

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – DECEMBER 4, 2017

Minutes of the meeting held on December 4, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Present: Mayor Vezina  
Councillors: Alkins, Foekens, Loan, Racicot,  
Clerk-Treasurer Buob  
Visitors: Amy Bumbacco, Food Strategy Coordinator and Charles Levkoe,  
Executive Committee member – Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy  
Kelly Johnson, Leadhand, arrived at 7:25 p.m.

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

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

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,  
NOVEMBER 27, 2017 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Ms. Bumbacco and Mr. Levkoe from the Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy were welcomed to the table and introductions were made. A presentation on the group's 2017 activities and accomplishments was made. There are 40+ Food Strategy Council members with eleven executive committee members including representatives from farmers, institutions, government, food security organization and more. In the summer of 2014 the Food Strategy was endorsed by the City of Thunder Bay and the surrounding municipalities including the Township of O'Connor. The work of the Food Strategy continues to grow and succeed with the completion of a Thunder Bay and Area Food and Agriculture Market Study being their biggest project this year. The study's goal was to determine critical market demand data required to better situate the Thunder Bay Area to grow the local agri-food economy. The Food Strategy is requesting financial support in 2018 from the Municipalities and would like to request \$200 from the Township of O'Connor to help the Strategy grow and succeed. Upcoming initiatives were also discussed.

Council asked questions of the guests. It was confirmed that the Food Strategy has one staff member and the rest are volunteers. The group is there to connect people and the members of the Food Strategy and are not just farmers growing the food. Some members included are those promoting the Roots to Harvest program, they train people how to farm and then they send these volunteers out to the area farmers to assist them on their farms. Council asked if there were property owners in the area who might have some open field or land that they would be interested in leasing to a farmer, could this possibly be something that the Food Strategy might be interested in assisting with by making the necessary connections. This could be an opportunity for someone without land of their own to do some farming and possibly grow the needed foods. A local food hub was also discussed. A lot of the local businesses are interested in buying local but not interested in having to order or pickup supplies from several different vendors. The Food Strategy will be starting discussions next week in this regard. The Food Strategy meet twice a year and everyone is welcome to attend. The current Co-chairs are Rebecca Johnson and Bernie Kamphof. Council offered the Food Strategy space in our monthly newsletter to promote any of their accomplishments or requests for information, such as possible requests for fields for rent.

Ms. Bumbacco and Mr. Levkoe were thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. Mr. Johnson noted that he has been working with Mother Nature and all the recent rain and ice. One truck is in the shop getting the clutch changed so they have been using the grader to assist with the road surfaces. One vehicle did slide in the ditch today on Blaikie Road due to the ice.

The 2017 Equipment Report was read. It was noted that Truck #9 is still smoking. The local dealer has acknowledged that there is still an issue and they have been speaking with International to see what they want to do. Mr. Johnson noted that if he doesn't

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hear anything from the local dealer soon, he will be contacting their head office himself. Mr. Johnson also reported that he has not done any of the body work on the Ford 4 x 4 as per budget. It was also noted that the batteries were replaced in the garbage truck but were not included on the report.

Council discussed with Mr. Johnson the Ministry of Transportation's plans for 2019 and 2020 with regard to culvert replacements on Highway 595 and Highway 590. Mr. Johnson asked why they could not stage the culvert on Highway 590. The detours that the Ministry presented at the November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting are not acceptable and the reasons why will be forwarded to them by the Clerk-Treasurer and Leadhand so that they can be discussed further at the January 8, 2018 meeting, when the representatives will be returning to discuss this matter further. It was noted that detour signage was an issue during the road closure in 2016.

Mr. Johnson reported to Council that the disposal site did receive soil from a property on Cronk road. There was confirmation that it was non-hazardous materials.

The Boundary Agreement with the Township of Gillies was discussed. The agreement is due for renewal in January. The current agreement was only signed for one year as the Main Street hill has been closed by the Township of Gillies and the Township of O'Connor was waiting to see if it would be reopened and if the agreement would have to be amended. At this time the road is still closed and it was agreed that Council would enter into another one year agreement until the issues on the Main Street hill are resolved.

Mayor Vezina informed Mr. Johnson and Council that he has been speaking with Mr. Bowles from Oliver Paipoonge. Mr. Bowles would like to request that in 2019 the Township of O'Connor grade a portion of Luckens and Harstone road for them. They would continue to do their own winter maintenance. Mr. Johnson does have some concerns with this and noted that the sightlines would have to be cleared in some locations and there would have to be some compensation for the extra time and fuel to do this work. This will be discussed further prior to the 2019 season.

Mr. Johnson also reported that he has come across an area over a steep bank on Smith road where some deer, farm animals and a dog have been dumped. He has found deer carcass in this area in previous years.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for November 2017 was reviewed and it was

2. Moved by K. Foekens  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR NOVEMBER 2017 TOTTALLING \$88,894.50 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

Additional bills to be paid for December were also reviewed and it was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR DECEMBER 2017 BE PAID. THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE DECEMBER 2017 ADMINISTRATION AND ROAD VOUCHER.**

CK#14699	LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	\$24,528.09
CK#14700	THUNDER BAY CATHOLIC DIST SCHOOL BOARD	\$ 2,099.24
CK#14701	CSDC DES AURORES BOREALES	\$ 145.85
CK#14702	CONSEIL DE DIST DU GRAND NORD DE L'ONTARIO	\$ <u>27.56</u>
		<b>\$26,800.74</b>

Carried

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The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to November 30, 2017 were reviewed.

The draft by-law for the boundary road agreement with the Township of Gillies will be deferred until a January 2018 meeting to confirm that the Township of Gillies is also interested in a one-year agreement.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Thunder Bay District Health Unit – Notice of Public Health Levy for 2018. The levy will remain the same as in 2017.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old business, Council discussed

- a) Update on the Ontario 150 Community Capital Project for renovations to the O'Connor Community Centre in 2017. The Clerk-Treasurer reported to Council that the renovations to the Community Centre came in under budget and the full funding was not used but all projects proposed were completed.
- b) The Closed Meeting Investigator and the Integrity Commissioner positions were discussed. Three people will be appointed to these positions. They all acknowledge that there will be more than one person appointed to both roles in order to ensure that a person is available if required. A draft agreement was reviewed. It was noted that the Township's Code of Conduct is included in the agreement and does have to be updated to meet the new Bill 68 requirements, however to ensure that the agreements are in place before year end the current one will be included and an amendment to the agreement will be made once the new Code of Conduct is approved. The Agreements will be brought back to the next meeting for approval.

Under New business, Council discussed

- a) A letter from Don Rusnak, MPP Thunder Bay – Rainy River with regard to growing the Canadian economy and requesting comments on how the Budget 2018 can best accommodate Northwestern Ontario and our unique needs. They are consulting on four themes including progress for the middle class, the economy of tomorrow, lifelong learning, and gender equality. It was suggested that the Federal Government be made aware that one system does not fit all.
- b) As the second Council meeting in January falls during the ROMA Conference the Clerk-Treasurer asked Council if they wished to change the date of that meeting as the Mayor will be in attendance at the conference. Council agreed to not change the meeting at this time.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Ministry of Transportation regarding Ontario Keeping Highways Safe in the Thunder Bay East Area – Province Procuring New Year-round Highway Maintenance Services. Ontario is looking for a new year-round highway maintenance service provider for the Thunder Bay East area to begin operating in early summer 2019.
- b) Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services – Ontario Strengthens Emergency Management Program. The Province is investing in a Light Urban Search and Rescue Team in Thunder Bay so that specialized equipment and resources can be more quickly deployed in an emergency. The Province will also be recruiting a dedicated Chief of Emergency Management to help ensure effective oversight and governance of emergency management across Ontario.

- 4. Moved by B. J. Loan  
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 8:52 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer