

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Minutes of the meeting held on February 13, 2017 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 7:02 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 15 d) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2017 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Council asked Mr. Johnson if he wished to address Council on any personal matters and he replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. Mr. Johnson provided an update to Council with regard to the Road Department. Truck #7 has been repaired and is back to work. Mr. Pitton has been working out well as the casual employee.

Roadwork in general was discussed. The employees will be winging back the snow banks and trying to control the ice. The snow has been melting on the warmer days. The outdoor skating rink is melting again. The burnable wood piles at the disposal site will be burnt in the near future and the electronic bin will be switched out soon.

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

The Administration and Roads Voucher to January 31, 2017 was reviewed. The invoice for the Closed Meeting Investigator's retainer fee included in the voucher was discussed. Council discussed whether or not we should continue with the appointment or just have the Ontario Ombudsman be the default. The Clerk-Treasurer will look further into the current agreement that we have in place with Mr. Heayn and bring this item back to Council at the next meeting. The cheque for the retainer was removed from the January voucher total until more information is provided in this regard and it was

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR JANUARY 2017 TOTTALLING \$77,006.88 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The draft Revenue and Expenditures to December 31, 2016 with the yearend adjustments and additional journal entries was reviewed. The Clerk-Treasurer once again provided Council with a budget variance worksheet and the information from the previous meetings transfers to the Reserve accounts and it was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2016 THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE FOLLOWING RESERVE/S.

FIRE DEPARTMENT - \$3,100.00

ROAD EQUIPMENT - \$3,100.00

DISPOSAL SITE - \$3,100.00

Carried

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Resolutions for endorsement were reviewed as follows:

a) County Prince Edward – requesting the Minister of Education to initiate immediate Stay of Execution on the Accommodation Review Process and it was

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE COUNTY OF PRINCE EDWARD REQUESTING THAT THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION INITIATE AN IMMEDIATE STAY OF EXECUTION ON THE ACCOMMODATION REVIEW PROCESS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A REVIEW OF THE IMPACTS ON SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES CAN BE STUDIED, COMPLETED AND THE RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BE CONSIDERED BE ENDORSED.

Carried

b) County of Prince Edward – requesting that the Minister of Education Rewrite the Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG) and it was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE COUNTY OF PRINCE EDWARD URGING THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION TO REWRITE THE PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW GUIDELINE (PARG) TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC VALUE CONSIDERATION ON RURAL COMMUNITIES AND PROVIDE FOR A MORE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

c) City of Owen Sound – regarding the Gas Tax Funding Formula was filed
d) County of Peterborough – regarding Pharmacare and it was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE COUNTY OF PETERBOROUGH CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL PHARMACARE PROGRAM;

ALSO CALLING ON THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO WORK WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ACCOMPLISH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL PHARMACARE PROGRAM BE ENDORSED.

Carried

The Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) 2017 Cost Apportionment was reviewed. The Township of O'Connor's 2017 levy will increase by \$5,513 over 2016. All of the Area One municipalities and the Township of Dorion are increasing and all other municipalities, including the City of Thunder Bay and the Territory without municipal organization are going down.

The press release from Mayor Lucy Kloosterhuis with regard to the proposed new structure for the TBDSSAB was read.

A letter from the TBDSSAB with regard to the Report 2016-76 Basic Income Guarantee Pilot Project was read. The Position Paper and the resolution passed by the Board was also read. The Pilot will be conducted through a Randomized Control Trial in a major urban centre as well as three saturation sites located in Southern Ontario, Northern Ontario and a First Nations community respectively. The District of Thunder Bay has been chosen to participate and the TBDSSAB has adopted the recommendations on the Pilot Project.

Correspondence were read as follows:

a) Statistics Canada – 2016 Census data for the Township of O'Connor and area was read. The Township of O'Connor's population based on the census was 663, down from 685 in 2011 and the Private Dwelling count was also down from 274 to 272.

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 13, 2017

- b) Thunder Bay District Health Unit – regarding Notice of Public Health Levy for 2017. The levy for the Township of O'Connor will remain unchanged from 2015.
- c) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – NOMA & TBDML – 2017 levy. As a result of an increase in overhead costs, the Board has approved a two cent per person increase based on the population data from MPAC for 2014.
- d) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) – the 2016 Assessment Update Municipal Summary Report which provides an Executive Summary of the work performed by MPAC in support of the 2016 Assessment update. This update includes municipal level snapshots of the property class changes unique to our area.
- e) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – February Newsletter. Council would like to see the information with regard to computer viruses, worms and trojans included in the next issue of the Cornerstone.
- f) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – regarding the Launch of the renewed community-focused Rural Economic Development (RED) program. The Township currently does not have any eligible projects for this program.
- g) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watch File - January 26, 2017
ii) Watch File – February 2, 2017
iii) Watch File – February 9, 2017
iv) AMO Report to Member Municipalities Highlights of January 2017 Board Meeting
v) AMO Policy Update – Premier Announces Increase to Ontario Gas Tax Fund for Transit
- h) AMCTO – the Municipal Experts – AMCTO Spring 2017 Webinars. At this time no one will participate in the webinars.
- i) Patrick Brown, MPP & Leader of the Opposition – regarding the Natural Gas Expansion in Ontario
- j) Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) Press Release. On February 19th, 2017 the Federated Women's Institutes will be celebrating their 150th Anniversary. The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Ontario Trillium Foundation – announcement of Ontario 150 Community Capital Program and the Township of O'Connor's successful application for upgrades to the O'Connor Community Centre, including new energy efficient furnaces and the installation of air conditioning, renovations to the basement washrooms and storage room.
- b) Mosey & Mosey – regarding the Liberals decision to not tax employee health and dental plans.
- c) Municipality of Neebing – i) Notes provided by Rosalie Evans, regarding the Teleconference call and draft contract provided by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) in November
ii) Copy of resolution from the Municipality of Neebing to enter into a Contract for Joint OPP Services / Joint Police Services Board.

Mayor Vezina participated in the teleconference that was held on January 24, 2017 with the OPP and provided Council with his insight on the matter. He noted that in approximately 18 months the Police Services Act is going to change. As the Municipality of Neebing and the Township's of Gillies, O'Connor and Conmee have been discussing, a Joint Services Board may only have three representatives at this time and one is from the public. Mayor Vezina suggested that perhaps instead of forming one Board with the four municipalities perhaps Neebing and Gillies could go together and Conmee and O'Connor could go together. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact the Township of Conmee to see if they might be interested in this formation instead. This will be brought back to another meeting once a reply has been received from the Township of Conmee.

- d) Councillor Loan reported to Council on the ROMA Conference he attended on January 29 to 31, 2017 in Toronto. Councillor Loan found the Conference to be well worth it. It was very informative with a lot of information available in the sessions and from the exhibitors. He also participated in meetings with the Ministers and the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition members, with regard to the group's current issues. As per previous discussions with the municipalities from Northwestern Ontario, it has been recommended that the board structure of ROMA be changed to have one representative from both Northwestern Ontario and from Northeastern Ontario, rather than just one for the North. Councillor Loan asked Council to formally send a letter to the ROMA board making this request. Council discussed the matter

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 13, 2017

and it was suggested that, rather than individual municipalities make the request, that this be brought to the Thunder Bay District Municipal League to make a group request, and perhaps they could also ask the Kenora and Rainy River Districts to do the same. Councillor Loan, as the Township's representative on that board will bring it up at the next meeting. Councillor Loan would recommend Council's attendance at next year's conference also.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition – copy of submission to Premier Wynne and Provincial Ministers at the ROMA Conference with regard to matters of mutual concerns amongst our six municipalities.
- b) Oliver Paipoonge Public Library – 2017 Contract for Service. Council discussed the library and the opportunity it provides for the residents of the Township of O'Connor and it was

7. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE LIBRARY CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR 2017 WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF OLIVER PAIPOONGE LIBRARY BOARD FOR LIBRARY SERVICES BE SIGNED.

Carried

- c) Gordon Cuthbertson – Chief Building Official – regarding OBOA training course February 23 & 24, 2017. It was

8. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL, GORDON CUTHBERTSON, ATTEND THE ONTARIO BUILDING OFFICIAL ASSOCIATION (OBOA) ONTARIO BUILDING CODE TRAINING – SB-12 ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR HOUSING TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 23 & 24, 2017 IN THUNDER BAY.

THE REGISTRATION FEE WILL BE SPLIT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP'S OF O'CONNOR, CONMEE AND GILLIES.

Carried

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- d) Northwest Response Forum – April 11 – 13, 2017 in Dryden and CEMC Spring Sector Meeting - April 10, 2017. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, as the new CEMC would like to attend the Sector meeting as well as the Forum to help with the introduction to the position. It was

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

THAT THE DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER AND CEMC, LINDA RACICOT ATTEND THE NORTHWEST RESPONSE FORUM AND CEMC SPRING SECTOR MEETING TO BE HELD APRIL 10 TO APRIL 13, 2017 IN DRYDEN.

REGISTRATION: FOR FORUM \$250.00 INCLUDING HST.

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- e) Ministry of Natural Resources regarding the North West Ontario Aerial Imagery acquisition 2017. The Ministry may be acquiring leaf off, spring 2017 imagery in areas of Northwestern Ontario. This is a partnership program and the Ontario Government picks up most of the costs however they look to subsidize by bringing in partners who will then gain access to all of the information products. The Thunder Bay area will be included and the final costs will depend on the number of partners. The information set includes georeferenced orthophotography, stereo imagery, and surface elevation data and will be delivered in March of 2018. The Lakehead Region

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Conservation Authority (LRCA) is currently a partner and they are seeking more partners. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact the LRCA to see if they feel it would be a benefit to the municipality to have their own agreement or if we would be able to acquire any information we may need from them.

- f) Rural Cupboard Food Bank – requesting donation for 2 Bit Auction Fundraiser to be held on April 26, 2017
10. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR MAKE A CASH DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200.00 TOWARDS THE RURAL CUPBOARD FOOD BANK'S 2 BIT-AUCTION FUNDRAISER TO BE HELD ON APRIL 26, 2017 IN MURILLO.

Carried

- g) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Housing – Planning Workshop – March 22 – 23, 2017. This item will be deferred to the next meeting to allow Council to check their work schedules.
- h) Request from a resident to do volunteer work for the Township. The Clerk-Treasurer provided Council with the request information and noted that the resident has found a placement until May. If she still requires hours in the spring she asked if perhaps she could do some work in the cemetery with the gardens and flowers. Council did not see any issue with her doing this volunteer work however they would like us to know that she is there and she should be provided with some orientation and have a safety vest on while she is there.
- i) Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA) – regarding Canada Post's report released December 13, 2016 with regard to postal banking. It was
11. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND PROCUREMENT, THE HONOURABLE JUDY FOOTE, SUPPORTING THE CANADIAN POSTMASTERS AND ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION IN THEIR CONCERNS OVER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND ESTIMATES' REPORT REGARDING CANADA POST AND SPECIFICALLY THE ABSENCE OF A RECOMMENDATION FOR POSTAL BANKING.

Carried

- j) Peter Van Loan, MP York-Simcoe – regarding Heritage Infrastructure. This item was filed.
- k) Hydro One: Small Business Lighting Program – changing over incandescent lights to LED in the Community Centre and Garage at No charge and the Fire Hall for a slight fee due to the lower energy usage. The Township will be participating in this program.
- l) O'Connor Day tables - discussion with regard to possibly donating them to Hymers Fair. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that the tables are currently being stored in the annex building and are taking up space that could be used by the road department. If we do not plan on having regular outdoor events, it was suggested that perhaps we could donate them to the Hymers Fair Board. If we did have an event we could include in the donation document that we can borrow them back at no charge if needed. Council did not see any issue with that. The Hymers Fair Board will be contacted to see if they would be interested in accepting them.

Under further new business it was noted that the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Annual Report was received and was well done.

It was also suggested that the Township honour former Mayor, Ron Nelson, with a plaque/tribute in his memory to be hung up in the Township office as he was an acting Mayor at his time of passing. The Clerk-Treasurer will look further into this and also have the former Reeve/Mayor plaques which were previously hung in the O'Connor Community Centre moved over to the Council Chambers.

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Municipal World – Canada's Municipal Magazine subscription. Council have been receiving free issues of the magazine for the past couple of months and they would now like to offer a year's subscription. Council agreed not to subscribe to the magazine.

For information purposes no building permits have been issued since the last meeting.

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

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.**

TIME BEING: 9:10 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer