

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JANUARY 22, 2018

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Henry Mattas, Fire Chief and Monica Budiselic, Deputy Fire Chief
Dan Campbell, Commercial Account Manager – Copperfin Credit Union
Jerry and Rebecca Ross

Absent: Mayor Vezina

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 9 b) 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,
JANUARY 8, 2017 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Mr. Jerry Ross and Ms. Rebecca Ross were asked if they would like to speak to Council and they replied yes, with regard to dogs and horses running at large. Council agreed to allow them to speak after the first deputation.

Mr. Dan Campbell, Commercial Account Manager, from Copperfin Credit Union was welcomed to the table and introductions were conducted. Mr. Campbell then proceeded to make his presentation to Council. They are the largest locally owned Credit Union in Northwestern Ontario. All decisions are made locally in house. Every dollar earned goes to the members, the community or local organizations or for improvements to the organization. He would like the opportunity to bid on the Township's banking needs. Mr. Campbell has looked at our financial statements and feels that they could save the Township money.

Council asked Mr. Campbell if there are any other municipalities using their service and he confirmed that there are but could not name them. They also asked if they would be capable of covering large sums of money if at some point throughout the year the Township should require it. He did confirm that they do have a full suite of banking up to five million dollars with no concerns. He also confirmed that if Council would like they could provide fees for the services they offer. The branch locations and hours of operation were questioned. Mr. Campbell noted that there are seven branches in Northwestern Ontario with three in Thunder Bay, one currently under construction and should be reopened in six months. Their branch hours are nine to five, five days a week.

Council informed Mr. Campbell that they do owe it to the taxpayers of the Township to get them the best deal and they would be willing to accept a proposal for the Township's needs. Council asked Mr. Campbell to contact the Clerk-Treasurer to provide and receive additional information with regard to the Township's needs and Acting Mayor Alkins thanked Mr. Campbell for attending and he left the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Mr. & Mrs. Ross were welcomed to the table to discuss their concerns. Introductions were made and Acting Mayor Alkins asked them to express their concerns. They explained their current situation with their own animals and expressed their concerns with regard to the neighbours' animals coming onto their property and on the Township roadways. They have submitted pictures to the municipal office. Council asked the Clerk-Treasurer what has been done in this regard. She informed Council that both Mr. Frowen the Dog Control Officer and Mr. Richard Noy, Fenceviewer have been contacted and they are aware of the issues. To date no report has been submitted to the office as to how the situation has been dealt with. Information with regard to animals running at large has also previously been included in the monthly newsletter

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informing residents that this is not allowed and they can be fined. The Clerk-Treasurer will follow up with both to see what has been done and will request further action be taken and inform the animal owners of the fines that will be laid if issues are not resolved in the near future.

Mr. & Mrs. Ross were thanked for attending and they left the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Fire Chief Henry Mattas and Deputy Fire Chief Monica Budiselic were welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. There have been no calls since the last report. Fire Chief Mattas noted that it has been quiet throughout the whole district. Fire Chief Mattas also provided the monthly stats for 2017 for the district. The Township of O'Connor had a total of fifteen medical calls and seven fire related calls.

Currently there are no Fire Department issues.

The Wildfire Community Preparedness Day 2018 was discussed. Deputy Chief Budiselic would like to once again see the Township Fire Department host an event on May 5th. She is hoping to do something similar to last year with a BBQ and presentation on FireSmart and reduce the risk of fire on your own property. It was noted that gck Consulting is currently working on a FireSmart Plan for the Township and it had been previously mentioned to them that perhaps they could do a presentation at this event as well. Ms. Budiselic has been in touch with Mr. Trent Mann of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to see if he would be able to attend and possibly do a live demonstration on how to FireSmart your property. It was asked if they knew if any landscaping businesses are promoting FireSmart through their companies. No one was aware if they were or not. There is once again a \$500.00 award and FireSmart resources available for handing out if an event was held. It was noted that the 2017 event did go over the \$500 grant slightly and perhaps some money may have to be budgeted for any additional cost.

Council agreed that they would like to see this event held on Saturday, May 5th, Wildfire Community Preparedness Day and that the application for funding be submitted. Ms. Budiselic will follow up with Mr. Mann from the MNRF to see if he would be available on that day and if they can actually provide a live demonstration on private property by trimming or cutting trees. A question of whether or not a homeowners insurance would cover such an exercise was asked. This will also be looked into. gck Consulting will also be approached to see if they would be available to make a presentation that day as well.

Fire Chief Mattas and Deputy Fire Chief Budiselic were thanked for attending and they left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR DECEMBER 2017 AND JANUARY 2018 BE PAID. THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE JANUARY 2018 ADMINISTRATION AND ROAD VOUCHER.

CK#14767 O'CONNOR FREE METHODIST CEMETERY FUND	\$ 88.54
CK#14768 NORTH OF SUPERIOR PUBLIC WORKS (REG)	\$ 70.00
CK#14769 BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES CENTRE	\$ 28.00
CK#14770 GFL ENVIRONMENTAL (LANDFILL RECYCLING)	\$ 372.90
CK#14771 ERIN LAFOREST (REIMBURSEMENT COMPUTER)	\$ 97.46
CK#14772 VANLENTHE AUTO SERVICE (FORD 150)	\$ 835.18
	\$1,492.08

Carried

The draft Revenue and Expenditures to December 31, 2017 were reviewed. The Clerk-Treasurer provided an explanation for the variances and transfer of funds to the reserve accounts. It was

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

FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2017 THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE FOLLOWING RESERVES.

**FEDERAL GAS TAX - \$4,653.72
FIRE DEPARTMENT – TURN OUT GEAR - \$2,500.00
ROAD EQUIPMENT - \$5,000.00
DISPOSAL SITE - \$1,000.00**

Carried

By-laws and Policies were discussed and reviewed as follows:

- a) Safety Mission Statement for the Township of O'Connor and it was

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

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SAFETY MISSION STATEMENT BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- b) Policy for Administrative Benefits was briefly discussed. It was agreed to once again defer to the another meeting to confirm Bill 148 regulations are being met and wording is similar.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- c) By-law Number 2018-05, a by-law to amend the miscellaneous fees as were previously discussed at the last meeting. The Clerk-Treasurer provided additional information with regard to hall rental rates and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2018-05 BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND MISCELLANEOUS FEES AND CHARGES BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- d) By-law Number 2018-06, a by-law to establish new rates for the disposal of refuse at the O'Connor Landfill site as was previously discussed at the January 8, 2018 meeting. It was

6. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2018-06 BEING A BY-LAW TO ESTABLISH RATES FOR DISPOSAL OF REFUSE AT THE O'CONNOR LANDFILL SITE BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

A resolutions for endorsement was read from the Town of Lakeshore with regard to the Allocation of Infrastructure Funding dedicated to municipalities for storm water management and drainage improvements was filed.

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board - Summary of the Governance and Accountability Review Sessions that were held in September 2017 by Optimus SBR. As Mayor Vezina is not in attendance he will be asked if he has any comments on this summary at the next meeting.

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Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – Today's Provincial Cabinet shuffle.
 - b) Thunder Bay District Health Unit – Children's Oral Health Program presentation.
- The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) The Competent Supervisor Course date which was originally scheduled for February 13 and 14 has been changed to March 6 and 7, 2018. Both Clerk-Treasurer Buob and Leadhand Johnson are still able to attend on these new dates.
- b) Clerk-Treasurer Buob reported to Council that the Township of Gillies has not as of yet agreed to re-enter into a one year agreement with the Township of O'Connor for the Boundary Road Agreement. They will be discussing it further at their next meeting.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Plnchin Ltd. is offering a Landfill Operator training course in Thunder Bay and it was

- 7. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by B. J. Loan

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE LANDFILL OPERATOR TRAINING COURSE TO BE HELD, FEBRUARY 21, 2018 IN THUNDER BAY.

REGISTRATION FEE - \$150.00

**KELLY JOHNSON – LEADHAND
LORNA BUOB – CLERK-TREASURER
SCOTT HOLOMEGO – DISPOSAL SITE CARETAKER**

Carried

- b) Oliver Paipoonge Public Library – 2018 Contract for Service. It was agreed to continue with the service and current agreement and it was

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

THAT THE LIBRARY CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR 2018 WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF OLIVER PAIPOONGE LIBRARY BOARD FOR LIBRARY SERVICES BE SIGNED.

Carried

- c) Local Employment Planning Council (LEPC) – Invitation to join their meeting with regard to the labour market and local opportunities and challenges. This meeting will be held January 30, 2018 in the O'Connor Community Centre. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT PLANNING COUNCIL – LOCAL LABOUR MARKET DISCUSSIONS TO BE HELD, JANUARY 30, 2018 IN O'CONNOR.

REGISTRATION FEE – N/C

COUNCILLOR FOEKENS

Carried

- d) Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration – regarding the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards. No one will be nominated at this time.

Under further new business, Council discussed the upcoming Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) Conference to be held in May 3 to 5, 2018 in Kenora and asked if rooms had been booked. The Clerk-Treasurer confirmed that she has booked four rooms at this time. It was agreed that was probably enough and if too many the rooms can be cancelled up until that date.

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Acting Mayor Alkins reported to Council that she has joined the Board of Directors for the Soil and Crop Association and will be involved in planning the upcoming spring farm conference. She also informed Council of a rumour of a recent email scam involving a neighbouring Township and wanted to ensure that no personal information has been compromised within the Township of O'Connor. The Clerk-Treasurer confirmed that she has not heard of any issues with the neighbouring municipality or the Township of O'Connor.

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

- a) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs regarding the Northern Ontario Agri-Food Strategy released on January 19, 2018.
- b) Ontario Town Hall meeting with Premier Wynne to be held January 31, 2018 in Thunder Bay. Councillor Racicot will attend on his own time.
- c) Jaime Posen, Fotenn email with regard to setting a date for the Official Plan Review Public Meeting. He has not yet heard back from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs with regard to the questions to the Ministry of Natural Resources and his contact is out of the office until next week. He will be out of the office upon her return and wanted to know if Council would like to set a meeting a date for the public meeting prior to his time away from the office. Council agreed to wait until we hear the answers from the Ministry and a date will be set at a meeting in February for a potential meeting in March.

10. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 9:15 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer