

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 8, 2016

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Leadhand Kelly Johnson
Wendy Handy

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Foekens declared an interest in item 7b) as he is the owner of the business being paid. Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 15b) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

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

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2016 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

The visitors were asked if they wished to address Council. Ms. Handy informed Council that she has expressed her interest in the vacant Councillor position and came to observe. She did not have any comments at this time. Mr. Johnson replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. The monthly Road Department report from January 11 to February 5, 2016 was reviewed. No questions were asked with regard to the report.

Roadwork in general was discussed. The road department has been busy plowing snow. Some roads are getting rough and when time and weather permits they will start scrapping them with the grader. They are doing maintenance on the equipment, turning plow blades over and there is currently a hydraulic issue on Truck #7.

Mr. Johnson will be starting on his budget soon and he will also be looking at the landfill site plan. A study was completed in 2009. Mr. Johnson would like to update the data to determine the revised estimated remaining years of the site. As was mentioned at the January 25th meeting, with the length of time it takes to open a new site, Council will have to start looking at their future plans for the site in the next couple of years. The plan will depend on the actual remaining life expectancy of the site.

Mr. Johnson reported that both himself and Mr. Dennhardt attended circle check training in Oliver Paipoonge. The rules have changed with regard to log books and driving records are required for the municipalities trucks. Oliver Paipoonge will be drafting up a document to use and they will forward a copy to Mr. Johnson for review to see if they want to use something similar. A refresher circle check exercise was held the second day but unfortunately due to the weather they were unable to attend.

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

Bills to be paid were reviewed and it was

2. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR JANUARY 2016 TOTALLING \$70,544.82 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

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

THAT THE ROADS VOUCHER FOR KEVIN'S TIRE SERVICE FOR JANUARY 2016 TOTTALLING \$101.46 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

A copy of the draft Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the Township as of December 31, 2015 were reviewed. The Clerk-Treasurer explained some of the variances with the budget and actual expenses. The Township's reserves were also reviewed and it was

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

FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015 THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE FOLLOWING RESERVES.

FEDERAL GAS TAX	\$19,839.61
TURNOUT GEAR	\$ 2,000.00
ROAD EQUIPMENT	\$ 5,000.00
DISPOSAL SITE	\$ 2,300.00
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM	\$14,000.00

Carried

By-law Number 2016-04 with regard to entering into an agreement with an Escrow Agent for the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) levy was reviewed. The Municipalities will all be bringing this draft to their Council meetings and the final draft will be approved by the members of Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee and signed as soon as possible.

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2016-04 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH DANIEL MATSON, JOHANSEN LAW FIRM AS AN ESCROW AGENT BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- Township of Wellington North regarding Bill 36, an Act to amend the Trespass to Property Act was filed.
- Township of Wainfleet requesting that Ontario Cancel RFP for Added Wind Power Generation was filed
- Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands regarding increasing funding to Long Term Care Facilities and it was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF NORTHEASTERN MANITOULIN AND THE ISLANDS REQUESTING THAT THE PROVINCE INCREASE FUNDING TO LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- Town of Aurora requesting that the Government of Ontario limit the jurisdiction of the Ontario Municipal Board and it was

7. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF AURORA REQUESTING THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO LIMIT THE JURISDICTION OF THE ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD (OMB) TO QUESTIONS OF LAW OR PROCESS; AND TO REQUIRE THE OMB TO UPHOLD ANY PLANNING DECISIONS OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS UNLESS THEY ARE CONTRARY TO THE PROCESSES AND RULES SET OUT IN LEGISLATION BE ENDORSED.

Carried

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A letter was read from the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) with regard to Levy Payments. Council agreed that they will not be changing their stance on this matter and the payments will continue to go to the Escrow Agent. No reply will be forwarded.

A letter was read from the Minister of Community and Social Services to Mayor Kloosterhuis regarding the group's commitment to using the mediation process to resolve the issues with the TBDSSAB. A similar letter was sent to the TBDSSAB.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Ministry of Finance – 2016 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) regarding the first quarter payment which was processed during the week of January 18, 2016.
- b) Councillor Bob McMaster – Thunder Bay District Health Unit Board representative – Meeting Report for December 16, 2015 and January 20, 2016.
- c) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) – copy of the LRCA's comments to the Pre-Budget Consultation for the 2016 Ontario Budget.
- d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) AMO Watchfile – January 28, 2016.
 ii) AMO Watchfile – February 4, 2016.
 iii) AMO's Head of Council Leadership Training. Mayor Vezina will not attend.
 iv) AMO Communications – Policy Update – Members' Update on Provincial PTSD Strategy for First Responders.
 v) AMO Communications – AMO Report to Member Municipalities Highlights of the January 2016 Board Meeting.
- e) Fire Marshal's Communique – Utilization and review of integrated Risk Management Web Tool. This will be discussed further with the Fire Chief at the next meeting.
- f) The Premier of Ontario – reply to Council's resolution with regard to natural gas service in Northern Ontario communities.
- g) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) - Request for an Additional Streamflow Gauge on the Whitefish River.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Ontario Ministry of Transportation Highway Improvements – Highway 595 at the Cedar Creek Structure scheduled to take place in the summer of 2016:
 - i) A letter from TBT Engineering and LHnorth regarding the culvert replacement. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that in this letter the only detour route mentioned was on Pool Road and Whittaker Road as a means of travelling between Hwy 595 and Hwy 590. She has informed LHnorth and TBT Engineering that the detour route should also include Garbutt Road and Broome Road as per discussions at the Council meeting with Ms. Welch.
 - ii) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) – comments regarding the structure replacement. As the proposed project is being undertaken by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and would be considered a "Group B" project and would not be subject to the Authority's Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourse Regulations, it would therefore not require an Authority permit.
 - iii) Emails from Chris and Jane Montgomery and response to their concerns with regard to the detour on Whittaker road from Michelle Welch, LHnorth were read. A copy of these emails was copied to the Township by both parties. Ms. Montgomery has concerns with the detour onto Whittaker road and the increased traffic and the potential speed of this traffic due to the natural slope of the road. Ms. Welch responded to all of Ms. Montgomery's concerns and Council were also satisfied with her replies and will not respond directly to Ms. Montgomery.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Honourable Patty Hajdu, MP and Don Rusnak, MP – invitation to attend a roundtable session held February 8, 2016. As the meeting was held prior to this Council meeting, Mayor Vezina has already attend and it was

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

THAT COUNCIL APPROVES THE ATTENDANCE OF MAYOR VEZINA AT THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH THE MINISTER PATTY HAJDU AND DON RUSNAK, MP HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016 IN THUNDER BAY.

Carried

- b) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Annual Planning Workshop invitation – March 30 & 31, 2016. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING'S ANNUAL PLANNING WORKSHOP TO BE HELD ON MARCH 30 & 31, 2016 IN THUNDER BAY.

**MAYOR VEZINA
COUNCILLOR LOAN & RACICOT
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

REGISTRATION: \$100.00

Carried

- c) Ministry of Northern Development and Mines – NOHFC Reception invitation to attend the special reception to be held on February 18, 2016. Councillor Racicot will attend. As this reception will be held at the same date and time as the Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee meeting Mayor Vezina is unable to attend.
- d) Autism Ontario – Invitation to participate in Autism Ontario's "Raise the Flag" campaign on April 4, 2016, as April 2nd falls on a Saturday. It was
10. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

I, MAYOR JIM VEZINA OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 2 AS WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY;

WHEREAS WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY WILL BE RECOGNIZED ON APRIL 2, 2016, IN CANADA THANKS TO LIBERAL SENATOR JIM MUNSON'S BILL 2-206, AN ACT RESPECTING WORK AUTISM AWARENESS DAY; AND

WHEREAS AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) AFFECTS MORE THAN 100,000 ONTARIANS. AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER IS NOW RECOGNIZED AT THE MOST COMMON NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER AFFECTING 1 IN EVERY 94 CHILDREN, AS WELL AS THEIR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY; AND

WHEREAS ASD IS A SPECTRUM DISORDER, WHICH MEANS IT NOT ONLY MANIFESTS ITSELF DIFFERENTLY IN EVERY INDIVIDUAL IN WHOM IT APPEARS, BUT ITS CHARACTERISTICS WILL CHANGE OVER THE LIFE OF EACH INDIVIDUAL AS WELL. A CHILD WITH ASD WILL BECOME AN ADULT WITH ASD; AND

WHEREAS AUTISM ONTARIO (FORMERLY AUTISM SOCIETY ONTARIO) IS THE LEADING SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND REFERRAL ON AUTISM AND ONE OF THE LARGEST COLLECTIVE VOICES REPRESENTING THE AUTISM COMMUNITY. SINCE 1973, AUTISM ONTARIO HAS BEEN PROVIDING SUPPORT, INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES ACROSS THE PROVINCE; AND

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WHEREAS AUTISM ONTARIO IS DEDICATED TO INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT AUTISM AND THE DAY-TO-DAY ISSUES FACED BY INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE PROFESSIONALS WITH WHOM THEY INTERACT. THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS CHAPTERS SHARE COMMON GOALS OF PROVIDING INFORMATION AND EDUCATION, SUPPORTING RESEARCH, AND ADVOCATING FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR THE AUTISM COMMUNITY; AND

THEREFORE I MAYOR JIM VEZINA, DO HEREBY DECLARE APRIL 2ND AS WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY.

DATES AT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR, ONTARIO THIS 8TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016.

Carried

- e) Township of Warwick – invitation to meet with municipalities with populations less than 6,000 at the OGRA Conference. No one from the Township of O'Connor will be attending the conference, however members of the Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee will be attending and are planning on meeting with this group.

Under further new business, Council discussed the process of the appointment of the new Council member. Six applications were received and it was agreed that all six applicants will be interviewed. The same information and questions will be presented to all applicants. An opening statement with regard to the history of the Township and Council's responsibility will be made. Each member of Council will submit a question for the interview and all will be asked by the Mayor. The applicant will also be able to make a short closing statement at the conclusions of the interview. A date for the interviews was discussed and it was agreed that they would like to have the interviews prior to the next regular Council meeting, so that the appointment can be made at the February 22, 2016 Council meeting and the new member can be sworn in at the first meeting in March, 2016. It was decided that after the completion of all the interviews Council will then go into closed and discuss the applicants and rank their choices. If there is a tie with the Councillor's votes Mayor Vezina will be the tie breaker. The interviews will be held in open meeting. It was also noted that all the applicants will be encouraged to run in the next upcoming election.

No building permits were received since the last meeting.

Ms. Handy left the meeting.

The meeting then moved to Closed to review the applications for the vacant Councillor seat and to discuss a personal matter about an identifiable individual.

11. 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: 8:55 P.M.

Carried

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

TIME BEING: 9:16 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR INTERVIEWS FOR THE
VACANT COUNCILLOR SEAT:**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016

**THE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS STARTING
AT 7 P.M. THE INTERVIEWS WILL BE SLOTTED 25 MINUTES APART.**

Carried

The Clerk-Treasurer will contact each of the applicants by telephone and inform them of the process and their interview time. Council agreed to interview them in alphabetical order.

The second item discussed in the closed portion of the meeting was with regard an employee's portion of CPP owing for 2015. It was agreed that the Township will absorb the employee portion due to the circumstances discussed.

14. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL INTERVIEWS
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016 AT 7 P.M.**

TIME BEING: 9:30 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer