

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 25, 2018

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, June 25, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Foekens, Handy, Loan
Clerk-Treasurer Buob
Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Kris Kutzler

Absent: Councillor Racicot

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

1. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mr. Kutzler was asked if he wished to address Council and he replied yes, with regard to his property taxes. Council unanimously agreed to allow Mr. Kutzler to address Council and he was welcomed to the table. Mr. Kutzler expressed his concerns with regard to his high property tax and wanted to know why properties in the City of Thunder Bay – Parkdale area and Oliver Paipoonge with much larger homes are paying less and getting more services. He has in the past had MPAC out to reassess his property. His assessment was lowered for the change of use for a building, however it did increase due to the addition of different features they picked up in the home. He also knows of others in the Township who are also upset with the high property tax amounts.

Council did not disagree with him in regard to his concerns and explained how the property tax system works. The budget process and trying to keep the tax bills at a reasonable amount continues to be a struggle each year and Council agree that the taxes are getting high but need to cover the essential services expenses and maintain our infrastructure at the same time. They also explained the provincially mandated programs, such as policing, social services, ambulance, etc, which are based on weighted assessment that the Township has no say over, included on the tax bill. These amounts continue to increase each year, while the provincial funding which was originally setup to cover these costs continues to decline each year. The assessment changes on each property affect each tax bill differently, so some people may go up significantly and other may actually go down. It was also noted that MPAC's high assessments on our properties also increases the amount that we pay to the outside agencies rather than the expense for the services that they actually provide.

Mr. Kutzler was also informed that an administrative task force for the local municipalities has been formed and they are currently looking at the provincially mandated programs and comparing it to Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) to determine if the programs are being adequately funded by the Province. Council agrees that the municipal property tax should be for municipal services and unfortunately it is not. The Township also seems to be assessed very high compared to our neighbours which increases those amounts that are being billed from the outside agencies. Council suggested that perhaps we could request that a meeting be setup with MPAC for our residents to come out and express their concerns. Mr. Kutzler agreed that this would be a good idea and he would spread the word to ensure that the residents come out to the meeting.

Mr. Kutzler was thanked for attending and expressing his concerns and left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Clerk-Treasurer Buob will contact Mr. Tanner to arrange for him to attend a meeting to discuss these concerns.

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Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. There have been two First Response calls since the last meeting and one fire call today which is not included on the report. It was also noted that six members attended the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) training S 103, wild fire, hoses and pumps, at the Neebing fire hall on May 26, 2018. Fire Chief Mattas also attended a Zone meeting on June 7, 2018 and noted that only five of the thirteen surrounding departments were in attendance. The concerns of the new training requirements were discussed at this meeting.

Fire Chief Mattas also reported that the First Response vehicle was taken in for it's safety. There were repairs required costing more than what was budgeted and while it was in at the garage he also had a servicing done.

He also noted that he had received a call from the Nolalu Fire Chief asking for an invoice for submission to the MNR for the mutual aid call that our department attended. It was noted that we cannot submit a bill as it was a mutual aid call and we were not called in by the Ministry.

Driver training was discussed. Fire Chief Mattas has looked into registering a couple of Fire Department members for the driver training with Taranis Training. One member only requires a Z endorsement, which is a one day classroom session and then the member has to go and write his test. One member will also be going for full licence, which includes one day classroom and a minimum of two – four hour driving sessions. If both the driver and trainer are comfortable then they make an appointment for the driving test with the Ministry and if not more driving will be done. The day of the test, the driver goes to Taranis for a refresher and Taranis Training will bring the truck over to the drive centre for them to use. This will be setup in the near future.

Fire Chief Mattas noted that for the weekly training, he is trying to have one hour of practical and one hour of paperwork. The S.O.G. have to be reviewed. The problem they are having is that different members come each week, so it is hard to ensure that all members are getting all training.

Councillor Loan asked Fire Chief Mattas a follow up question with regard to a previous request to have the fire department members come on his property to burn brush as a training exercise. Fire Chief Mattas noted that he cannot commit to doing this.

The O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department Auxillary minutes were read from the April 10, 2018 and the May 8, 2018 meeting. No questions arose from the minutes. Fire Chief Mattas noted that this auxiliary is doing a wonderful job with their fundraising efforts.

A letter was read from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services with regard to a staffing announcement. The new Chief of Emergency Management is Jon Pegg, effective July 3, 2018.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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

2. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by W. Handy

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

CK#15025	JERRY LOAN (COUNCIL HONOURARIUM)	\$ 125.00
CK#15026	SQUASH QUEEN	\$ 60.00
CK#15027	TBAYTEL (TELEPHONE)	\$ 446.13
CK#15028	HYDRO ONE	\$ 458.24
CK#15029	STAPLES	\$ 1,108.39
CK#15030	LOCAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (FUEL)	\$ 880.87
CK#15031	LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	\$26,633.75
CK#15032	THUNDER BAY CATHOLIC DIST SCHOOL BD	\$ 2,288.65
CK#15033	CSDC DES AURORES BOREALES	\$ 182.56

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CK#15034	GFL ENVIRONMENTAL INC	\$	559.35
CK#15035	THUNDER BAY AREA ZONE ONE MUTUAL AID	\$	200.00
CK#15036	ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEF	\$	310.75
CK#15037	ERIN LAFOREST (MILEAGE)	\$	36.00
CK#15038	FIRECON	\$	310.75
CK#15039	A-1 SEWAGE SERVICES	\$	135.60
			<u>\$33,736.04</u>

Carried

A By-law to appoint an Inspector for the purpose of enforcing the prescribed maintenance standards contained in the Ontario Regulation 517/06 under the Residential Tenancies Act, which was recently downloaded to municipalities from the Province, was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2018-13 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT AN INSPECTOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENFORCING THE PRESCRIBED MAINTENANCE STANDARDS CONTAINED IN ONTARIO REGULATION 517/06 UNDER THE RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT, 2006, S.O.2006, C. 17 FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Mr. Cuthbertson, Inspector, had requested a wage rate for this position. This wage was discussed and agreed upon and it was

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

THAT MR. GORDON CUTHBERTSON, INSPECTOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENFORCING THE PRESCRIBED MAINTENANCE STANDARDS AS CONTAINED IN ONTARIO REGULATION 517/06 UNDER THE RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT, 2006, S.O.2006, C. 17 FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR RECEIVE AN HOURLY RATE OF \$____ PER HOUR. MILEAGE WILL BE PAID AT .50 CENTS PER KILOMETRE. THIS RESOLUTION SHALL COME INTO EFFECT JULY 1, 2018.

Carried

Quotes for roadside grass/weed cutting were opened at 8:02 p.m. One was received and it was

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

THAT THE QUOTE OF A & L AUTO SERVICE TO CUT THE WEEDS ON THE SIDES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ROADS AT A COST OF \$3,800.00 + HST BE ACCEPTED. WORK TO BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 12, 2018.

Carried

Quotes to retain an Engineering/Consulting firm to conduct two structural culverts and three bridge inspections were opened at 8:05 p.m. Five quotes were received. The lowest bid was accepted and it was

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

THAT THE QUOTE OF KGS GROUP CONSULTING ENGINEERS TO CONDUCT A COMPLETE STRUCTURAL INSPECTION OF THREE BRIDGES AND TWO CORRUGATED STEEL BOX CULVERTS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AT A COST OF \$2,640.00 + HST BE ACCEPTED.

Carried

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A resolution for endorsement from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) with regard to the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was read and it was

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

THAT THE AMO BOARD APPROVE THE PROPOSED NAFTA RESOLUTION TO BE SHARED WITH MEMBERS, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, AND FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES (FCM).

WHEREAS, THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA) GOVERNS NEARLY EVERY ASPECT OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP INCLUDING MANUFACTURING, AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES INDUSTRIES, AND SERVICES;

WHEREAS, ABOUT 80% OF ALL OF ONTARIO'S EXPORTS GO TO THE UNITED STATES AND ONTARIO IS THE TOP TRADING PARTNER OF HALF OF ALL AMERICAN STATES;

WHEREAS, EVEN MINOR CHANGES TO THE ESTABLISHED TRADE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT CONSEQUENCES FOR WORKERS, CONSUMERS, AND GOVERNMENTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER;

WHEREAS, CANADA'S AND ONTARIO'S ECONOMIC FUTURE AND THE CONTINUED WELL-BEING OF COMMUNITIES AND THEIR LOCAL ECONOMIES DEPEND ON FREE AND FAIR TRADING RELATIONSHIPS BASED IN CURRENT FUTURE TRADE AGREEMENTS;

THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED THAT ONTARIO MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, REPRESENTED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO (AMO), STAND TOGETHER WITH THE FEDERAL AND ONTARIO GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PROTECT CANADIAN JOBS AND LOCAL ECONOMIES;

RESOLVED THAT AMO WILL WORK WITH THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO TO SUPPORT THE INTERESTS OF MUNICIPALITIES AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY TRADE DISPUTES AND DURING ONGOING TRADE AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATIONS;

RESOLVED THAT WILL WORK WITH THE FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES TO ENSURE THAT CANADA UNDERSTANDS THE MUNICIPAL IMPACTS AFFECTED BY TRADE DISPUTES AND DURING ONGOING TRADE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUPPORTS AMO'S RESOLUTION.

Carried

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) minutes of the May 17, 2018 meeting.
- b) Fairtax – regarding the Ontario Election and the Progressive Conservatives winning a majority government. The document highlighted Fairtax's thoughts on the political landscape and how they anticipate the results to impact provincial incentives.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) The Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) appointment of the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB). At the last LRMC meeting Council representatives decisions with regard to the appointment of three Area One representatives were brought forward. The end result was a tie with three municipalities choosing the election of all three members and the other three municipalities choosing a rotation schedule. Compromising ideas were discussed

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at the meeting and the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge provided a summary of the two possible scenarios where the appointments could be made with a combination of both rotation and election. Council reviewed the options as presented and preferred the two seats rotated and one seat elected version. This will be brought back to the next LRMC meeting for further discussion and if a decision is made an identical By-law will be drafted for all six municipalities to pass making the decision final.

The Clerk-Treasurer provided Council with an update from the June 21, 2018 LRMC meeting. She noted that the Treasurers or a member from the staff of the member municipalities will be getting together to summarize OMPF funding versus downloads of the Provincially mandated programs. This information will be used to show the Province the discrepancies in their formulas. The information will be brought back to the next LRMC meeting for the groups review. Mayor Holland, Township of Conmee, made a comment with regard to the new cannabis funding which is being provided to municipalities to help offset the additional cost which will be associated with the implementation of legalizing cannabis. He noted that there is a sin tax on alcohol, and alcohol is in part one of the main contributors to policing costs in our municipalities. He is suggesting that the municipalities should be requesting a share of this tax as well.

- c) The Township of Conmee provided a copy of their resolution agreeing to the appointment of Mr. Joseph Beitz as the citizen representative on the Lakehead Police Services Board.
- d) The Clerk-Treasurer provided an update on the Highway 590 construction and road closure. A new time schedule for the culvert replacements was recently sent out by the contractor and has been posted in our office and will be in the July issue of the Cornerstone. As a part of the two year project, Highway 590 is also being ditched and it has been noted that the contractor has ditched out the entrance to Mayo Road. Pioneer, the contractor of the project, has been contacted and they responded that it was in the Ministry's contract to have it done. I informed the Superintendent that this entrance must be reinstalled as it is a Township road providing access to property owners in the area. Mayor Vezina will also follow up with this issue.

Under further old business, the entrance to the disposal site was discussed. As was noted on the Township inspection in the fall, since the new culvert into the disposal site was installed by the contractor the entrance is narrow. On the weekend a trailer did miss the entrance and was in the ditch. The entrance should be made wider and Mayor Vezina will discuss this with the Ministry when he talks to them about the Mayo Road entrance issue.

Under New Business Council discussed

- a) AMCTO Council Orientation Workshop to be held July 20, 2018 in Thunder Bay. It was agreed that no one will attend.
- b) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) regarding small-scale on-farm business subclasses. On May 3, 2018, the Minister of Finance announced a new optional subclass for both industrial and commercial property classes. At this time we do not have any commercial or industrial operation and it was agreed to file this item. The Clerk-Treasurer will confirm that a by-law could be considered at a later date if situations changed.

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

- a) The Clerk-Treasurer reported that Mr. Rick Bodnar was in the office earlier in the day with regard to his tax bill and the significant increase once again. He wanted to make a formal protest for the 9.4 % increase. Mr. Bodnar was provided with an explanation of the increase in provincially mandated programs and the reduction in provincial funding. As well his assessment increase contributed to the increase. He noted that there is no reason for the assessment increase as he has not made any improvements to his property.
- b) Thunder Bay District Health Unit – Councillor McMaster's report and the TBDHU Strategic Plan Mid-Year update.
- c) Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals – 2018 No Hot Pets Campaign. They are requesting that Council pass a by-law in this regard. It was agreed that a by-law would not be passed.

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8. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
ON MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

TIME BEING: 8:51 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer