

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – DECEMBER 21, 2015

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, December 21, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Michelle Welch, LHNorth
Fire Chief Henry Mattas, Deputy Fire Chief Monica Budiselic
Paul Phillips – O'Connor Fire Department

Acting Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 company being paid. Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 14c) 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,
DECEMBER 7, 2015 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Acting Mayor Vezina asked the visitors if they wished to address Council. Mr. Phillips did request to speak to Council with regard to the Fire Department. Council agreed to allow Mr. Phillips to ask his question. Mr. Phillips' question was with regard to the Fire Department Auxiliary and their ambitious fundraising to support the necessary purchases of equipment and supplies for the Fire Department. Mr. Phillips asked what Council would support with regard to a purchase of large equipment. Acting Mayor Vezina explained that the Fire Department Auxiliary is a citizens group which supports the Fire Department and does not deal directly with Council. The Auxiliary would discuss with the Fire Chief and the Fire Department what they feel they need to spend their fundraising monies on and then the Fire Chief would approach Council if it was a capital item in which the Township would then be responsible for. Council would support the Fire Department's needs. Mr. Phillips thanked Council for their response.

Ms. Michelle Welch, from LHNorth, was welcomed to the table. Introductions were made. Ms. Welch explained to Council that LHNorth was awarded the culvert replacement projects on Highway 595. One in O'Connor at Cedar Creek and two in the Township of Gillies. During the construction they would like to have a full road closure on Highway 595 at the crossing but are in need of support from Council to use the Township road system and determine a detour route. Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was asked to come to the table to discuss this issue. Mr. Johnson recommended that the detour come off of Highway 590 at both Garbutt Road and Pool Road and then turn back onto Highway 595 at Whittaker Road and Broome Road. LHNorth would be responsible for maintaining the roads on the detour during the road closure. They will drive the roads with Mr. Johnson prior to the closure and the detour being put in place, and will bring the road back to original state when they are done. They will also be responsible for the placement of dust control and grading of the roads during this time. It was requested that lower speed limit signs be posted on the detour due to the increased traffic. The closure is estimated to begin on June 15, 2016 and will not exceed 40 days which they are estimating to have the road reopened by the 3rd week in August. TBT Engineering is currently doing the environmental assessment for the project.

Ms. Welch requested a list of people who Council feel should be notified directly. They will also provide an approved notice to be put into the Township's newsletter with regard to the closure.

Ms. Welch also requested a resolution from Council allowing for the detour and for an agreement with LHNorth to do the road maintenance during the detour.

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Ms. Welch was thanked for attending and she left the meeting.

Fire Chief Henry Mattas and the Township's new Deputy Fire Chief Monica Budiselic were welcomed to the table. Introductions were made. The Fire Department report from November 19 to December 20, 2015 was read. There were four first response calls, one fire related call, one fire/co alarm call and one motor vehicle collision call in this time period.

Ms. Budiselic informed Council that it will be a privilege to work with O'Connor and informed Council that her biggest goal was to make the O'Connor Fire Department a model department, to work on recruitment, ensure a positive outlook and get rid of any negativity and ensure that the department is in compliance with all the rules and regulations. Deputy Fire Chief Budiselic was welcomed to the new position and thanked for taking on the challenge.

Fire Chief Mattas expressed his concern to Council with regard to an incident at the last Fire Department Auxiliary meeting. Councillor Racicot, an auxiliary member, stated to those present that the Council does not support the Fire Department. Fire Chief Mattas was very upset with this statement. As long as he has been with the department he has never felt that Council was not supporting the department in anyway.

Council was very concerned with this comment as well, as they have always felt that they were supportive. Fire Chief Mattas brings his budget and what the department needs to Council and they do support what they can and need at the time. The Township is tasked to manage the budget as best they can but if there is a need the department is always supported. If the department members have concerns they need to approach the Fire Chief and inform him of their concerns so that he can bring them to Council. These concerns should also be documented and dated to ensure that they are being addressed.

Councillor Racicot was asked to attend the next Fire Department Auxiliary and apologize and retract his statement. Council also asked him to ensure that as an auxiliary member that he let it be known that his opinions and comments are his own personal comments and not those of Council.

The Fire Department Auxiliary minutes for the December 15, 2015 meeting were read. Council did thank Councillor Racicot for everything that he does do for the auxiliary.

Merry Christmas wishes were extended and Fire Chief Mattas reported to Council that he will be out of the area until December 28, 2015.

Council thanked Fire Chief Mattas and Deputy Fire Chief Budiselic for attending and they and Mr. Phillips and Mr. Johnson left the meeting at 8 p.m.

The Administration and Roads voucher #1 for December was reviewed and it was

2. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #1 FOR DECEMBER 2015 TALLING \$56,364.03 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The voucher for Kevin's Tire Service was reviewed and it was

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

THAT THE ROADS VOUCHER FOR KEVIN'S TIRE SERVICE FOR NOVEMBER 2015 TALLING \$41.75 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

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The Safety Mission Statement for the Township was reviewed, discussed and debated. It was agreed that this is a broad picture of what the Township works under. The Health & Safety policies describe in more detail what is required individually and it was agreed to keep the wording the same and it was

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

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SAFETY MISSION STATEMENT BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Lakehead Rural Planning Board (LRPB) Public Notice of Hearing for Timothy Silvaggio for application 1B/03/16 and 1B/04/16 was reviewed. Clerk-Treasurer Buob noted that no applications were received by the Township from the LRPB and that this notice came to her directly at home as a neighbouring property owner. She also noted a concern with the notice, as there were amendments made to the original application submitted in 2014, which were not noted in this notice. The original applications were not completed in the required time period and have been resubmitted for approval.

Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to contact the Board with the concerns.

A resolution for endorsement from the Municipality of Port Hope with regard to prohibiting incineration facilities was filed.

An Administrative Report from Rosalie Evans, Solicitor-Clerk for the Municipality of Neebing and the Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee (LRMC) with regard to the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board was read. This report explained the Area One Head of Councils request to have their members consider paying the levies they would normally pay to the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) in 2016 into an escrow account pending mediation with the TBDSSAB regarding the Area One concerns. Acting Mayor Vezina also informed Council of the conference call held on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 with the TBDSSAB, the Ministry of Community and Social Services and Mayor Holland, representing Area One with regard to the mediation. It was

5. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

WHEREAS THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES OFFERED MEDIATION IN FEBRUARY OF 2014, IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD AND THE MUNICIPALITIES THAT MAKE UP "AREA ONE" OF THAT SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD;

AND WHEREAS ALMOST TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED DURING WHICH TIME THE AREA ONE MUNICIPALITIES' ATTEMPTS TO BRING THE MEDIATION TO FRUITION HAVE NOT MET WITH SUCCESS;

AND WHEREAS THE AREA ONE MUNICIPALITIES WISH TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES, AS WELL AS TO THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD THAT THEY CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO LET THEIR CONCERNS REMAIN UNANSWERED;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:
THAT THE MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF THE LEVIES ORDINARILY MADE TO THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD WILL, COMMENCING IN JANUARY 2016, BE PAID INSTEAD TO AN ESCROW AGENT;**

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AND THAT THE ESCROW AGENT AND THE MUNICIPALITIES MAKING UP AREA ONE OF THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD WILL ENTER INTO AN ESCROW AGREEMENT WHICH WILL DICTATE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE RELEASE OF THE MONEY PAID INTO THE ESCROW ACCOUNT;

AND THAT ADMINISTRATION WORK WITH THE OTHER MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES IN AREA ONE TO RECOMMEND AN ESCROW AGENT AND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ESCROW AGREEMENT, AND REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL IN JANUARY FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO THE AGREEMENT.

Carried

As Mayor Nelson was the appointed member to the Social Services Board and Councillor Vezina has been appointed Mayor effective January 1, 2016 it was agreed that Mayor Vezina will be the new representative on this board and it was

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

WHEREAS THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HAS PASSED A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FORMATION OF A NEW SOCIAL SERVICES DELIVERY AGENCY;

AND WHEREAS THE AREA ONE HAS REQUESTED THAT EACH MEMBER MUNICIPALITY APPOINT A REPRESENTATIVE TO SIT ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE NEW SOCIAL SERVICES DELIVERY AGENCY;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR APPOINTS MAYOR JIM VEZINA TO BE ITS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD (SSB) AND THAT ALL HONOURARIUMS/MILEAGE WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE REPRESENTATIVE'S MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP.

Carried

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee (LRMC) – minutes – November 19, 2015.
- b) Thunder Bay District Health Unit Board – Councillor MacMaster's reports – March 18, April 15, May 20, September 16, and November 18, 2015.
- c) Township of Conmee – News Release – Conmee Connects Residents to the World Wide Web.
- d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario – i) AMO Watchfile – December 10, 2015.
ii) AMO Watchfile – December 17, 2015.
iii) AMO Communications – Members' Update: Waste Free Ontario Act.
iv) AMO Communications – Repeal of Sections of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA).
- v) AMO Breaking News – Ontario's Consultation on Primary, Home and Community Health Care.
- vi) AMO's 2016 Strategic Objectives.
- e) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – regarding the 2015 Rural Roadmap: The Path Forward for Ontario.
- f) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – News Release – Ontario Passes Legislation to Promote Smart Community Growth.

The balance of the correspondence and Christmas wishes were passed around the table.

Under Old business, Council discussed the vacant seat on Council. Councillor Loan expressed his opinion with regard to two options for filling the seat. His concern was that we remain transparent in our decision and the ratepayers are made aware of the Township's options to fill the seat. It was agreed that it would be more expedient to appoint the new Councillor. The process of attracting a new Councillor was discussed and it was agreed that a notice will be put on the Township website, in the January issue of the Cornerstone, a flyer will be sent out to all eligible ratepayers in the

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Township of O'Connor and Thunder Bay area early to mid-January and a reminder will be included in the February issue of the Cornerstone. Expressions of Interest and a resume will be requested and accepted at the Township office either in person, by mail, email or fax by February 4, 2016 and reviewed at the February 8, 2016 Council meeting. Interviews will follow and a Councillor chosen.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) PHA Engineering's request for office space for two people and meeting space for approximately ten people in the O'Connor - Hymers area with access to a washroom. They are currently submitting a tender to be the administrators of the culvert replacement jobs in 2016 and possibly 2017. Council discussed the idea and would like to offer the old Municipal office area in the O'Connor Community Centre, however the space would not be exclusively theirs as the other groups currently using the area would still have access to their regular times. It was

7. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT PHA ENGINEERING BE OFFERED THE OLD MUNICIPAL OFFICE SPACE IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE FROM APPROXIMATELY MAY 2016 TO OCTOBER 2016, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF MAY TO OCTOBER 2017 AS WELL, AT A RENTAL RATE OF \$500.00 PER MONTH. THEY WILL BE NOTIFIED THAT THE OFFICE AREA WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE ON NORWEST COMMUNITY HEALTH MOBILE HEALTH UNITS CLINIC DATES AND THAT THE AREA WOULD NOT BE EXCLUSIVELY THEIR OWN SPACE.

Carried

- b) Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee Administrative Report – regarding the opportunity to fund an Economic Development Officer was discussed. Currently Council would be willing to support an application in principle as it could benefit the surrounding municipalities but if there is a cost to the Township, Council did not see the need as the Township, as a bedroom community, does not have a lot of economic opportunity.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- c) Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change – Proposed Waste-Free Ontario Framework Consultation Sessions – Thunder Bay January 26, 2016. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE PROPOSED WASTE-FREE ONTARIO FRAMEWORK JANUARY REGIONAL CONSULTATION SESSION TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2016.

ACTING MAYOR VEZINA.

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- d) Update on Official Plan and Zoning By-law Review. Clerk-Treasurer Buob reported that Fotenn Consulting will be coming to O'Connor on January 11, 2016. They will be meeting with staff during the day and attending the Council meeting that evening to meet Council and to hear their concerns and ideas for the review. They will also be meeting with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on January 12th.

Under further new business Councillor Racicot asked the question in light of the last snowstorm which knocked out power to several homes in the Township, some for multiple days, when would the Township open up the Community centre for those in need? It was agreed to have the emergency plan reviewed to see if this is included and what kind of request from a resident would be require if it is not the whole Township out of power. How would we know when it was required?

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The Township did send out an emergency survey's requesting residents to fill them in to let us know if they would require assistance in an emergency, however the information is not up to date and should be updated. It is up to the residents to let the Township know of their needs. A request will be made asking the residents to update their information in case of an emergency.

A letter received after the agenda was mailed was read as follows:

a) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – Foundation Fundraising Dinner – regarding ticket sales and request for donation. It was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE LAKEHEAD
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION 2016 FUNDRAISING DINNER AND
AUCTION TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 11, 2016 IN THUNDER BAY.**

TICKETS: \$50.00 EACH

ACTING MAYOR VEZINA

ALSO A DONATION OF TWO HISTORY BOOKS WILL BE MADE.

Carried

For information purposes building permit #2015-20 for renovations at 1058 Highway 588 was approved.

Merry Christmas wishes were extended and it was

10. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO
BE HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.**

TIME BEING: 9:55 P.M.

Carried

Acting Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer