

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – DECEMBER 7, 2015

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

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

Visitors: Councillor Bob MacMaster – Thunder Bay District Health Unit representative for the Townships of Conmee and O'Connor
Mr. David Frowen, Dog Control Officer arrived at 7:25 p.m.
Mr. Kelly Johnson, Leadhand arrived at 7:40 p.m.

Acting 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 23, 2015 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Councillor Bob MacMaster, the Township of Conmee and O'Connor's representative on the Thunder Bay District Health Unit Board was welcomed to the table. Introductions were made. Councillor MacMaster was in attendance to inquire if Council are receiving his reports and if they are satisfactory. He also wanted to invite Council to submit any concerns or questions with regard to the Board to him and he will bring them forward on their behalf. Councillor MacMaster noted that the 2016 levy is not changing from the 2015 levy. The biggest issue currently with the Board is the building project. The facility needs to be brought up to standard and the building is being renovated. He also noted that they will be requiring a software upgrade for medical/patient care in the near future.

Council also asked Councillor MacMaster about the Rural Cupboard Food Bank. Councillor MacMaster noted that the Health Unit is not linked to the food bank in anyway. He informed Council that it is in a positive position, the design work for the addition on the Conmee Municipal Complex along with the costing estimates and applications for funding are being prepared.

Council thanked Councillor MacMaster for attending the Council meeting and for representing the Township on the Board and he left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Mr. David Frowen, the Township of O'Connor's new Dog Control Officer, was welcomed to the table. Introductions were made. Mr. Frowen was informed that he will report to the Clerk-Treasurer if he has any issues with regard to the position. Council asked Mr. Frowen why he applied for the position and he replied and informed Council that he is available during the day and on weekends. He was also informed that there will be some training required, paperwork to fill out with regard to payroll and an identification badge will be made up for him. The Clerk-Treasurer will also provide him with recent dog issues in the Township in case they should reoccur. Mr. Frowen was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand was welcomed to the table. The Monthly Road Report for November 9 to December 6, 2015 was read. Mr. Johnson was asked about the helipad cones and he reported that the two new ones have arrived, along with a new battery and they have been put into place on the helipad. Another battery has started to act up and he will be keeping an eye on it. The new one also has not been staying on all night and it may be that it is not fully charged due to the cloudy weather recently.

Roadwork in general was discussed. The road department is still working on some little projects. The fence posts have been installed at the disposal site but the fencing to catch the garbage from leaving the site still has to be put up. They will be hauling some gravel to fill in some potholes on the roadways that they were unable to grade out before the ground froze. They will also be fixing the kick boards on the hockey rink and hauling more winter sand.

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The 2015 Equipment Report was reviewed. The grader issue was discussed. Mr. Johnson is still waiting to hear how Volvo and Strongco are going to deal with the invoice for the engine repairs. The Township trucks were discussed. The Ford is currently the older truck however it is still in good condition and is still trustworthy. The brakes will need to be done next year. Overall the fleet is in good condition at this time.

The Conmee Boundary Road Agreement was discussed. The Township of Conmee has expressed their concerns with the new draft agreement. They have concerns with regard to the number of culverts on the first 1.9 km of roadway in which they are responsible for summer maintenance. It was noted that at the time the draft agreement was submitted to them the second 1.9 km of roadway in which O'Connor is responsible did not show any culverts as Mr. Johnson was still confirming the number. There are 10 culverts in the second section and one is a large 3200mm culvert. This information will be forwarded to them. They also had a concern with regard to the Reciprocal Insurance and the Clerk-Treasurer was asked to look into this matter further with our insurance company. As the road is not snowplowed all the way through in the winter and each township is responsible to plow on alternate years, they are concerned that if a property owner past the turnaround point decided to develop their property the agreement does not support any winter maintenance past this point. Council feel that this issue could be address if it happens.

The Clerk-Treasurer will contact the Township of Conmee and discuss these issue and see if they can be resolved quickly and if not Council would like to recommend that the current agreement be extended for one year or until the issues are resolved.

Mr. Johnson presented Council with photos that Councillor Racicot had forwarded to him of a portable bridge located in Beardmore. If the bridge could be purchased for a reasonable price it may be considered. Councillor Vezina will also be in the area this week and will try to get to take a look at it.

Councillor Loan provided Council with information with regard to speed limit signs which were discussed at the recent CPAC meeting. Signage is required to warn drivers that the speed is decreasing ahead. The Township currently only has two roads in the Township posted with a reduced speed and the signage is at the start of the road off of Highway 590 and both roads are dead ends, so it was agreed that our signage meets the requirements.

Councillor Loan also expressed a concern for the section of Highway 590 in the reduced speed area which has a passing lane in the area. If other concerns are expressed by our residents, perhaps when Highway 590 is resurfaced the pavement markings in that area could be discussed with the Ministry of Transportation as they are responsible for this roadway.

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

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR NOVEMBER 2015 TALLING \$50,247.27 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditure to November 30, 2015 were reviewed. Mr. Johnson discussed the road budget numbers and the variances with regard to the over and unders of the estimated budget. He has currently been holding back on a couple of purchases until he knows more about the grader repair invoice.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and he left the meeting.

By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

- a) By-law Number 2015-15 with regard to the Township of Gillies Boundary Road Agreement was discussed and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2015-15 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GILLIES FOR THE JOINT MAINTENANCE OF COMMON BOUNDARY ROADS BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- b) By-law Number 2015-16 with regard to the appointment of a Deputy Chief of the O'Connor Fire Department was discussed and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2015-16 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE O'CONNOR FIRE DEPARTMENT BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- c) The proposed change to the Policy for the Employee and Family Assistance Program was discussed and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS BE MADE TO THE POLICY FOR AN EMPLOYEE AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

UNDER PROCEDURES: ADD SECTION E) IN RESPECT TO SECTION A) TO D) ABOVE, THE PROGRAM MAY BE EXTENDED FOR ANY FORMER MEMBER AFTER A DEATH, PERSONAL TRAGEDY OR MISFORTUNE FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO ONE YEAR IF THE MEMBER OR THEIR SIGNIFICANT OTHER ACCEPTS THE OFFER.

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Thunder Bay District Health Unit – 2016 levy letter, levy invoice and what your levy buys.
- b) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – Thunder Bay OPP – December newsletter. Information with regard to Lock it or Lose it will be included in the January issue of the Cornerstone.
- c) Thunder Bay Court Services Area – i) 2014 Financial Statements, 2014 Reconciliation and 2015 Partial Payment – Court Services and the Statement of Operations – year ended December 31, 2014.
- d) Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) – Provincial Government denies local land transfer tax to cities outside of Toronto.
- e) Ministry of Energy regarding Bill 135 - the Energy Statute Law Amendment Act, 2015.
- f) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) AMO Watchfile November 26, 2015.
 - ii) AMO Watchfile December 3, 2015.
 - iii) Federal Government Announces Plan to Resettle Syrian Refugees.
 - iv) AMO and UQM to Collaborate on Climate Action.
 - v) What Happened at Queen's Park Today.
 - vi) AMO Report to Member Municipalities Highlights of the November 2015 Board Meeting.
 - vii) POA Default Fees Doubled.
- g) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding resettle Syrian refugees.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed Item 14d) was moved forward on the agenda to approve Councillor Vezina's attendance at a recent Electricity Forum and it was

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6. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT COUNCILLOR VEZINA'S ATTENDANCE AT THE 2ND ANNUAL NORTHWEST ONTARIO ELECTRICITY FORUM HELD ON DECEMBER 2, 2015 IN THUNDER BAY BE APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

REGISTRATION: N/C

Carried

- a) The replacement of Mayor Nelson and the appointment of his replacement was discussed. At the November 23rd meeting, Councillor Racicot and Councillor Vezina declared their interest in the seat. Council at that meeting discussed the options and reconfirmed their choice at this meeting. The Clerk-Treasurer confirmed that the appointment could be set as of a specific date as long as it was within the set time limit and it was

7. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT COUNCILLOR VEZINA BE APPOINTED TO FILL THE VACANT SEAT OF MAYOR FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2015-2018 TERM OF OFFICE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016.

Carried

It was recommended and agreed, being conscious of the time, that the replacement of Councillor Vezina's seat be discussed further at the next meeting.

- b) The O'Connor Christmas party date was discussed and it was

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

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HOLD A 2015 CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR COUNCIL, STAFF, FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRST RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS AT THE KAKABEKA HOTEL ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2016. SPOUSES AND GUESTS WILL PAY FOR THEIR OWN DINNER.

Carried

- c) Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade regarding the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the awards are given out in five year intervals and our young volunteers are already at eight years of service. Council agreed to submit a nomination for the five year award for those eligible.
- e) Ministry of Transportation – Links funding. The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that the Township is not eligible for this funding as it is for those municipalities who have had Ministry highways that are now municipal responsibility.
- f) The Integrity Commissioner position. Three retired City of Thunder Bay employees are interested in becoming Integrity Commissioner and Closed Meeting Investigators for the surrounding municipalities, with no retainer, as per the request of the Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee (LRMC). Currently the Township of O'Connor has appointed Mr. Ian Robson and agreed at the last meeting to remain with Mr. Robson. Mr. Robson has been approached by the Clerk-Treasurer and has seen the names of the three and recommended that Council also enter into agreements with them as they would be more in tune with municipal issues if a circumstance should arise. As the Township does have Mr. Robson appointed at this time the deadline of December 31 for any other agreement does not have to be in place by that time. Council would like to wait until an Integrity Commissioner is required before entering into an agreement with the others.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) The Township of Conmee is requesting a letter of support for an application for funding to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the Rural Cupboard Food Bank addition to their municipal complex. A draft letter was presented to Council and it was

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

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE THE TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE AND THE KAKABEKA RURAL CUPBOARD FOOD BANK'S APPLICATION FOR FUNDING TO THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION. THE APPLICATION IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A BUILDING EXTENSION ON THE CONMEE MUNICIPAL COMPLEX TO HOUSE THE FOOD BANK.

Carried

- b) A letter from the Municipality of Neebing with regard to a Joint Police Services Board. The Municipality of Neebing has decided to seek a contract with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) rather than rely on the default provisions of the Police Services Act. Benefits of entering into an agreement with the OPP were discussed. Funding would be available for specific programs and the OPP could then enforce Township By-laws, however there would be an additional cost involved being a part of board. There are two options with regard to entering into agreements. Neebing is proposing that each municipality that is interested enter into their own agreement and share a board. Council have discussed this issue previously with the OPP and have not made a decision whether or not to enter into an agreement. Councillor Loan will get clarification and additional information from the local OPP detachment on this issue.
- c) Lakehead Public Schools, Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board and Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boreales invitation to attend a Facility Partnership Meeting to be held on January 11, 2016. No one will attend.
- d) Citizen's Coalitions Against Privatization – Hydro One Not For Sale campaign urging Council to call their MPP's or consider holding a public meeting. Councillor Vezina informed Council that he has spoken with both Minister Gravelle and Minister Mauro on this issue recently and was informed that this issue will be discussed with the Federal Cabinet.
- e) Ontario Seniors' Secretariat – Province accepting applications for Senior Community Grant Programs – no application will be made at this time.

No additional issues or letters to discuss were received after the agenda was mailed and it was

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

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 10:20 P.M.

Carried

Acting Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer