

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – DECEMBER 18, 2017

Minutes of the meeting held on December 18, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Ms. Vicky Kosny, Manager – Community Planning and Development and
Ms. Sylvie Oulton – Planner, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Ministry of
Housing arrived at 7:15 p.m.
On the phone at 7:25 p.m. – Jaime Posen, MCIP RPP, Planner - Fotenn

Absent: Councillor Loan

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Foekens declared an interest in item 7b) as he is the owner of the business being paid.

1. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
DECEMBER 4, 2017 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. There were two First Response calls since the last report. Fire Chief Mattas thanked Council and staff for all their support for the Fire Department over the year. He has flooded the rink five times now and it is ready to go for the skaters over the holidays. He also explained the process of flooding the rink and noted that all the white paint previously put on the asphalt surface has crumbled off. He would recommend putting down a white plastic to keep the ice longer in the spring when the warmer sun starts to hit the ice surface. He will look into cost. Fire Chief Mattas also noted that he is still working on getting the training trailer delivered to the disposal site. It will be delivered by tow truck now and in the spring will be setup properly for the team to use. Council asked Fire Chief Mattas about his budget and if he had spent what was allocated. Fire Chief will get updated information for December from the administration and review his budget to see if there are still items that need to purchase before year end.

An email message from the Deputy Minister of Community Safety with regard to Expansion of the Ontario Naloxone Program to provide access to police and fire services was read. It was noted that this information has also been sent to Ms. Coderre, the First Response Co-ordinator, to decide whether or not our First Response Team would be interested in enrolling in the program.

Happy Holiday wishes were exchanged and Fire Chief Mattas left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Ms. Kosny and Ms. Oulton were welcomed to the table. Introductions were made around the table. Mr. Posen, Planner with Fotenn and author of the Township's draft Official Plan also joined the meeting via telephone.

Council was thanked for making the effort to meet with the Ministry staff to review the plan in person. The Ministry staff provided a short table of their latest comments for discussion tonight. The items on the table were discussed and some amendments will be made with regard to secondary dwelling units.

The Ministry had requested in absence of a detailed municipal assessment for wildland fire hazards that a requirement for the proponent be added to the plan. They were informed that the Township of O'Connor is currently working on a FireSmart wildland fire hazard assessment which can be incorporated into the plan. The Clerk-Treasurer will forward more details of the process to Mr. Posen to include reference to this information in the Official Plan.

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With regard to Fish Habitat, the Township had removed the distance of 120 metres in which no development can be done and the Ministry questioned why this distance was removed. Council had requested that this distance be removed as the Township only has one river which is designated and the use limitation areas are already identified restricting the development in these designated areas. The Ministry staff will discuss this further with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to see if this would be considered. A request for a fish assessment would be implemented through a zoning tool.

The requirement for proof of water was discussed. The Ministry would like the litre amount required removed from the document. The Ministry does not have any issue with the larger lots not requiring proof of water. It was agreed to keep the reference to Regulation 903 in the document. This section will also be reworded.

The Mapping was discussed with regard to Species at Risk. Currently our maps are not identifying any areas, even though the Ministry does identify species within the Township. The Township has not been provided access to this information even after training of staff has taken place. It was suggested that this information not be included on the map as it only identifies the area which would draw more attention to them. The Township should be made aware of the locations and then if an application is submitted and they feel it could be in the area then further studies would be required. The Ministry staff will contact the MNRF to get more detail on this matter.

The process of the approval of the plan was further discussed. A statutory public meeting will be held in the new year with a date to be set at a future meeting when all additional questions and comments have been resolved or confirmed. The Council will then adopt the Official Plan and submit it to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Housing for final approval within 180 days.

Ms. Kosny and Ms. Oulton were thanked for attending and Mr. Posen was thanked for sitting in on the call to hear and add to the discussion and comments first hand. Only minor changes will be required at this time and it should be ready to submit to the Ministry by March following the public meeting and final adoption. They all left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Bills to be paid were passed around the table and it was

2. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #1 FOR DECEMBER 2017 TOTTALLING \$44,459.34 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

THAT THE ROADS VOUCHER FOR KEVIN'S TIRE SERVICE FOR DECEMBER 2017 TOTTALLING \$2,026.45 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

By-laws and policies were reviewed as follows

- a) i) Township of O'Connor Emergency Management Program final draft.
ii) Township of O'Connor Municipal Emergency Plan – as amended. The Clerk-Treasurer explained some of the changes made to the documents following the Emergency Management Program Committee and Council's previous discussions.
iii) By-law #2017-23 was reviewed. The Emergency Management Program will be included as Schedule "A" to the By-law. As well the Municipal Emergency Plan will be included as Schedule "B" to the plan. It was

4. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by K. Foekens

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THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2017-23 BEING A BY-LAW TO ESTABLISH AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, THE ENVIRONMENT AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROPERTY AND TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC STABILITY AND A DISASTER-RESILIENT COMMUNITY; AND TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS MADE TO THE MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY PLAN BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

b) A Complaints Policy for the Township of O'Connor. It was

5. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2017-24 BEING A BY-LAW TO ADOPT A COMPLAINTS POLICY FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

This Policy will be included in the Agreements appointing the Integrity Commissioner and the Closed Meeting Investigator.

c), d) and e) - The Agreements to appoint a Closed Meeting Investigator and Integrity Commissioner were reviewed and it was

6. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2017-25 BEING A BY-LAW TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MS. SHEELAGH HENDRICK FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER AND CLOSED MEETING INVESTIGATOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

7. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2017-26 BEING A BY-LAW TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MR. DARRELL MATSON FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER AND CLOSED MEETING INVESTIGATOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

8. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2017-27 BEING A BY-LAW TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MR. TIM COMMISSO FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER AND CLOSED MEETING INVESTIGATOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read and it was

a) Township of West Lincoln regarding the Ontario Wildlife Compensation Program was read and it was

9. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN REQUESTING THAT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS, IMMEDIATELY COMMENCE SENDING INSPECTORS OUT TO THE FIELD TO ADJUDICATE ALL INCIDENCE OF LIVESTOCK LOSS OR RELY

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ON THE MUNICIPAL APPOINTED LIVESTOCK EVALUATORS FOR THE ACCURATE ACCOUNTING OF INCIDENCE OF LOSS AND USE THEIR REPORTS TO SUPPORT THE PAYMENT OF LOSS DUE TO PREDATORY ANIMALS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- b) City of Clarence-Rockland regarding Bill 160, Strengthening Quality and Accountability of Patients Act, 2017 was filed.

DSSAB issues were discussed as follows:

- a) Copy of letter to Minister of Education and Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care regarding Child Care and Early Years Regulatory Changes.
- b) Copy of letter to Minister of Housing and Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care – regarding the Position Paper Towards a Greater Supportive Housing System: Housing, Mental Health, and Addictions in the District of Thunder Bay.
- c) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board – 2018 Proposed Budget. It was noted that the Township's levy is currently 3% lower than 2017.
- d) Iain Angus, Executive Director – Common Voice Northwest – regarding Community Transportation Grant Program – Municipal Stream.
- e) Update from the Board – December 5, 2017 Newsletter.
- f) Update from the Board – December 18, 2017 Newsletter.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) – regarding Budget and Municipal Levy for 2018. There will be a 2.65% increase in the Township's levy
- b) Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) – regarding an update on the Handheld Regulation. The municipal exemption has been extended until January 1, 2021.
- c) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) AMO Communications – Things That Happened Today at Queen's Park.
- d) Firedog Communications – An update on behalf of the Northwestern Ontario Immigration Portal Committee
- e) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) – regarding Review of Forest Tenure Models project

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Lakehead Police Services Board request for a resolution in support of a position for each member municipality was discussed and it was

10. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

WHEREAS THE LAKEHEAD POLICE SERVICES BOARD WAS FORMED IN 2017 AS A JOINT POLICE SERVICES BOARD FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING AND THE TOWNSHIPS OF GILLIES, O'CONNOR AND CONMEE;

AND WHEREAS THE POLICE SERVICES ACT PROVIDES FOR JOINT POLICE SERVICES BOARDS, BUT DOES NOT EXPRESSLY PROVIDE FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE MEMBERSHIP ON A JOINT POLICE SERVICE BOARD;

AND WHEREAS THE APPLICATION OF THE POLICE SERVICES ACT SECTIONS RELATING TO SINGLE MUNICIPALITY POLICE SERVICES BOARD COMPOSITION TO THE JOINT MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICES BOARD MODEL WOULD RESULT IN SOME MUNICIPALITIES BEING UNABLE TO APPOINT MEMBERS OF THEIR COUNCIL TO THE BOARD;

AND WHEREAS THE PROVINCE REQUIRES TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS;

AND WHEREAS TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN RELATION TO THE OPERATION OF A JOINT POLICE SERVICES BOARD WOULD BE

DIFFICULT FOR ANY PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITY WITHOUT A COUNCIL MEMBER WITH A SEAT AT THE BOARD TABLE;

AND WHEREAS THE MUNICIPALITIES WHO SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE JOINT POLICE SERVICES BOARD ARE RESPONSIBLE TO PAY 100% OF THE COSTS OF THE BOARD;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES PROCESS A REGULATION PROVIDING THAT, IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE A POLICE SERVICES BOARD REPRESENTS MORE THAN ONE INCORPORATE MUNICIPALITY, THAT EACH INCORPORATED MUNICIPALITY BE ENTITLED TO APPOINT A MEMBER OF ITS COUNCIL TO THE BOARD;

AND FURTHER, IF THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IS NOT PREPARED TO PROCESS A GENERAL REGULATION IN THIS REGARD, THAT THE MINISTER PROCESS A REGULATION PROVIDING THAT THE COMPOSITION OF THE LAKEHEAD POLICE SERVICES BOARD, WHICH SERVES THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING AND THE TOWNSHIPS OF GILLIES, O'CONNOR AND CONMEE, INCLUDE, AS A MINIMUM, ONE REPRESENTATIVE MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR EACH OF THE MUNICIPALITIES SERVED BY THE BOARD.

Carried

As Councillor Loan was unavailable to provide detail from the LPSB meeting held on December 5, 2017 the Clerk-Treasurer provided information from the draft minutes of the meeting. It was noted that the meeting dates for 2018 have been set on a quarterly basis and the meetings will be held in O'Connor.

- b) A draft report from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) with regard to the interim update on their assessment of the amended Blue Box Program Plan was reviewed.

Under Further Old Business, the Clerk-Treasurer reported to Council the Municipality of Neebing's comments to MP Don Rusnak with regard to his request for the 2018 Federal Budget. Council also supports these comments.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) The Municipality of East Ferris with regard to the two-way radio exemption expiring on January 1, 2018. As this item has been resolved no further discussion was held.
- b) Office of the Provincial Security Advisor (OPSA), regarding and Awareness Brief and securing public spaces. The Township of O'Connor is considered to be in green code which indicates low sensitivity with limited restrictions on further dissemination.

Under further new business, Councillor Racicot reported on a recent issue and court case with Taranis and the Lakehead Rural Planning Board.

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

- a) Councillor Bob McMaster, Thunder Bay District Health Unit representative email regarding the Expert Panel Report and a request for Council to support a resolution opposing the recommendations and it was

- 11. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

WHEREAS, THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR RECEIVED THE REPORT OF THE MINISTER'S EXPERT PANEL ON PUBLIC HEALTH: "PUBLIC HEALTH WITHIN AN INTEGRATED HEALTH SYSTEM"; AND

WHEREAS, THE COUNCIL FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HAS SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS REGARDING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE

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EXPERT PANEL TO INTEGRATE A POPULATION HEALTH APPROACH INTO LOCAL PLANNING AND SERVICE DELIVERY; AND

WHEREAS, THERE IS AN APPARENT LACK OF EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE BASE UPON WHICH THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE FOUNDED; AND

WHEREAS, THE CURRENT MANDATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO PREVENT DISEASE, PROTECT, AND PROMOTE HEALTH SHOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED; AND

WHEREAS, PUBLIC HEALTH MUST REMAIN DISTINCT FROM ACUTE CARE HEALTH SERVICES AND LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORKS (LHINS) IN TERMS OF ROLE, FUNDING, GOVERNANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN ORDER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH TO FOCUS ON A MORE UPSTREAM APPROACH, THE CAUSES OF POOR HEALTH OR THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH; AND

WHEREAS, THE IMPORTANT LINKAGES WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR PROGRAMMING, UNDERSTANDING LOCAL NEEDS, AND LEVERAGING THESE PARTNERSHIPS WILL BE UNDERMINED; AND

WHEREAS, REGIONALIZATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS WITH CENTRALIZED DECISION-MAKING WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPALITIES:

- **LESS MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATION (400 BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS REDUCED TO APPROXIMATELY 180) AND LOSS OF LOCAL VOICE IN GOVERNING AND DIRECTING PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO UNDERSTAND AND MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITIES;**
- **SUBSTANTIAL DELAYS IN RESPONDING TO LOCAL PROGRAM AND SERVICE NEEDS ESPECIALLY DURING EMERGENCIES;**
- **ADDING ANOTHER LAYER OF BUREAUCRACY RESULTING IN INCREASED COSTS AND INEFFICIENCIES;**
- **GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE WILL NOT BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO MEET/ADJUST/RESPOND TO LOCAL NEEDS AND NEGATIVELY IMPACT VULNERABLE PRIORITY POPULATIONS;**
- **POTENTIAL LOSS OF IMPORTANT LOCAL SERVICES FUNDAMENTAL TO DAY-TO-DAY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT OPERATIONS AND EFFICIENCIES (I.E., CORPORATE SERVICES, FINANCE, PLANNING AND EVALUATION, COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, ETC.);**
- **KEY POSITIONS (CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, FINANCE, ETC.) ON REGIONAL BOARDS OF HEALTH SHOULD NOT BE APPOINTED ORDERS IN COUNCIL TO AVOID POLITICAL INFLUENCE/INTERFERENCE; AND**

WHEREAS, THE CURRENT COST-SHARED PROVINCIAL/MUNICIPAL FUNDING FORMULA (75%-25%) WILL NOT SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS; AND

WHEREAS, LHIN BOUNDARIES SHOULD BE RECONFIGURED TO ALIGN WITH MUNICIPAL, LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND SOCIAL SERVICE BOUNDARIES TO SUPPORT THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM PLANNING; AND

WHEREAS PUBLIC HEALTH CAN BE INTEGRATED INTO THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WITHOUT THE SIGNIFICANT SYSTEM DISRUPTION, ENORMOUS COST, AND RISK OF ERODING COMMUNITY VALUED PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT WOULD RESULT WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPERT PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR DOES NOT SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXPERT PANEL AND IS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF

MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO (AMO) URGING THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE, DR. ERIC HOSKINS, NOT TO ADOPT THEM.

Carried

- b) Ministry of Municipal Affairs regarding an update on Bill 59, Putting Consumers First Act (Consumer Protection Statute Law Amendment), 2017.
- c) OMB Review – Passing of Bill 139 – the Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017.

- 12. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

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: 9:00 P.M.

Carried

The review of the applications received for the casual disposal site caretaker position were discussed.

A request from an employee with regard the dental/medical coverage was discussed.

- 13. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by K. Foekens

TIME BEING: 9:08 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

- 14. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT DENNIS EHN BE HIRED AS THE CASUAL RELIEF FOR THE DISPOSAL SITE CARETAKER POSITION. RATE OF PAY WILL BE THE ENTRY WAGE.

Carried

- 15. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 9:10 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer