

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 26, 2018

Minutes of the meeting held on February 26, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas

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

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

1. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the meeting. The Fire Department report was read. There was one First Response call since the last report. Fire Chief Mattas thanked Council for hosting the Christmas dinner which was held in February and including his members. He also made note and wanted to thank Mr. Ron Biloski for all his hard work on collecting cans and bottles for refund as a fundraiser for the Fire Department Auxiliary. He presented the Fire Chief at the dinner with another \$1,200.00 for a total to date of approximately \$4,200.00.

Under Fire Department issues Fire Chief Mattas noted that the attendance at the training sessions has been slow. The Auxiliary meetings are getting good turnout.

An Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Communication with regard to public reporting fire regulation posted for municipal comments was read. Fire Chief Mattas is very concerned if these changes are put through. Small, rural, Fire Departments will have a very hard time getting volunteers. For our own department are numbers are low and several members live or work in the City of Thunder Bay and may not available for a quick response time. As young families get busier and busier, if the fire department requires more time away or possibly having to use holidays for training, people will choose not to join. There will also be the additional costs for the departments to pay for this training. This will be a very big expense if everyone has to be trained at once, if they wish to stay. Previously the Office of the Fire Marshal would come out to the department's and provide training but they do not anymore. Most training is held in Gravenhurst, Ontario for several weeks at a time. If you are volunteering and have a full-time job you most likely cannot attend. Fire Chief Mattas would like Council to submit comments to the Provincial Government expressing these concerns.

The Municipality of Neebing's Fire Chief and Solicitor-Clerk have put together two very detailed comments, one with regard to the mandatory Community Risk Assessment and one with regard to the mandatory training and certification. Fire Chief Mattas has reviewed the comments and agrees with everything that they are commenting on. Council reviewed them and also agreed. The Clerk-Treasurer has prepared the comments making reference to the Township of O'Connor comparisons and it was

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

WHEREAS THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES POSTED A PROPOSED REGULATION UNDER THE FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION ACT, 1997, ON THE ONTARIO REGULATORY REGISTRY ON JANUARY 25, 2018, WHICH, IF PASSED, WILL REQUIRE COMPULSORY "COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENTS" TO "INFORM THE DELIVERY OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES";

AND WHEREAS THE PROPOSED REGULATION IS ONE OF THE OUTCOMES FROM A “TECHNICAL TABLE” COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS ONTARIO FIRE SERVICES (MOST OF WHOM ARE ALSO ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS), VARIOUS FIRE ASSOCIATIONS, AND THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO;

AND WHEREAS THE “TECHNICAL TABLE” DID NOT HAVE ANY INPUT FROM SMALL, RURAL OR NORTHERN MUNICIPALITIES WITH VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICES AND LIMITED NUMBER OF FULL TIME ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. THE SMALLEST FIRE SERVICE REPRESENTED AT THE TABLE (THE SERVICE FROM OTONABEE-SOUTH MONAGHAN) HAS A FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATING SEVERAL TIMES LARGER THAT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S, AND STAFFING AT LEAST 4 TIMES GREATER THAN THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S, INCLUDING AT LEAST EIGHT FULL TIME OFFICE STAFF (COMPARED TO 2 IN TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR). OTONABEE-SOUTH MONAGHAN HAS A FULL TIME, PAID FIRE CHIEF ON STAFF, WHO HAS ACCESS TO A SHARED ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. ITS OVERALL CORPORATE BUDGET FOR 2017 IS FIVE TIMES LARGER THAN THE BUDGET FOR TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR FOR THE SAME TIME FRAME;

AND WHEREAS OTHER ONTARIO LAWS ALREADY REQUIRE THAT COMMUNITIES UNDERTAKE HAZARD IDENTIFICATION RISK ASSESSMENTS (EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL PROTECTION ACT) THAT ARE ANNUALLY REVIEWED BY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEES AND THEIR MUNICIPAL COUNCILS. MOST NORTHERN MUNICIPALITIES ALSO PARTICIPATE IN PREPARATION AND UPDATING WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS AND PLANS AS PART OF THEIR MUNICIPAL FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY UNDER SECTION 19 OF THE FOREST FIRE PREVENTION ACT;

AND WHEREAS THE MANDATORY ANNUAL HAZARD RISK IDENTIFICATION ASSESSMENT (“HIRA”) INCLUDES RISKS TO THE COMMUNITY BY FIRE, AS WELL AS OTHER NATURAL AND/OR MAN-MADE DISASTERS. WHILE THERE ARE DIFFERENT NEEDS IN RISK IDENTIFICATION, THE BASE INFORMATION ON THE COMMUNITY IS COMMON AND THE MUNICIPALITY MUST DEAL WITH ALL THE IMPLICATIONS;

AND WHEREAS THE TERM “COMMUNITY” IS VAGUE, IF IT EXTENDS BEYOND THE JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES OF THE MUNICIPALITY IN QUESTION, THE EXERCISE IS THAT MUCH MORE DUPLICATIVE;

AND WHEREAS SMALL, NORTHERN AND RURAL MUNICIPALITIES ARE ALREADY OVER-BURDENED IN TERMS OF ALL THE REPORTS THAT VARIOUS PROVINCIAL MINISTRIES MANDATE BE PREPARED AND SUBMITTED TO THE PROVINCE. THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO HAS DEMONSTRATED THIS TO THE PROVINCE TIME AND TIME AGAIN, YET, INSTEAD OF STREAMLINING REPORTING OBLIGATIONS, THE PROVINCE ADDS TO THE REPORTING BURDEN ON A YEARLY BASIS. OVERALL, PROVINCIAL REPORTING OBLIGATIONS CONTINUE TO BE FRACTURED, TIME-CONSUMING AND INEFFICIENT. THIS IS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE.

AND WHEREAS THE PROPOSED REGULATION, IN SCHEDULE 1, LISTS 9 MANDATORY “PROFILES” OF EACH MUNICIPALITY THAT MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE MANDATORY RISK ASSESSMENT. MOST OF THE DATA THAT IS REQUESTED EXISTS IN OTHER REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE PROVINCE, AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE (PHYSICAL FEATURES): PROVIDED TO THE PROVINCE IN THE HIRA REQUIRED FOR THE TOWNSHIP'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN;**

2. **BUILDING STOCK PROFILE: EXISTING STRUCTURES ARE CLASSIFIED BY THE MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CORPORATION, AND ALL DATA IS COLLECTED AND RETRIEVABLE; UPDATES ARE PROVIDED TO THE PROVINCE THROUGH REPORTING OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE BUILDING CODE ACT (WHAT IS ADDITIONAL IN THIS NEW REPORTING REQUIREMENT IS THE “STATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE FIRE CODE”);**
3. **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROFILE: PROVIDED TO THE PROVINCE IN THE TOWNSHIP’S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN;**
4. **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE: PROVIDED TO ANYONE AND EVERYONE BY STATISTICS CANADA;**
5. **HAZARD PROFILE: PROVIDED TO THE PROVINCE IN THE HIRA REQUIRED FOR THE TOWNSHIP’S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN;**
6. **PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSE PROFILE: PROVIDED TO THE PROVINCE IN THE TOWNSHIP’S EMERGENCY PLAN;**
7. **COMMUNITY SERVICES PROFILE: PROVIDED TO THE PROVINCE IN THE TOWNSHIP’S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN;**
8. **ECONOMIC PROFILE: PROVIDED TO ANYONE AND EVERYONE BY STATISTICS CANADA;**
9. **PAST LOSS AND EVENT HISTORY PROFILE: VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICES REPORT MONTHLY ON ALL RESPONSES TO THE OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.**

AND WHEREAS THE PROPOSED “PAST LOSS AND EVENT HISTORY PROFILE” WILL REQUIRE THE MUNICIPALITY TO COMPARE ITS “EXPERIENCE” WITH THE “EXPERIENCES OF COMPARABLE COMMUNITIES”. THERE IS NO PRACTICAL REASON FOR THIS TIME-CONSUMING EXERCISE. YOU CANNOT “BENCHMARK” NATURAL DISASTERS LIKE FIRES. YOU CANNOT “BENCHMARK” CRIMINAL OFFENCES LIKE ARSON. YOU CANNOT “BENCHMARK” NEGLIGENCE BY RESIDENTS/VISITORS THAT RESULTS IN FIRE. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS “COMPARABLE COMMUNITIES” FOR THESE EVENTS. FURTHER, THE PROVINCE, AFTER RECEIVING ALL OF THE OTHER INFORMATION IN THE LIST OF PROFILES, WILL BE IN FAR BETTER POSITION TO DETERMINE WHICH COMMUNITIES “COMPARE” WITH EACH OTHER AND WILL BE IN A POSITION TO UNDERTAKE THOSE COMPARISONS ITSELF.

AND WHEREAS SMALL, NORTHERN, RURAL MUNICIPALITIES DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES, EITHER FINANCIALLY OR IN HUMAN RESOURCES, TO ASSESS EVERY BUILDING IN THEIR JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE ONTARIO FIRE CODE. MANY MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHMENT BY-LAWS PROVIDE THAT FIRE INSPECTIONS WILL ONLY BE UNDERTAKEN ON A REQUEST BASIS OR COMPLAINT BASIS. THE PROPOSAL SUGGESTS A CHANGE THAT WILL DIRECTLY INCREASE HUMAN RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO CONDUCT AND MANAGE THE ADDITIONAL DATA.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT PASSAGE OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION BE DELAYED UNTIL MEANINGFUL AND COMPLETE MUNICIPAL CONSULTATION, INCLUDING A COMPLETE COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS, CAN BE UNDERTAKEN;

ALTERNATIVELY, IF THE PROVINCE REFUSES TO CONSULT THE COUNCIL FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT THIS REGULATION BE AMENDED TO:

1. **REMOVAL ALL OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE REQUIRED ASSESSMENT FOR WHICH THE PROVINCE ALREADY RECEIVED (OR HAS AVAILABLE) SIGNIFICANT AND SUFFICIENT DATA AND REPORTS;**
2. **REMOVE ANY BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS; AND**

- 3. PROVIDE THAT THE REQUIREMENT TO UNDERTAKE FIRE CODE COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY MUNICIPALITY WITH A POPULATION SMALLER THAN 10,000 PERSONS AND IT DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY MUNICIPALITY WHICH UTILIZES AND RELIES UPON A VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICES;**

ALTERNATIVELY, IF THE PROVINCE REFUSES TO REDUCE THE ASSESSMENT, BENCHMARKING, AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS THE COUNCIL FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT THE PROVINCE PROVIDE 100% OF THE FUNDING NECESSARY FOR SMALL, RURAL AND NORTHERN MUNICIPALITIES TO HIRE THE CONSULTANTS THAT WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THESE ASSESSMENTS INITIALLY, AND TO REVIEW THEM ON AN ANNUAL BASIS;

AND FURTHER, THAT, IN ANY CASE THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT THE PROVINCE CONSOLIDATE OR COORDINATE THE EFFORTS MADE AROUND RISK ASSESSMENTS IN ITS VARIOUS MINISTRIES AND/OR AGENCIES, TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION AND REPETITIVE TASKING REQUIRED TO MEET SEPARATE REQUESTS FROM MULTIPLE AGENCIES WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS;

AND FURTHER, THAT, IN ANY CASE THIS RESOLUTION BE SUBMITTED AS COUNCIL'S SUBMISSIONS TO THE POSTING OF THE REGULATION BY THE PROVINCE, AND IN ADDITION, SENT TO: THE HONOURABLE PREMIER OF ONTARIO, THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES; BOTH LOCAL MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT FOR THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY, THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO, THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, THE ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE AND THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION.

Carried

3. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

WHEREAS THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES POSTED A PROPOSED REGULATION UNDER THE FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION ACT, 1997, ON THE ONTARIO REGULATORY REGISTRY ON JANUARY 25, 2018, WHICH, IF PASSED, WILL REQUIRE COMPULSORY TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION FOR ALL MUNICIPAL FIRE FIGHTERS, WHETHER THEY ARE EMPLOYED AS SUCH FULL TIME, OR PARTICIPATE IN A RURAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE. COMPULSORY TRAINING IS ALREADY IN PLACE, HOWEVER, CERTIFICATION HAS NOT, TO DATE, BEEN REQUIRED. THERE IS VERY LITTLE TIME ALLOWED FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW REQUIREMENTS;

AND WHEREAS THE PROPOSED REGULATION IS ONE OF THE OUTCOMES FROM A "TECHNICAL TABLE" COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS ONTARIO FIRE SERVICES (MOST OF WHOM ARE ALSO ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO FIRE CHIEFS), VARIOUS FIRE ASSOCIATIONS, AND THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO;

AND WHEREAS THE "TECHNICAL TABLE" DID NOT HAVE ANY INPUT FROM SMALL, RURAL OR NORTHERN MUNICIPALITIES WITH VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICES AND A LIMITED NUMBER OF FULL TIME ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. THE SMALLEST FIRE SERVICE REPRESENTED AT THE TABLE (THE SERVICE FROM OTONABEE-SOUTH MONAGHAN) HAS A FIRE DEPARTMENTAL OPERATING BUDGET SEVERAL TIMES HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S, AND STAFFING AT LEAST 4 TIMES GREATER THAN THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR

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STAFFING, INCLUDING AT LEAST EIGHT FULL TIME OFFICE STAFF (COMPARED TO 2 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR). OTONABEE-SOUTH MONAGHAN HAS A FULL TIME, PAID FIRE CHIEF ON STAFF, WHO HAS ACCESS TO A SHARED ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. ITS OVERALL CORPORATE BUDGET FOR 2017 IS FIVE TIMES LARGER THAN THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR FOR THE SAME TIME FRAME;

AND WHEREAS NO CONSULTATION WHATSOEVER WAS UNDERTAKEN WITH THE FIRE CHIEFS OF SMALL, NORTHERN, RURAL MUNICIPALITIES WITH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS, OR WITH THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS WHICH THEY SERVE. AS A RESULT, THE PROPOSED REGULATION IS NOT WELL UNDERSTOOD. THE TIME FRAME WITHIN WHICH COMMENTS ARE REQUIRED LEAVES NEXT TO NO TIME FOR A THOROUGH AND PROPER REVIEW IN ORDER TO MAKE INFORMED COMMENTS;

AND WHEREAS MEMBERS OF NORTHERN, RURAL, VOLUNTEER FIRE TEAMS HAVE LIVES OUTSIDE OF THE TEAMS THEY SO DEVOTEDLY DEDICATE THEIR TIME TO. MOST HAVE FULL TIME JOBS IN OTHER AREAS OF LIFE. MOST HAVE FAMILIES, INCLUDING YOUNG FAMILIES. THE TRAINING OF A FIREFIGHTER CANNOT BE ACHIEVED ON A COMPLETELY ON-LINE BASIS. THERE MUST BE PRACTICAL TRAINING AS PART OF ANY TRAINING AND/OR CERTIFICATION SYSTEM. PRACTICAL TRAINING COURSES ARE RARELY, IF EVER, OFFERED IN THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT, MEANING THAT, IN ORDER TO TAKE TRAINING AND/OR PRACTICAL TESTING REQUIRED FOR "CERTIFICATION", A VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER MUST:

- A) TRAVEL;**
- B) REMAIN AWAY FROM HIS/HER FAMILY FOR THE DURATION OF THE COURSE OR TEST PERIOD; AND**
- C) TAILOR HIS/HER VACATION PERIODS TO DATES AND TIMES WHEN COURSES OR TESTS ARE SCHEDULED.**

AND WHEREAS ESTIMATES OF THE TIME THAT WILL BE REQUIRED BY A NEW RECRUIT TO MEET PROPOSED MINIMUM TRAINING IS IN EXCESS OF 300 HOURS, NOT INCLUDING TRAVEL TIME. THESE HOURS ARE IN ADDITION TO OTHER ONGOING DEPARTMENT TRAINING ACTIVITIES OR THE REQUIREMENTS OF OTHER AGENCIES TO MEET TRAINING OBLIGATIONS FOR THEIR MANDATED SERVICES SUCH AS; EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING OR, FOR MOST NORTHERN COMMUNITIES SP103 TRAINING, TO MEET CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS WITH THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY FOR ESSENTIAL WILDFIRE TRAINING;

AND WHEREAS FOR OFFICERS, INSPECTORS AND TRAINERS, ADDITIONAL HOURS OF TRAINING WILL BE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE CERTIFICATION. FOR A FIRE CHIEF, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AN ADDITIONAL 500 HOURS OF TRAINING WILL BE REQUIRED.

AND WHEREAS RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF VOLUNTEERS IN SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES IS ALREADY BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT AND THE REALITY OF MATCHING AVAILABLE COURSE OFFERINGS TO VOLUNTEER TIME WITHIN A RESTRICTED TIME FRAME IS POISED TO MAKE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF FUTURE VOLUNTEERS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT;

AND WHEREAS CURRENTLY, NFPA COURSE OFFERINGS ARE LIMITED IN NORTHWEST ONTARIO. IF THE REGULATION PROCEEDS AS CURRENTLY PROPOSED IT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY CREATE SITUATIONS WHERE SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES WILL FIND THEMSELVES IN UNWANTED NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE REGULATION REQUIREMENTS. THIS EXPOSES THESE MUNICIPALITIES TO SIGNIFICANT LIABILITY RISK;

AND WHEREAS FOR SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES, THE ABILITY TO SUSTAIN AN EMERGENCY SERVICE SYSTEM THAT IS DEPENDENT ON 'COMMUNITY MINDED' VOLUNTEERS WILL BE SEVERELY THREATENED, IN LARGE PART DUE TO SYSTEMIC LIMITATIONS INCLUDING:

- A) LACK OF READY ACCESS TO SUITABLE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES,**
- B) LIMITED TIME FRAMES TO COMPLETE THE TRANSITION,**
- C) LIMITED SHORT TERM DOLLARS TO DIRECT AT COMPLIANCE WITHIN SUCH A SHORT TERM; AND**
- D) LIMITED ALLOWANCE TO 'GRANDFATHER' PAST EXPERIENCE FOR THE EXISTING CREW.**

AND WHEREAS THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION REQUIRED BY THE PROPOSED REGULATION ARE PROHIBITIVE FOR SMALL, RURAL, NORTHERN MUNICIPALITIES WITH VOLUNTEER SERVICES. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE DUE TO THE TIGHT TIME FRAME WITHIN WHICH COMPLIANCE MUST BE ACHIEVED. TRAINING ALL OF THE CREW MEMBERS, UP FRONT, QUICKLY, CREATES AN IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP.

AND WHEREAS IF EVERY VOLUNTEER IN THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HAD TO UNDERTAKE THE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION MERELY AS A NEW RECRUIT, AND EACH OF THE FOLLOWING ASSUMPTIONS WERE TRUE:

- A) TRAINING WAS MADE AVAILABLE IN THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT;**
- B) ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS WERE ABLE TO RE-SCHEDULE THEIR PERSONAL AND BUSINESS/EMPLOYMENT LIVES TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THE TRAINING ON THE DATES AND AT THE TIMES IN WHICH IT WAS OFFERED; AND**
- C) WAGES WOULD HAVE TO BE PAID TO THESE VOLUNTEERS FOR ATTENDING TRAINING THE ESTIMATED COST FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR WILL EXCEED \$100,000.00 TO \$150,000.00, A 13 TO 18 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S ANNUAL BUDGET. THIS COST IS NOT AFFORDABLE ESPECIALLY IN A VERY SHORT TIME PERIOD. FURTHER, IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ALL OF THE ASSUMPTIONS LEADING UP TO THAT COST ESTIMATE WOULD BE ACHIEVE-ABLE IN ANY EVENT. IF TRAVEL WERE REQUIRED FOR THE TRAINING FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S VOLUNTEER FORCES, THE COST ESTIMATE BALLOONS;**

AND WHEREAS RECRUITING FOR, AND RETAINING, VOLUNTEERS TO SMALL, RURAL, NORTHERN, VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICES HAS ALWAYS BEEN CHALLENGING. MANDATORY TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE OBSTACLES OUTLINED IN RECITALS ABOVE, WILL MAKE IT NEARLY, IF NOT ABSOLUTELY, IMPOSSIBLE. THIS WILL PLACE RURAL RESIDENTS IN AN UNACCEPTABLE HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK SITUATION;

AND WHEREAS VOLUNTEER FIRE FORCES HAVE BEEN OPERATING SUCCESSFULLY FOR YEARS WITHOUT THESE ADDITIONAL COST AND TIME BURDENS. WHEN THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION ("NFPA") STANDARDS WERE FIRST INTRODUCED IN ONTARIO IN 2014, IT WAS APPARENT THAT SMALL, RURAL AND NORTHERN VOLUNTEER FORCES COULD NOT EASILY MEET THE FULL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. COURSES WERE NOT AVAILABLE WITHOUT TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE AREA. ACCORDINGLY, A REVISED COURSE, PROVIDING THE ESSENTIALS OF THE NFPA STANDARD TRAINING FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE WORK AS A FIRE FIGHTER, WAS CREATED. CALLED THE "RURAL FIREFIGHTER" COURSE, THE EXISTENCE OF THIS PROGRAM IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE COMPLIANCE. THE PROVINCE IS PURPORTING TO MAKE CERTIFICATION UNDER NFPA STANDARDS COMPULSORY. THE RURAL FIREFIGHTER COURSE COMPLETION WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT FOR CERTIFICATION;

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AND WHEREAS LACK OF COMPLIANCE WITH SUCH MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS IS A SIGNIFICANT LIABILITY RISK FOR SMALL, RURAL, NORTHERN MUNICIPALITIES;

AND WHEREAS THERE IS NO EVIDENCE PRESENTED THAT CERTIFICATION LEADS TO GREATER SAFETY FOR RESIDENTS OR FIRE FIGHTERS. FORCING EVERY VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER TO BE “CERTIFIED”, AS IS PROPOSED, IS TIME CONSUMING, COST PROHIBITIVE, AND UN-NECESSARY;

AND WHEREAS THE WORDING OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION IS EXTREMELY VAGUE WITH RESPECT TO WHETHER OR NOT EXISTING LEVELS OF TRAINING AND/OR CERTIFICATION OF CURRENT VOLUNTEERS WOULD BE RECOGNIZED. SIMPLE RECOGNITION OF ALL EXISTING VOLUNTEERS WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE TIME AND COST BURDENS OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION, HOWEVER, THE CHALLENGES WILL REMAIN, AND WILL BE EXACERBATED OVER TIME AS CURRENT VOLUNTEERS REACH RETIREMENT AND/OR MOVE OUT OF THE COMMUNITIES THEY CURRENTLY SERVE. THEY WILL NOT BE “GRANDFATHERED” BY THEIR NEW COMMUNITIES (IF THEY RE-LOCATE), AND THIS WILL FURTHER EXACERBATE RECRUITMENT CHALLENGES, AND ROB THAT PERSON’S NEW HOME COMMUNITY OF THE BENEFIT OF EXPERIENCED AND WILLING PERSONNEL;

AND WHEREAS THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS PROPOSED REGULATION COMES IN THE ABSENCE OF THE BROADER CONTEXT, SUCH AS EXISTS IN THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA THROUGH ITS “OFFICE OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONER STRATEGIC PLAN”. THIS MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR SMALL, RURAL, NORTHERN VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICES TO ENVISION AND PREPARE FOR THEIR ROLES, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT PASSAGE OF THIS PROPOSED REGULATION BE DELAYED UNTIL MEANINGFUL AND COMPLETE MUNICIPAL CONSULTATION, INCLUDING A COMPLETE COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS, AND AN APPROPRIATE TRANSITION PLAN, CAN BE UNDERTAKEN;

OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, IF THE REGULATION WILL NOT BE SENT BACK FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION AND STUDY THE COUNCIL FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT THIS REGULATION BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT IT DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY MUNICIPALITY WITH A POPULATION SMALLER THAN 10,000 PERSONS AND IT DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY MUNICIPALITY WHICH UTILIZES AND RELIES UPON A VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE;

OR, IN THE FURTHER ALTERNATIVE, IF NO EXEMPTION WILL BE APPLIED THE COUNCIL FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT THIS REGULATION BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE CLEAR EXEMPTIONS FROM ALL OF ITS REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL EXISTING VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS AS OF THE DATE THE REGULATION TAKES EFFECT;

AND FURTHER, THAT THE PROVINCE DEVELOP A MODIFIED TRAINING AND/OR CERTIFICATION MODEL FOR NORTHERN, RURAL AND VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICES, SIMILAR TO THE “RURAL FIREFIGHTER” COURSE, RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLES IN THESE SERVICES TO ACHIEVING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REGULATION AS IT IS CURRENTLY DRAFTED;

AND FURTHER, THAT THIS REGULATION BE AMENDED TO SIGNIFICANTLY EXTEND THE TIME FRAME WITHIN WHICH ALL MUNICIPALITIES, OR, AT LEAST, MUNICIPALITIES WITH POPULATIONS

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LESS THAN 10,000 PERSONS AND/OR RELYING SOLELY ON VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICES, MUST COMPLY.

AND FURTHER. THAT, IN ANY CASE THIS RESOLUTION BE SUBMITTED AS COUNCIL'S SUBMISSIONS TO THE POSTING OF THE REGULATION BY THE PROVINCE, AND IN ADDITION, SENT TO: THE HONOURABLE PREMIER OF ONTARIO, THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES; BOTH LOCAL MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT FOR THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY, THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO, THE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS OF ONTARIO, THE ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE AND THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION.

Carried

Comments will be submitted prior to the deadline of March 11, 2018.

The O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary meeting minutes were read from January 9, 2018. Fire Chief Mattas noted that an Auto X combination spreader/cutter has since been purchased by the Auxiliary. He also noted that a decal for the side-by-side has been purchased but still needs to be put on. The washroom concerns will be discussed further at budget time.

Fire Chief Mattas also noted that the Deputy Fire Chief Budiselic's father recently passed away. Council wished to send their condolences.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Bills to be paid were passed around the table and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2018 BE PAID. THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE FEBRUARY 2018 ADMINISTRATION AND ROAD VOUCHER.

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| CK#14824 | LEANNE CODERRE (TRAINING MEAL) | \$ 113.58 |
| CK#14825 | KRYSTINA HUNTER (MENTAL HEALTH 1 ST AID) | \$1,500.00 |
| CK#14826 | TBAYTEL (TELEPHONE) | \$ 434.27 |
| CK#14827 | HYDRO ONE | \$ 806.32 |
| CK#14828 | BUHLER-MOORE FIRST AID SERVICES | \$1,053.94 |
| CK#14829 | HYMERS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (AD) | \$ 65.00 |
| CK#14830 | THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (LEVY) | \$ 243.95 |
| CK#14831 | LOWERY'S (BOTTLED WATER) | \$ 58.50 |
| CK#14832 | LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES (FUEL) | \$ 479.49 |
| CK#14833 | SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA | \$1,158.88 |
| CK#14834 | GFL ENVIRONMENTAL (RECYCLING) | \$ 559.35 |
| CK#14835 | THUNDER BAY AND AREA FOOD STRATEGY | <u>\$ 200.00</u> |
| | | \$6,673.28 |

Carried

A resolution for endorsement was read from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) with regard to fire medic protection from arbitrators imposing fire medic pilots or programs on unwilling municipalities. It was

5. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

WHEREAS BILL 160, THE STRENGTHENING QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PATIENTS ACT AMENDED THE AMBULANCE ACT TO PERMIT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LONG TERM CARE TO ENABLE TWO PILOT PROJECTS HOSTED BY WILLING MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS TO ALLOW FIRE FIGHTERS, CERTIFIED AS

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PARAMEDICS, TO TREAT PATIENTS WHILE ON DUTY WITH A FIRE DEPARTMENT; AND

WHEREAS THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO IS COMMITTED TO PROCEEDING WITH THE PILOTS AND ENABLING THE FIRE-MEDIC MODEL DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT IT WOULD IMPROVE PATIENT OUTCOMES OR RESPONSE TIMES; AND

WHEREAS THE CURRENT INTEREST ARBITRATION MODEL, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIRE SERVICES SECTOR, ALLOWS ARBITRATORS TO IMPOSE AWARDS ON UNWILLING EMPLOYERS THAT DIRECTLY IMPACT THE EMPLOYER'S ABILITY TO DETERMINE HOW IT WILL DEPLOY ITS WORKFORCE, AS EVIDENCED BY THE EXPERIENCE OF MANY MUNICIPALITIES IN REGARDS TO THE 24-HOUR SHIFT; AND

WHEREAS IN THE ABSENCE OF LEGISLATIVE PROTECTION, UNWILLING MUNICIPALITIES MAY BE FORCED TO ENTER INTO A PILOT OR ADOPT A FIRE-MEDIC MODEL AS A RESULT OR INTEREST ARBITRATION; AND

WHEREAS THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO AND ITS MUNICIPAL MEMBERS HAVE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO THE FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION ACT, 1997 AND THE AMBULANCE SERVICES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ACT TO PRECLUDE ARBITRATORS FROM EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR FIRE FIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS RESPECTIVELY THROUGH INTEREST ARBITRATION AWARDS; AND

WHEREAS THERE IS PRECEDENT FOR A RESTRICTION ON THE SCOPE OF JURISDICTION OF ARBITRATORS IN SECTION 126 OF THE POLICE SERVICES ACT WHICH PRECLUDES ARBITRATORS FROM AMENDING THE CORE DUTIES OF POLICE OFFICERS; AND

WHERE THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO HAS COMMITTED THAT NO UNWILLING MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE A FIRE-MEDIC PILOT PROGRAM IMPOSED UPON THEM.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO TO ACT IMMEDIATELY SO THAT LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS, THAT WILL PROTECT UNWILLING MUNICIPALITIES FROM BEING FORCED BY ARBITRATORS TO HAVE A FIRE MEDIC PILOT OR PROGRAM, ARE PLACED WITHIN THE UPCOMING BUDGET BILL BEFORE THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE RISES FOR THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION.**
- 2. A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO THE PREMIER KATHLEEN WYNNE, OFFICE OF THE PREMIER; HONOURABLE DR. ERIC HOSKINS, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND LONG TERM CARE; HONOURABLE MARIE-FRANCE LALONDE, MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES; HONOURABLE KEVIN FLYNN, MINISTER OF LABOUR, HONOURABLE BILL MAURO, MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS; HONOURABLE MICHAEL GRAVELLE, MINISTER OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES AND THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO.**

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – Minutes of the meeting held on February 15, 2018.
- b) Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) – 2018 NOMA and TBDML Levy.
- c) Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services – regarding the Guidance Note: 2018-01-01- Ontario Regulation 380/04 Training Requirements. Ms. Racicot, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer and Community Emergency Management Coordinator

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(CEMC) does have all required training. Ms. Racicot has requested that Council set a date for an Emergency Management Program Committee meeting. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE AND TIME BE SET FOR AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING.

MARCH 12, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Carried

- d) AMO Communications – i) MEPCO Update – OMERS Board to secure continuing plan sustainability and affordability.
ii) AMO Policy Update – AMO making submission on Policing – Bill 175, Safer Ontario Act. This email will be forwarded to Council to allow them to make individual comments by connecting through the link in the document.
- e) Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority regarding the wind up of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Program announced – June 20, 2020.
- f) Ontario Tire Stewardship regarding the wind up of the Used Tire Program – December 31, 2018.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Public Meeting for the draft Official Plan and Zoning By-law. At the last meeting a date was set for the public meeting, March 26th, however a start time was not set pending further information on the process. As there is a notice requirement of 30 days it is now too late to provide proper notice to be sent out. Council agreed to change the date of the special meeting to meet the minimum notice requirements and it was

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

THAT A STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING WITH REGARD TO THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S DRAFT OFFICIAL PLAN AND ZONING BY-LAW SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2018 IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE BE CHANGED TO MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018 STARTING AT 6 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Carried

- b) AMO Social Media in Emergency Situations – webinar March 14, 2018. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that she has spoken to the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer and CEMC and she would like to explore the social media option for emergencies and would like to see the Township participate in the webinar. It was

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

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR REGISTER FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES (AMO) WEBINAR FOR SOCIAL MEDIA IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS TO BE HELD ON MARCH 14, 2018.

REGISTRATION: \$75.00 + HST

Carried

- c) MMA/MHO - Planning Workshop attendance. As Councillor Loan was not in attendance at the last meeting he was asked if he wished to attend the workshop. He will be unavailable on those days and will not attend. Councillor Alkins noted that she will no longer be able to attend. Mayor Vezina will also have to confirm his work schedule for those dates prior to submitting the registration.

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- d) Municipality of Neebing's letter to the Thunder Bay Police Service regarding the Thunder Bay Police Service Business Plan. The Clerk-Treasurer has spoken with the Municipality of Neebing and it was recommended that if the Township of O'Connor would like to have the option of receiving policing services from the Thunder Bay Police that perhaps we should also send a letter so they know there is more interest. Council discussed the possibilities and agreed that a letter be sent and it was
9. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

BE IT RESOLVED THAT ADMINISTRATION WRITE A LETTER TO THE THUNDER BAY POLICE SERVICE TO REQUEST THAT ITS NEW BUSINESS PLAN LEAVE OPEN AN OPTION TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO RURAL MUNICIPAL NEIGHBOURS.

Carried

- e) Ministry of Municipal Affairs/ Ministry of Housing regarding the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006 – training April 5 and 6, 2018. Council at the last meeting had requested that the new enforcement requirements for municipalities be discussed with the members of the LRMC to see what they are considering with regard to who they will be appointing or hiring. Council are not in favour of accepting these responsibilities, another download from the Provincial Government with no funding attached to offset the costs. The Township of O'Connor overall does not have many rental units within the Township and we do not expect a lot of calls with regard to these new regulations, however we are still responsible to hire someone to be available. At the LRMC meeting held on February 15, 2018 it was suggested that perhaps as the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge and the Municipality of Shuniah do have property standard by-laws and have staff in place to deal with their own property standards issues, it was asked if they would consider contracting out their employees. An agreement could be put in place to deal with any complaints for the four surrounding municipalities who do not have anything currently in place to deal with these new regulations and will have minimal calls. The Clerk-Treasurer has also contacted the insurance company to see what kind of an impact this new regulation will have on municipalities insurance rates and is waiting on a reply. It was agreed that the Clerk-Treasurer should attend the training to learn what is going to be required by the Township with regard to local decision requirements and it was
10. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS/MINISTRY OF HOUSING TRAINING SESSION – ENFORCING RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE STANDARDS TO BE HELD, APRIL 5TH – 6TH, 2018 IN THUNDER BAY.

REGISTRATION FEE – N/C

CLERK-TREASURER BUOB

Carried

Under further old business, Councillor Loan discussed the Thunder Bay District Municipal League and questions from the Board with regard to the frequency of their board meetings and annual meeting/conferences. The board is looking to the membership to see how often they feel the board should be meeting and whether or not they would like to go back to two conferences per year or stay with one. They do not feel that they are getting enough issues and the new Councillors are not coming forward to run for the board. Council would like to suggest that they promote the board more, stating more of what they do and how they can support municipalities and their issues. It was suggested that they should be driving more of the local issues. An example is the draft mandatory training and certification for firefighters and community risk assessment previously discussed tonight. This will affect the majority of the members of the League. Council's recommendation for Councillor Loan to take back to the Board will be to hold board meetings quarterly and continue with the one annual meeting and conference.

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Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs regarding the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Top-Up Application Component – 2017 Intake application. The Township was unsuccessful in their application for funding to replace the Sitch road culverts at Beaver Dam creek.
- b) Canada Post seeking the Township's approval for the location of a new group mail box. The new box will replace a current old green one and will be put in a slightly different location. Council did not have a problem with the new location as long as they speak with the Leadhand prior to installation to insure it will not interfere with road maintenance.

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

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A COMMUNITY MAIL BOX AT THE INTERSECTION OF WINSLOW ROAD AND HIGHWAY 590.

Carried

- c) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – i) Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Response to Endangered Species posting and request for all of Council to respond and minutes of the November 29, 2017 meeting were reviewed.
ii) Municipality of Neebing – LRMC – proposed sample resolution with regard to comments to the EBR – deadline to submit comment March 5, 2018. Council reviewed the comments and agreed to submit the following: It was

- 12. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by K. Foekens

WHEREAS SUBSECTION 9(1)(A) OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, 2007 (S.O. 2007, C. 6 AS AMENDED) PROVIDES AS FOLLOWS:

9. (1) NO PERSON SHALL,

(A) KILL, HARM, HARASS, CAPTURE OR TAKE A LIVING MEMBER OF A SPECIES THAT IS LISTED ON THE SPECIES AT RISK IN ONTARIO LIST AS AN EXTIRPATED, ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES;...

AND WHEREAS SUBSECTION 10(1) OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, 2007 PROVIDES AS FOLLOWS:

10. (1) NO PERSON SHALL DAMAGE OR DESTROY THE HABITAT OF,

(A) A SPECIES THAT IS LISTED ON THE SPECIES AT RISK IN ONTARIO LIST AS AN ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES; OR

(B) A SPECIES THAT IS LISTED ON THE SPECIES AT RISK IN ONTARIO LIST AS AN EXTIRPATED SPECIES, IF THE SPECIES IS PRESCRIBED BY THE REGULATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE;

AND WHEREAS SECTION 22.1 OF ONTARIO REGULATION 342/08 PASSED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, 2007, PROVIDES THAT THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTIONS 9.(1)(A) AND 10.(1), CITED ABOVE, DO NOT APPLY TO FOREST OPERATIONS CONDUCTED IN MANAGED CROWN FORESTS PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2018;

AND WHEREAS THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE HAS POSTED PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REGULATION 342/08 ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS REGISTRY. ONE OF THESE AMENDMENTS WILL CHANGE THE DATE IN SECTION 22.1 TO READ "JULY 1, 2020" IN PLACE OF "JULY 1, 2018", EFFECTIVELY EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF TIME FOR WHICH THE EXEMPTIONS FROM COMPLIANCE WITH SUBSECTIONS 9(1)(A) AND 10(1) OF THE LEGISLATION WILL EXIST FOR FORESTRY SECTOR WORK.

AND WHEREAS DURING THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD BETWEEN JULY 1, 2018 AND JULY 1, 2020, IT IS PROPOSED THAT AN "INDEPENDENT PANEL" BE FORMED. IT WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO THE PROVINCE OUTLINING HOW TO CONSIDER SPECIES AT RISK IN CROWN FOREST

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MANAGEMENT. THE PROVINCE IS SEEKING “INNOVATIVE LOCAL APPROACHES” AND “POTENTIAL PILOT PROJECTS”. THIS PANEL WILL ALSO EXAMINE, AND CO-ORDINATE, AN INTEREST EXPRESSED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (UNDER THE FEDERAL *SPECIES AT RISK ACT* (S.C. 2002, C. 29, AS AMENDED), TO USE CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS FOR CARIBOU UNDER THAT LEGISLATION.

AND WHEREAS FOREST OPERATIONS CONDUCTED IN MANAGED CROWN FORESTS ARE NOT UNDERTAKEN IN A MANNER WHICH IS IRREVERENT OF SPECIES HABITAT. SECTION 22.1 OF REGULATION 242/08 MERELY ALLOWS THE FORESTRY SECTOR OPERATORS TO PROVIDE FOR SPECIES AT RISK UNDER THE *CROWN FOREST SUSTAINABILITY ACT, 1994* (S.O. 1994, C. 25, AS AMENDED) RATHER THAN UNDER THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OF THE *ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, 2007*.

AND WHEREAS ONTARIO'S FORESTRY SECTOR IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF MUNICIPALITIES IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO, INCLUDING THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY. MANY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ARE EMPLOYED EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY AS A RESULT OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR. AS SUCH, STABILITY IN THE OPERATION OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR IS A PRIMARY CONCERN OF COUNCIL;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR THANK THE MINISTER FOR CONSIDERING THE IMPACT OF SECTION 22.1 OF REGULATION 242/08 ON THE FORESTRY SECTOR IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO;

AND FURTHER, THAT WHILE THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR COUNCIL APPROVES OF THE MINISTRY'S APPROACH TO UTILIZE AN INDEPENDENT PANEL TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON “INNOVATIVE LOCAL APPROACHES”, THE COMPOSITION OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL WILL BE CRUCIAL IN BOTH INNOVATION AND A LOCAL APPROACH;

ACCORDINGLY, COUNCIL RECOMMENDS THAT THE PROVINCE ENSURE THAT THE INDEPENDENT PANEL CONTAINS REPRESENTATION FROM ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

**IMPACTED INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES;
IMPACTED MUNICIPALITIES;
IMPACTED BUSINESSES (OF A CROSS-SECTION OF SIZES) WORKING IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR;
KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS IN FORESTRY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS; AND
ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS;**

AND FURTHER, THAT GIVEN THE NEED TO CAREFULLY RECRUIT FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE INDEPENDENT PANEL, TOGETHER WITH THE SIGNIFICANT WORKLOAD REQUIRED IN UNDERTAKING THE ROLE PROPOSED, INCLUDING:

**THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON SPECIES HABITAT;
THE CUMULATIVE IMPACTS OF ALL *ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT* POLICIES ON THE FORESTRY SECTOR AND THE COMMUNITIES IT SUPPORTS;
SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSES FOR EACH OF THE POLICIES UNDER THE *ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT* AND HOW THEY INTERACT WITH OTHER FORESTRY SECTOR POLICIES IN ONTARIO; AND
COMMUNITY, INDUSTRY, INDIGENOUS AND MUNICIPAL CONSULTATIONS;**

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COUNCIL RECOMMENDS THAT THE PROVINCE AMEND ITS PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE DATE “JULY 1, 2020” TO THE DATE “JULY 1, 2023”, PROVIDING A FULL FIVE YEAR TERM FOR THE INDEPENDENT PANEL TO UNDERTAKE ITS WORK;

AND FURTHER, THAT EXTENDING THE TIME PERIOD BY THREE MORE YEARS WILL PROVIDE THE FORESTRY SECTOR WITH MORE STABILITY AND CERTAINTY, WHICH IS NEEDED AT THIS TIME;

AND FURTHER, THAT GIVEN THE IMMINENT APPROACH OF JULY 1, 2018, THE PROVINCE MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON THE AMENDMENTS TO REGULATION 242/08 PRIOR TO MARCH 30TH, 2018, TO ALLOW THE FORESTRY SECTOR TO RESPOND ACCORDINGLY;

AND FINALLY, THAT THIS RESOLUTION BE SUBMITTED AS THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S COUNCIL'S COMMENTS TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO REGULATION 242/08 AS POSTED ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS REGISTRY, AND CIRCULATED TO: THE HONOURABLE PREMIER OF ONTARIO; THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE; THE TWO MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT FOR THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY; THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO; THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION; AND THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE.

Carried

- iii) Hydro One seeks approval to construct new East-West Tie transmission line. A letter submitted to NOMA from Hydro One in this regard was read. Council agreed to lay this item on table with no comment.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- iv) NOMA Conference registration and draft agenda – May 2 to 4, 2018 in Kenora. Attendance was discussed and it was
13. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON MAY 2, 3 & 4, 2018 IN KENORA.

REGISTRATION: \$350.00 + HST

**MAYOR VEZINA
COUNCILLOR LOAN, RACICOT
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT**

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- d) NorWest Community Health Centres – Rural Health Fair – “Balancing Life” – invitation to participate. It was noted that the LRMC will not be putting in a joint table and Council agreed not to participate with an exhibit table this year.
- e) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge – Lakehead Rural Planning Board (LRPB) updated Constitution. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that she had made a comment with regard to the titles used for Municipality and Township in the document. It was also noted that the member municipalities could be listed in an appendix. The Clerk-Treasurer will forward this information to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Under further new business, it was suggested that the Township look into purchasing a snowplow for the Leadhand vehicle upon the next purchase of a 4 x 4. This could be used for cleaning up the yards and plowing of the helipad rather than the backhoe. The pros and cons were discussed, no decision was made at this time.

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The Clerk-Treasurer also noted to Council that a resident of the Township of O'Connor will be turning 100 years old in the month of March.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed

- a) AMO Communications regarding the Main Street Revitalization Funding Information. The broad areas for initiatives are i) energy efficiency, ii) accessibility, iii) marketability of small businesses within main street areas and iv) municipal or other public infrastructure within main street areas that will help the small businesses.
- b) Ontario Provincial Police – March Newsletter. Council would like the section with regard to ice conditions to be included in the March issue of the Cornerstone.

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

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M.

TIME BEING: 9:08 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer