

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 22, 2016

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Paul Phillips – O'Connor Fire Department member

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

1. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE AMENDED MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016 AND THE MINUTES FROM THE INTERVIEW MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

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

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. There were three First Response calls since the last report. Fire Chief Mattas noted that Deputy Fire Chief Budiselic has been away and she was unable to attend tonight.

Fire Chief Mattas thanked Council for hosting the annual Christmas dinner on February 13th and thanked them for the presentation of his 40 years of service awards from both the Provincial and the Federal governments. He noted that he has seen a lot of changes over the forty years.

The Ministry of Natural Resources "Appendix A" of the Municipal Fire Agreement for the 2016 fire season was reviewed. The price has gone up slightly from last year but is still well worth the cost if there happens to be a fire in the area of coverage. Fire Chief Mattas asked Council if they would like Mr. Lemieux from the Ministry of Natural Resources to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss the Agreement and they agreed to have him attend. Fire Chief Mattas will contact him and make the arrangements.

The Fire Marshal's Communique with regard to utilization and review of the integrated risk management web tool was read. Fire Chief Mattas has not used this tool and did not have any comments to add.

Fire Chief Mattas noted that he has been watching the rink but it has to be cleaned before they can flood it and with the warmer weather approaching he is not sure how long it will last.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

Bills to be paid were reviewed and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR FEBRUARY 2016 BE PAID. THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE FEBRUARY 2016 ADMINISTRATION AND ROAD VOUCHER.

CK#13450 O'CONNOR FREE METHODIST CHURCH	
CEMETERY FUND	\$ 96.62
CK#13451 MINISTER OF FINANCE – EHT	\$4,336.37

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CK#13452	PETTY CASH	\$ 49.10
CK#13453	TBAYTEL	\$ 440.53
CK#13454	HYDRO ONE	\$1,052.40
CK#13455	SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	\$ 933.74
CK#13456	JERRY LOAN – HONOURARIUM	\$ 789.00
CK#13457	KELLY JOHNSON – MEDICAL	\$ 35.00
CK#13458	RECOOL CANADA INC.	\$ 559.35
CK#13459	STAPLES	\$ 223.74
CK#13460	BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES CENTRE	\$ 31.50
CK#13461	KAKABEKA FALLS MOTOR HOTEL	\$1,056.89
CK#13462	AIG INSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	\$ 180.00
CK#13463	LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES LTD.	<u>\$3,028.22</u>
		\$12,812.46

Carried

The Lakehead Rural Planning Board Notice of Decision for applications 1B/03/16 and 1B/04/16 were read. Both applications have been approved.

A resolution for endorsement from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario with regard to Broader Investment Powers was filed.

With regard to the Thunder Bay District Social Service Administration Board Mayor Vezina informed Council that the Escrow Agreement has been signed.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee – Minutes from the January 21, 2016 meeting.
- b) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) – Important changes for the 2016 Assessment Update. One of the changes will be that the Property Assessment Notices for Residential properties will be delivered up to five months earlier than ever before. The early mailing dates will help property owners better understand their assessment and resolve concerns before the final assessment rolls are delivered to the municipalities in 2017.
- c) Thunder Bay District Veterinary Services Committee Annual Meeting will be held February 25, 2016. The agenda for this meeting and minutes from the February 26, 2015 meeting were read. Councillor Foekens will be attending.
- d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watchfile – February 11, 2016.
ii) Watchfile – February 18, 2016.
iii) AMO Communication – 2016 Information/Education seminars. One of the session topics included LED recreation facility lighting. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to look into whether or not our rink lights, along with the parking lot lighting could be converted under this program.
iv) AMO Policy Update – Policing Consultations Announced.
v) AMO Policy Update – Ontario Announces Green Social Housing Retrofits.
vi) AMO Communication - MEPCO Alert – February 17, 2016 – Ontario proposes one year delay in ORPP Implementation.
vii) AMO Policy Update – Presumptive PTSD Legislation for First Responders Introduced.
viii) AMO Policy Update – Transformation of Children and Family Services.
- e) The Premier of Ontario – Thank you letter for Council's resolution regarding physician availability in rural areas.
- f) Municipality of Neebing – Copy of letter to MPAC regarding concerns with property value assessments and copy of letter to the Premier, several Ministry's and organization with regard to their ongoing concerns regarding the Erosion of the Municipal Assessment Base caused by Conservation Land exemptions given to Private Property Owners. Council are willing to support their concerns and a resolution will be drafted for the next meeting.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Thunder Bay District Municipal League October conference sponsorship of meals. The league is currently looking into sponsors for the meals and breaks for the upcoming conference and the current prices for the venue were reviewed. Mayor Vezina will approach his employer to see if they might be interested. As the conference is being held outside of the City of Thunder Bay in Oliver Paipoonge it was suggested that possibly the Township of Conmee, Gillies and O'Connor could

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share the sponsorship of one of the meals. Mayor Vezina will approach the Mayor and Reeve of these Townships in this regard.

Councillor Loan updated Council with regard to the 2017 100th Anniversary Conference for the League. The Board is asking each Council to consider \$500.00 for 2016 and again in 2017 in their budget to help sponsor the conference. Council would like Councillor Loan to go back to the Board and suggest that the donation should be reconsidered on a per capita formula rather than a flat rate from each municipality. He also noted that they are looking at inviting the Premier and the Prime Minister to attend along with the local MP's and MPP's.

- b) The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – Section 5 or Section 10 contract was once again discussed. The Township of Gillies has agreed to enter into the agreement if the Township's of O'Connor and Conmee are interested in forming the Joint Police Services Board with Neebing. The municipalities in a Joint Board have to be abutting or the Board cannot be formed and the Township of Gillies does not want to prevent this from happening if the O'Connor Council are interested. They have not committed to anything at this time. The comparison chart between the two options was once again reviewed. Council are not completely sold on the Section 10 at this time and it was agreed to contact the Township of Conmee to see if they are interested in participating and Council would like to wait until the new Councillor is appointed to make it a full Council decision. This item will be once again discussed further at the next meeting.

Under further old business, Councillor Foekens noted that he received a phone call with regard to a previous issue with cattle and horses running at large from a property in the Township. The call came from a concerned neighbour who heard a family member may be purchasing this property and the issue of these animals running at large could be returning. The question was asked if the property owner of the land abutting the land, which has been used for pasture, has been notified to see if permission has been granted for such use. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that as the issue had resolved itself she did not pursue the concern. Council asked that a letter be sent to the property owner in case the property is sold and the issue returns.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge's concern with regard to a letter from the City of Thunder Bay with regard to the City's proposed implementation of Designated Truck Routes through and around the City. The proposed routes would place a 5,000kg weight restriction on any street not designated as a truck route. Their Engineering Division believes the implementation will be a safer, more efficient and connective way of diverting transports through and around the City. The designated route takes the trucks off of Highway 102 and diverts them onto Highway 11/17 and through the village of Kakabeka Falls. It was noted that Highway 102 was originally built as a truck route. The Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge has responded to this letter and has requested Council's support with regard to their comments. Council read and discussed the letters and agreed with the Municipality's concerns. It was noted that students from the Township of O'Connor do attend Kakabeka Falls Public School, which also makes this a concern of this Council. It was also noted that the village is a tourist destination in the summer and it is already difficult at times to pull out of business or side streets due to the additional traffic and the added truck traffic would create imminent danger to our residents and the travelling public. It was

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

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUPPORT THE MUNICIPALITY OF OLIVER PAIPOONGE IN THEIR CONCERNS WITH REGARD TO THE CITY OF THUNDER BAY'S DESIGNATED TRUCK ROUTES. A LETTER WILL BE SENT TO THE CITY OF THUNDER BAY EXPRESSING THESE CONCERNS.

Carried

- b) Norm Gale, City Manager, City of Thunder Bay regarding a formal network for District CAO's. Mr. Gale is proposing a teleconference for those interested, followed by a face-to-face meeting in the City. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that currently the CAO/Clerks/Treasurers do meet together through the AMCTO. She also noted that this was tried several years ago and it didn't seem beneficial for us as the matters

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were discussed were larger than ours and the group folded after a short period. As Mr. Gale is new to the position Council did not see any issue with supporting this meeting to see what he is proposing.

- c) AMO Events – Online learning portal open. No one was interested at this time.
- d) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – 2016 Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence program – deadline for applications is April 15, 2016. Council were not aware of any names to bring forward for nomination.

Under further new business, Council discussed the Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee. Mayor Vezina informed Council of the recent name change for the group from "Committee" to "Coalition". This will allow for the same acronym to be used and will bring the group more respect when dealing with other governmental organizations. He also noted that he had missed the last meeting and asked the Clerk-Treasurer for an update on what happened at this meeting. An updated was provided and some of the items are already on the agenda. It was noted that the group Table Top Emergency Exercise dates of June 7, 8, 9, 21 and 22 will be given to Judy Jacobson of Oliver Paipooonge to try and organize the exercise.

The role of Acting Mayor was also brought up under new business. The Township currently passes a resolution following a municipal election noting the months each Councillor, alphabetically, will fill the role of Mayor in his absence. As the rotation will change with the new Councillor coming on board, Council would like to review the rotation at the next meeting.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed were discussed as follows:

- a) Strongco – copy of credit memo received February 19, 2016 for the grader engine repair was discussed. The credit notes that a policy request was also issued to Volvo for a rebate on the engine only and that the credit amount will be issued once it is received from Volvo. Currently the credits provided equals approximately 43% of the total bill.
- b) Gordon Cuthbertson, Chief Building Official letter regarding Building Permit fees was read. Mr. Cuthbertson provided a comparison fee schedule for the municipalities that he is currently Chief Building Official for. The fee schedule for O'Connor has not changed in several years and he feels that the current fees are too low for the required time for plan review, for issuing permits and the required inspections. Council are willing to look at this further. The Clerk-Treasurer will prepare a revised By-law and bring back to Council for review. A public meeting will also have to be held with regard to the change in fees and a date will be scheduled for this meeting at future meeting.
- c) LRMC – Police Consultation in Thunder Bay March 1, 2016. No one will attend.
- d) Lakehead District School Board – Notice of Pupil Accommodation Review and Invitation to attend Information Session – April 28, 2016. As no rural schools are affected in this review no one from Council will attend.

A letter from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry with regard to the spring bear hunt was also brought to the table. The letter states that the pilot project has been extended for five years, through to 2020, in all provincial Wildlife Management Units that have a fall bear hunt. It will also include non-resident hunters.

No building permits were issued since the last meeting.

As Council was now moving to the Closed portion Paul Phillips left the meeting.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS A PERSONAL MATTER ABOUT AN IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING MUNICIPAL OR LOCAL BOARD EMPLOYEES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(E) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 8:47 P.M.

Carried

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The interviews held for the vacant Councillor seat were discussed and debated.

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

TIME BEING: 9:29 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT CHANTAL ALKINS BE APPOINTED TO FILL THE VACANT SEAT OF COUNCILLOR FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2015-2018 TERM OF OFFICE EFFECTIVE MARCH 14, 2016.

Carried

It was noted that all candidates would have made excellent Councillors and it was a very difficult decision. A letter will be sent to each one thanking them for their interest, along with a phone call notifying them all of the successful candidate and encouraging them to run in the next municipal election.

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

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 9:30 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer