

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JANUARY 23, 2017

Minutes of the meeting held on January 23, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas, Paul Phillips – Fire Department member
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot

Mayor Vezina 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 18 a) 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 9, 2017 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mayor Vezina asked the visitors if they wished to address Council on any personal matters and they replied no.

Fire Chief Henry Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report from December 22, 2016 to January 19, 2017 was read. There was one First Response call and one Mutual Aid fire related call since the last report.

Fire Chief Mattas informed Council that two members of the Fire Department will be going for their DZ licence on Wednesday of this week. Another has taken the classroom portion of the training but has not done the driving portion of the training as of yet.

The Ministry of Natural Resources – Fire Operations – Appendix A with the rates for the 2017 fire season for O'Connor's Municipal Fire Agreement were reviewed. The price has gone up slightly from 2016. Council was also asked if they would like Mr. Lemieux, from the Ministry, to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss the agreement. Mr. Lemieux did attend last year and with no changes to the agreement, it was agreed that that would not be necessary.

An email was received from the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management advising that Jason Redlarski will be the new Acting Program Manager, Operations pending the completion of the permanent competition for the position.

Fire Chief Mattas was asked to stay to review the draft 2016 Statement of Revenue and Expenditures and Balance Sheet coming up soon on the agenda.

The Bills to be paid were reviewed and it was

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

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

CK#14060	CANADA POST (POSTAGE STAMPS)	\$ 480.25
CK#14061	MUNICIPAL FINANCE OFFICERS' ASSOC	\$ 282.50
CK#14062	TBAYTEL	\$ 428.36
CK#14063	HYDRO ONE	\$1,197.18
CK#14064	NORTH OF SUPERIOR PUBLIC WORKS ASSOC	\$ 70.00
CK#14065	THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE	\$ 500.00
CK#14066	GILBERT ELECTRIC INC	\$ 272.91
CK#14067	LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES	\$ 552.03

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CK#14068	TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR (PETTY CASH)	\$ 70.75
CK#14069	MGM ELECTRIC	\$ 182.72
CK#14070	A&L AUTO	\$ 144.63
CK#14071	TARANIS CONTRACTING GROUP	\$1,807.59
CK#14072	FOTENN CONSULTANTS INC	\$ 239.56
CK#14073	GFL ENVIRONMENTAL INC	\$ 372.90
CK#14074	BDO	<u>\$3,390.00</u>
		\$9,991.38

Carried

The draft Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to December 31, 2016 were reviewed. The Clerk-Treasurer explained some variances on the different line items. Some Journal Entries are still required to be done, including the posting of some Accounts payable items, one being the Fire Department driver training bill. It was also noted that the Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance funding for a percentage of the expenses of the flood that occurred in June have been setup as an Accounts Receivable for the full eligible costs, however we have not heard whether or not this amount will be approved. It was also noted the unused Federal Gas Tax (FGT) funding that was in the 2016 budget will have to be setup in the reserve for the FGT. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that the purchase of an air conditioner in the municipal office was approved and the contract awarded in 2016 however the contractor has been very busy and unable to have the work completed. This amount should also be set up in a reserve for the work to be completed in 2017. Council asked Fire Chief Mattas to discuss his variances. It was noted that each year money is put into the budget to purchase a new bunker suit for a fire department member if needed. If one is not purchased the money is set aside into a reserve for the purchase of suits when needed in future years. Fire Chief Mattas briefly discussed some of the other variances and asked Council to deposit any surplus from his portion of the budget in the Fire Department Reserve.

Council thanked Fire Chief Mattas for attending and he and Mr. Phillips left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Council continued to discuss the variances and discussed reserve transfers for the 2016 budget year. It was

- 3. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by B. J. Loan

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

FEDERAL GAS TAX -	\$11,646.56
MUNICIPAL BUILDING -	\$ 5,800.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT -	\$12,400.00
TURNOUT GEAR -	\$ 1,000.00
ROAD EQUIPMENT -	\$16,015.00
DISPOSAL SITE -	\$ 6,200.00

Carried

By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

- a) By-law Number 2017-05 – Being a By-law authorizing the execution of a joint maintenance agreement with the Township of Gillies. Council agreed to enter into a one year Boundary Road Agreement until the Township of Gillies makes a final decision on whether or not to reopen the Main Street hill. It was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2017-05 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A JOINT MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF GILLIES BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

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b) By-law Number 2017-06 – Being a By-law to amend the by-law for miscellaneous fees and charges with regard to the equipment rates, as per discussion at the previous meeting. It was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2017-06 BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND THE BY-LAW FOR MISCELLANEOUS FEES AND CHARGES BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

c) By-law Number 2017-07 – Being a By-law to amend the by-law for rates for disposal of refuse at the O'Connor Landfill Site, as per discussion at the previous meeting. It was

6. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2017-07 BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND THE BY-LAW FOR DISPOSAL OF REFUSE AT THE O'CONNOR LANDFILL SITE BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

d) Review Policy for the removal of dead animals on the Township Roads. As there were questions as to what the fee for the removal of dead animals was for at the previous meeting, the Clerk-Treasurer provided a copy of the Policy for this service to Council for their review.

e) By-law Number 2017-08 – Being a By-law to execute an agreement with Tbaytel for publicly accessible wifi internet service. At the meeting with Tbaytel staff, in regard to the installation of a cellular tower on the Township's property, Council requested that the O'Connor Community Centre be setup with public wifi. Tbaytel agreed to this and a free public wifi service will be setup in the Community Centre upon the approval of this agreement. It was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2017-08 BEING A BY-LAW TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH TBAYTEL FOR PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE WIFI INTERNET SERVICE BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

a) Town of Bancroft – requesting the Province of Ontario allow municipalities to hold municipal lotteries for the purpose of generating funds for local infrastructure was filed.

b) Town of Fort Frances – requesting the Province implement a new system of municipal property taxation for railway right-of way properties and it was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF FORT FRANCES CALLING UPON THE MINISTER OF FINANCE FOR THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO TO IMPLEMENT A NEW SYSTEM OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXATION FOR RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY PROPERTIES BASED ON UTILIZING A PER TON-MILE CONCEPT AND THAT THE NEW TAX SYSTEM WHEN IMPLEMENTED, BE REVIEWED ON A REGULAR BASIS, SIMILAR TO THE MPAC FOUR-YEAR ASSESSMENT CYCLE BE ENDORSED.

Carried

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Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board – regarding the Board Composition and a request for support of a resolution to increase the Area One representation from one member to three members was discussed. Council discussed the offer and the Area One municipalities opinion of the this resolution as was discussed at the last Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition meeting and it was

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

THAT WITH RESPECT TO THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD (TBDSSAB) RESOLUTION NO. 16/113, WE, THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR, SUPPORT TBDSSAB'S RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO AMEND SCHEDULE 6 OF REGULATION 278/98 TO INCREASE THE REPRESENTATION OF THE MUNICIPALITIES COMPRISING AREA 1 FROM ONE (1) MEMBER TO THREE (3) MEMBERS;

AND THAT WE SUPPORT THE ROTATION OF THE THREE (3) MEMBERS FOR AREA 1 BE DETERMINED BY THOSE SIX (6) MUNICIPALITIES;

AND THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE SENT TO TBDSSAB, TO INDICATE COUNCIL'S SUPPORT.

Carried

While Council are not totally satisfied with this resolution as was presented by the City of Thunder Bay, it is a step forward and Council feel that we have to accept it. This resolution does require a double majority vote before being implemented.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Ministry of Housing – regarding The Promoting Affordable Housing Act, 2016
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watch File -January 12, 2017
ii) Watch File - January 19, 2017
iii) AMO Policy Update – Today's Changes to Provincial Cabinet
iv) AMO's 2017 Pre-Budget Submission Released: What's Next Ontario
- c) Randy Hillier – Bill 77, Kickstarting Public Participation Act
- d) The Premier of Ontario – reply letter regarding Council's endorsed resolution with regard to hydro access and delivery.
- e) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition meeting minutes: i) November 17, 2016
ii) December 15, 2016

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority & Lakehead Conservation Foundation – Dinner and Auction February 9, 2017 invitation and request for donation which was deferred from the last meeting. It was

10. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE LAKEHEAD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION 2017 FUNDRAISING DINNER AND AUCTION TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 9, 2017 IN THUNDER BAY.

**TICKETS: \$50.00 EACH
COUNCILLOR RACICOT**

A DONATION OF A HISTORY BOOK, SMOKE – CO COMBINATION DETECTOR AND TWO O'CONNOR HATS WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED.

Carried

- b) Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration – regarding the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards update. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that Nominations have been submitted for six members of the O'Connor Community Club. Two for twenty years, three for fifteen years and one for five years.

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Under further old business the donation to the Thunder Bay District Municipal League was discussed. The question was asked if the City of Thunder Bay paid the same amount as the Township of O'Connor. Council would like Councillor Loan to bring up this concern at the next Board meeting.

Under New Business, Council discussed

a) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge regarding Kay Bee Seniors Housing and their request for a letter of support from the Township of O'Connor's for additional grant funding from the DSSAB for six units of housing in Kakabeka Falls. It was

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

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUPPORT THE KAY BEE SENIORS NON-PROFIT HOUSING CORPORATION AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF OLIVER PAIPOONGE IN THEIR JOINT PROPOSAL FOR THE NEW CONSTRUCTION OF A SIX (6) UNIT (ONE BEDROOM) APARTMENT COMPLEX TO BE LOCATED ON HILL STREET IN KAKABEKA FALLS, ONTARIO.

Carried

- b) Mosey & Mosey Benefit Plan Consultants – regarding Employee Group Benefit Plan Renewal Projection for June 1, 2017. The Township of O'Connor's projected renewal rate adjustments are extremely high. The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that she has contacted the surrounding municipalities to see who they offer their benefits through. Not all are with Mosey & Mosey. Council asked that the Clerk-Treasurer request quotes from other suppliers to ensure that we are getting the best price.
- c) Sun Life Group Benefits – What taxable employer contributions to group health benefit plans will mean for your organization. The Federal Government is considering changing the tax status of employer paid employee benefits to taxable income. This change has the potential to add several thousands of dollars of previously tax exempt premiums to the tax bill of each employee. It was

12. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE OPPOSING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO TAX TREATMENT OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS.

Carried

- d) Canada Summer Jobs 2017 application was discussed. Council discussed the program and the upcoming summer work schedule and agreed to apply for two students for the road department. This program covers 50% of the student wages if approved. It was

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

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR APPLY FOR 2 STUDENTS UNDER THE 2017 CANADA SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM FOR A PERIOD OF 8 WEEKS.

START DATE FOR THE PROGRAM WOULD BE JULY 3, 2017 RUNNING UNTIL AUGUST 25, 2017.

Carried

Under further new business, Council discussed the signage at the disposal site. It was agreed that new, larger signage and arrows, providing direction at the entrance is required. The Clerk-Treasurer will discuss this with the Leadhand. It was also noted that we should ensure that the opening time for Saturday has been changed on the sign from 10 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

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- a) Hymers Agricultural Society – request for advertisement and donation. Council discussed the fair and agreed that they would like to continue supporting the fair and it was

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

THAT A HALF PAGE ADVERTISEMENT IN THE HYMERS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY PRIZE LIST BOOK BE PURCHASED AT A COST OF \$60.00.

A DONATION OF A HISTORY BOOK AND TWO O'CONNOR HATS WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED.

Carried

- b) Ontario Trillium Foundation – regarding the application submitted for renovations to the O'Connor Community Centre. Council discussed the possible start/end date for project upon approval. Council agreed to move the start date to May 1, 2016.
- c) TBT Engineering Consulting Group letter – regarding Highway 590 and Highway 588 resurfacing project and replacement/rehabilitation of five structural culverts, three of which are located in the Township of O'Connor. During the construction in 2017 and 2018, the Contractors will be taking water from Cedar Creek. A map was provided showing the location, near the shoulder of Strom Road. A temporary water taking station will be setup. Council did not have any concerns at this time.

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

Councillor Racicot left the meeting.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 8:58 P.M.

Carried

The Clerk-Treasurer and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer's wages were discussed.

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

**TIME BEING: 9:25 P.M.
THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried

17. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

THAT AFTER A PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND WAGE EVALUATION THE SALARY AND WAGE SCHEDULE FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S CLERK-TREASURER AND DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER BE SET AS FOLLOWS:

1. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST, 2017 THE CLERK-TREASURER WILL RECEIVE \$XX.XX PER HOUR AND THE DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER WILL RECEIVE \$XX.XX PER HOUR.
2. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018 INCREASE BY 2 PERCENT
3. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2019 INCREASE BY 2 PERCENT
4. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020 INCREASE BY 2 PERCENT

Carried

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

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.**

TIME BEING: 9:27 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer