

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – DECEMBER 5, 2016

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Alkins, Foekens, 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: none

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

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2016 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. Roadwork in general was discussed. The road crew is finishing up their 2016 projects. They have been stock piling gravel at the municipal garage for filling potholes and are trying to grade where they can. Ditching is done for the year. Due to the trucks mechanical issues they did not get done as much as planned. The balance of the money budgeted for is now being put towards additional brushing on the Harstone road and Smith road. The Leadhand will be reviewing the budget with the Clerk-Treasurer in the near future to see what still needs to be done. Due to the heavy rains last month there are already soft spots on some the hills. There is concern for the road conditions in the spring as the ground is currently saturated.

Mr. Johnson reported that Truck #9 seems to be working okay now. They did have issues when they originally were bringing it home and had to take it back. Another sensor was gone. It was also noted that the radiator will need to be changed however they are hoping it will hang on into the new year when the repairs can be included in the 2017 budget. Council asked Mr. Johnson to watch for equipment sales, possibly from Alberta, in the future.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

The Administration and Roads voucher was reviewed and it was

2. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR NOVEMBER 2016 TOTTALLING \$66,301.08 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

Due to the timing of the meeting the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures were not available.

By-laws and Policies were discussed as follows:

- a) A By-law for the use of Off-Road Vehicles on the Township of O'Connor roads, as discussed at the last meeting, was again reviewed and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2016-14 BEING A BY-LAW TO PERMIT AND REGULATE THE OPERATION OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLES ON HIGHWAYS

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UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

b) The Township of O'Connor's Safety Mission Statement was reviewed and it was

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

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

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

a) Tay Valley Township regarding Hydro One's Strategy Regarding Hydro Costs and it was

5. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM TAY VALLEY TOWNSHIP REQUESTING THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO RE-EVALUATE THE STRUCTURE OF HYDRO IN TERMS OF ACCESS TO DELIVERY AND IMPLEMENT STRUCTURAL CHANGES TO ADDRESS THE UNFAIR PRACTICE OF CHARGING MORE FOR DELIVERY TO RURAL RESIDENTS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

b) Tay Valley Township regarding Ontario's Electrical Bills was filed.

c) AMO – Office of the President – regarding the Federal Infrastructure Phase 2 Infrastructure funding programming and it was

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

WHEREAS MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS' INFRASTRUCTURE IS CRITICAL TO OUR COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC HEALTH;

WHEREAS STABLE, PREDICTABLE AND FORMULA-BASED INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING ALLOWS MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS TO PLAN AND SCHEDULE INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE;

WHEREAS ONTARIO MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS WHICH SET OUT A MUNICIPALITY'S LONGER TERM CAPITAL PLAN WHICH REFLECTS THE INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES OF THESE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS; AND

WHEREAS A FEDERAL INCREMENTALITY RULE INTERFERES WITH MUNICIPAL LONG-TERM INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES AND DIMINISHES THE VALUE OF MUNICIPAL ASSET PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR CALLS ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM, PREDICTABLE, AND FORMULA-BASED FUNDING IN ITS PHASE 2 PROGRAMS FOR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS; AND

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR CALLS ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE INCREMENTAL REQUIREMENTS IN PHASE 2 TO RECOGNIZE IN ONTARIO THAT A MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN MEETS A MUNICIPAL INCREMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENT.

Carried

d) Town of Lakeshore – regarding Accommodation Review Process and it was

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7. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF LAKESHORE REQUESTING THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION INITIATE AN IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM ON THE ACCOMMODATION REVIEW PROCESS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A REVIEW OF THE IMPACT ON SINGLE-SCHOOL SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES IN ALL EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS ARE STUDIED, COMPLETED AND THE RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE CONSIDERED BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) i) Watch File – December 1, 2016
ii) AMO Communications - Policy Update – AMO Report to Member Municipalities Highlights of the November 2016 Board Meeting
iii) AMO Communications – Policy Update – The Province Proclaims Bill 151 – The Waste-Free Ontario Act – and Moves Toward Full Producer Responsibility
 - b) Norwest Community Health Centres – Retirement of CEO Announced
 - c) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) – Approved Contingency Plan Inspection Lakehead Forest (2017-2020) Contingency Plan
- The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Update regarding possible installation of Tbaytel tower on Township property. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that Mr. Gary Prokosh from Tbaytel contacted the office on December 1, 2016. He is in charge of preparing agreement documents for Tbaytel and he would like to speak with Township representatives to discuss the possibilities for the installation of a cellular tower on the Township property behind the current telephone building. He has been provided the dates of the January Council meetings. The Clerk-Treasurer also requested more information with regard to the size of a tower to ensure that there is enough space before going any further with the process. The base of the tower is 12' x 12' and there would be a security fence installed around the tower. The tower will also have a cable connection to the current telephone building.

Under further old business the trees along the Highway in front of the Township office were once again discussed. Council would like these trees removed at no charge to the Township. Council would like someone who is qualified to cut them and if interested keep the wood. The Township's liability will be looked into prior to them being cut by anyone other than staff. The property could then be better landscaped in the spring. The Clerk-Treasurer will discuss this further with Mr. Johnson.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Township of Conmee – regarding John Coupland's retirement from the Emergency Measures Organization. A get-together is being organized to thank Mr. Coupland for his years of service to the communities at a restaurant in the City. Ms. Maxwell is looking for numbers as to who would be interested in attending. Each attendee will cover their own meal. They are also requesting a donation to be put towards a gift for Mr. Coupland. Mayor Vezina, Councillor Racicot and Clerk-Treasurer Buob will attend the dinner. A donation will also be provided. The Clerk-Treasurer will speak to Ms. Maxwell to see what the other municipalities are donating and a resolution to authorize the donation will be passed at the next meeting.
- b) Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport – Ontario Volunteer Service Award Nominations – deadline for submissions – January 25, 2017. The Clerk-Treasurer will look at the Fire Department members enrollment dates to see if anyone has at least twenty-five years of service who has yet not been recognized. The lower increments for volunteer years are recognized and a certificate presented through the Township ourselves. Council suggested that the O'Connor Community Club members be recognized. The Clerk-Treasurer will look further into the number of years the current members have been involved and their names will be submitted.
- c) The Township of O'Connor 2016 Christmas party was discussed. It was agreed to once again hold the dinner at the Kakabeka Hotel in February. It was suggested that February 11, 2016 be booked if it is available. An official date will be set at the next

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meeting following confirmation of an available date. Invitations will once again be sent to the Fire Department and First Response members, along with Council, staff and all spouses/guests, with spouses/guests paying for their own dinner.

- d) Under further new business Council discussed the outdoor rink and asked if it was ready for flooding. The rink surface has been cleaned off and the Clerk-Treasurer will confirm with Mr. Johnson whether or not it is ready for flooding. If so, she will notify the Fire Department and ask that when the weather permits they start flooding. It was also suggested that we look into funding to change over the current outdoor lighting on the rink to LED lights.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Thunder Bay District Municipal League – discussion with regard to the Diamond Anniversary celebrations to be held in 2017. Ms. Stewart, Executive Director, provided information on, and requested support, for the upcoming event. The date and venue have been changed. It will now be held on October 27 & 28, 2017 at Fort William Historical Park. They are also requesting financial sponsorship from each municipality to help offset the costs. This will be discussed further at the first meeting in January. They are also asking for a banner and photographs from each municipality to showcase during the event and asking that each municipality solicit donations and/or prizes from local businesses. Councillor Loan also discussed and explained the requests further, as the Township's representative to the board.

No building permits were approved since the last meeting.

8. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

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: 8:10 P.M.

Carried

The Administrative Assistant position was discussed and a resignation letter was read from the Casual Relief Janitor.

9. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

TIME BEING: 8:22 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

Council directed the Clerk-Treasurer to calculate for the next meeting how much it would cost to have the administrative assistant position continue into 2017.

The resignation letter was accepted from Ms. Scherby.

10. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 8:23 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer