CREATE A REGULATORY GAP THAT WOULD PREVENT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, THE HALTON MUNICIPALITIES AND CONSERVATION HALTON FROM DISCHARGING THEIR STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES, AND LEAVE CN RAIL, A FOR-PROFIT COMPANY, TO SELF-REGULATE ON MATTERS THAT ENGAGE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES; AND**

**WHEREAS IRRESPECTIVE OF THE MERITS OF CN'S PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, CN'S INTERPRETATION OF JURISDICTION OVER THIS DEVELOPMENT, IF UPHELD, WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO ALL PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES THAT CONTAIN EXISTING OR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS THAT ENGAGE MATTERS OF FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL REGULATORY INTEREST;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 1. THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ENDORSE THE PRINCIPLES THAT:
 
  - A. THERE MUST BE A COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO ALL DEVELOPMENTS THAT ENGAGE FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL REGULATORY MATTERS.**
  - B. THE EXISTENCE OF FEDERAL REGULATION OVER A DEVELOPMENT DOES NOT PRECLUDE AND MAY REQUIRE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL REGULATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT TO AVOID REGULATORY GAPS.****
- 2. THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUPPORTS THE HALTON MUNICIPALITIES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO IN THE COURT APPLICATION TO CONFIRM A LEGITIMATE MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL REGULATORY ROLE WITH RESPECT OF THIS CN DEVELOPMENT.**

Carried

b) North Stormont requesting the province extends its areas of responsibility for Green Energy projects and it was

5. Moved by B. J. Loan  
Seconded W. Handy

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**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH STORMONT WITH REGARD TO THE GREEN ENERGY ACT AND THE EXTENTION OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO'S RESPONSIBILITIES BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

- c) Township of Howick – Petitioning the Bereavement Authority of Ontario to amend Regulation to allow borrowing of funds from the Care and Maintenance Trust Fund for capital improvements was filed
- d) City of Toronto – regarding Immediate Steps to Address Gun Violence was filed.

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) items were read as follows:

- a) The TBDSSAB – Media Release – Call for Nominations to New Child Care & Early Years Advisory Table. Deadline for submissions was July 27, 2018. No names were put forward.
- b) TBDSSAB – 2017 Annual Report was reviewed and is available on line.
- c) Memo with regard to the selection of TBDSSAB Representatives for Area One was read. The Clerk-Treasurer reported on the discussions held at the last Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) with regard to the appointment of the Area One Representatives to the Board. After several meetings going back to the respective Councils the LRMC has made a final decision to be approved by each individual Council. It was

- 6. Moved by K. Foekens  
Seconded by B. J. Loan

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL CONCURS WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE LAKEHEAD RURAL MUNICIPAL COALITION (LRMC) ON JULY 24, 2018 TO APPROVE A MUNICIPAL-PAIRING, ROTATIONAL APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR THE SELECTION OF THE REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD AREA ONE THREE SEATS.**

**PAIRINGS AS FOLLOWS: THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF OLIVER PAIPOONGE, TOWNSHIP OF GILLIES WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF SHUNIAH AND THE TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING.**

Carried

- d) Update from the Board Newsletter for July 12, 2018 was read.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition – i) June 21, 2018 minutes of the meeting  
ii) Report prepared by Wayne Hanchard, CAO Oliver Paipoonge regarding OMPF – Municipal/Provincial Service Responsibility: 1998 and Now. This article was prepared by Mr. Hanchard as a part of the review that the LRMC member Treasurer's are preparing with regard to the short falls to the municipalities through the Provincial mandated programs and the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF).
- b) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – August Newsletter. Council would like to see the article with regard to Staying Safe while exploring the wilderness in the next issue of the Cornerstone newsletter.
- c) Superior North EMS – regarding the second quarter levy for 2018. They are not anticipating a variance from the original levy at this time.
- d) City of Thunder Bay copy of the 2017 Financial Statements, 2017 Reconciliation and 2018 Partial Payment summary for the Thunder Bay Court Services.
- e) Stewardship Ontario – regarding the Industry funding for Municipal Blue Box Recycling for the first quarter of the 2018 program year.
- f) OMERS – message from CEO regarding the Comprehensive Plan Review. There will be a presentation made at the upcoming AMO Conference on this. Council encourage staff keep up with what is happening with regard to the proposed changes. Councillor Loan will also bring it up at the next Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) meeting as an issue to pursue.

g) MEPCO Member Newsletter – regarding the OMERS Plan Review.

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- h) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) AMO Communications – Main Street Revitalization Initiative – Updates. The Township’s funding has been received and has been put into a high interest savings account until it is being spent. The Clerk-Treasurer asked for clarification on what Council’s priorities are with regard to the project to ensure that there is no shortfall with the funding. It was agreed that the digital sign and the welcome signage are the highest priority at this time. The Clerk-Treasurer will start organizing the purchases, permits and installation of these signs.
- ii) AMO Communications – Ontario Government’s Speech from the Throne.
- iii) AMO Watchfile – July 19, 2018.
- iv) AMO Communications – Ford Government announces legislation impacting municipal governments and changes to cannabis implementation.
- i) AMCTO – AMCTO Responds to announcement to the Better Local Government Act.
- j) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) – Introductory letter from Deputy Minister, Laurie LeBlanc.
- k) City of Hamilton – regarding a resolution they endorsed to request a six month grace period for the Cannabis legislation to ensure that municipal law enforcement officers and the Ontario Provincial Police are adequately trained to enforce the said legislation.
- l) ROMA Communications – regarding the ROMA Annual General Meeting and Conference – January 27 – 29, 2019 in Toronto. It was suggested that one person from Council attend the conference. A decision as to who can be determined with new Council. It was suggested that perhaps a room could be booked for the Township at this time.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – Service Funding tracking. Member communities continue to ask NOMA to advocate the Minister’s with regard to the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF). It has become challenging to form an argument as some communities seem to be okay with the program. The Board continue to try to build a consensus and build a regional case, if there is one.
- b) Farm Credit Canada – Fund Response for application for outdoor rink revitalization. The Township of O’Connor’s application has been denied.
- c) Municipal GHG Challenge Fund Team – regarding the Cancellation of Round 2 Update. The Township had started putting together an application for the construction of a new municipal garage.
- d) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) – Chad Turner’s response to a request for a meeting with MPAC with regard to the high assessment values in the Township of O’Connor. Mr. Tanner would be willing to meet with Council or do a public presentation. He noted that the presentation would focus on assessment and how MPAC arrives at their numbers. He would only be able to address MPAC related questions. The Township also has a concern with weighted assessment and the outside agencies using these numbers to levy the Township. It was suggested that Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff also attend the meeting to explain how the municipality is levied based on the weighted assessment. Mr. Turner recommended that a meeting be scheduled for the beginning to mid-November. He noted that the time for Request for Reconsideration (RFR) for 2018 is past and the 2019 will open in November, as well the municipal election will held in October. If residents are interested in requesting a RFR it will be fresh in their minds after a meeting. Council agreed to try to plan the meeting to be a part of the November 12, 2018 Council meeting, if it works for the presenters. The Clerk-Treasurer will follow up and make the arrangements. The meeting will be held in the O’Connor Community Centre in anticipation of a large contingency of ratepayers attending.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) A complaint letter regarding stunt driving within the Township from an anonymous persons was read. The letter requested that the letter be put in the Cornerstone as

well as be presented to Council. Due to the content and language used in the letter, it was decided by staff previously to not include the actual letter but to make a statement with regard to stunt driving, which was included on the front page of the August issue of the Cornerstone. Council discussed the letter and understands the frustration and would like to include the information with regard to stunt driving in the  
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next few issues of the Cornerstones to hopefully encourage the drivers to respect their neighbours and discontinue this destructive behaviour.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- b) AMCTO Zone 9 – Fall Meeting September 18 and 19, 2018 attendance was discussed. The registration is free to all AMCTO members for this one time. The Clerk-Treasurer recommended that all administrative staff, including the Administrative Assistant attend this Zone meeting if the agenda is appropriate. It was

7. Moved by W. Handy  
 Seconded by B. J. Loan

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE AMCTO ZONE 9 FALL MEETING TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON SEPTEMBER 18 AND 19, 2018.**

**CLERK-TREASURER BUOB  
 DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT  
 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT LAFOREST**

**REGISTRATION: NO CHARGE.**

Carried

The office will be closed for these two days to allow all staff to attend.

- c) Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) – Strategic Asset Management Policy – Interactive Workshop. It was

8. Moved by K. Foekens  
 Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MUNICIPAL FINANCE OFFICERS OF ONTARIO (MFOA) STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY – INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON NOVEMBER 20, 2018.**

**DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT**

**REGISTRATION: \$100.00**

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- d) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines – Mining Information Session, September 12, 2018 in Oliver Paipoonge. The presentation will be made on the Mining Act, area geology, area mining history and mining claims in the area. Prospectors have been staking within the Townships of O'Connor and Gillies and the Municipalities of Oliver Paipoonge and Neebing recently.
- e) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – i) regarding the Fall Joint Regional Conference and the Ministry staff no longer being allowed to participate. ii) Cancellation of Regional Conference.
- f) Manitoba/NW Ontario Command of the Royal Canadian Legion regarding advertising in Recognition Book. It was noted that this is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Remembrance Day. It was

9. Moved by K. Foekens  
 Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O’CONNOR PURCHASE A 1/10 PAGE BUSINESS CARD ADVERTISING SPACE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK. HONOURING THE MANITOBA/NW ONTARIO VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS. COST PER ADVERTISEMENT - \$205.00**

Carried

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g) The date of the second Council meeting in October will have to be changed due to upcoming municipal election. Dates were discussed and it was

- 10. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2018 AT 7 P.M. BE RESCHEDULED TO MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2018 AT 7 P.M. DUE TO THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION.**

Carried

h) Rural Heritage Agricultural Society invitation to participate in Slate River plow match at the Rural Heritage Days. Mayor Vezina will participate and defend his title.

Under further new business, Councillor Loan informed Council of a recent concern mentioned to himself from a resident with regard to her entrance after the construction along Highway 590 last year. She had contacted the Ministry of Transportation last year after advice from the Clerk-Treasurer. Council agreed that was the appropriate information and there is nothing further for Council to do in this matter.

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

- a) The Clerk-Treasurer reported to Council that our current installer and service provider for the accessible lift in the O’Connor Community Centre has provided notice that they are no longer eligible to continue with the maintenance agreement. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that she is currently trying to find a new supplier for the service. Council provided a couple suggestions of possible suppliers for the Clerk-Treasurer to look into. The Clerk-Treasurer has asked the service provider for a refund on a portion of the agreement with no avail. It was suggested that a lawyer be contacted to see how much it would cost to send a letter requesting a refund in this regard to the provider.

- 11. Moved by B. J. Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

**TIME BEING: 9:30 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk-Treasurer