

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 26, 2017

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, June 26, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Alkins, Loan, Racicot
Clerk-Treasurer Buob
Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Rick Bodnar
Absent: Councillor Foekens

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

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

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
JUNE 12, 2017 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Mr. Johnson was asked if he wished to address Council and he replied no.

Mr. Rick Bodnar was welcomed to the table to discuss the increase in his property tax. Mr. Bodnar would like to follow up on the meeting he attended in November with regard to tax increases. He is disappointed and concerned that his 2017 taxes have gone up 7% when in November he was told that it would be a 2 or 3 percent increase and he is requesting an explanation.

Council explained that the Township's own revenue was increased by 2.25% and every property owner could have been affected differently depending on how the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) reassessed the individual properties. Council suggested that if he is dissatisfied with the assessed value that was placed on his property that he contact MPAC. He noted that he was not dissatisfied with the value and he has dealt with MPAC previously with regard to the assessed value. Mr. Bodnar noted he does not agree with the current tax system and taxing people on bettering their property. Each property should be charged for the same services equally. Council agreed with Mr. Bodnar that this is not a fair system but it has been in place for several years and was created by the Province.

Mr. Bodnar also made note that he sent an email to Premier Wynne on March 8, 2017, on her online site, expressing his dissatisfaction with regard to the heating fuel price increase between December 2016 and January 2017. He spoke to the supplier first and was told that it was the market and the increase in carbon tax of 5.5 cents per litre. In the email to the Premier he asked for an explanation for the 5.5% increase. He did receive an email response noting that they had received his email and that a formal response may take several days and he has never heard back. Council asked Mr. Bodnar for a copy of the information that he has sent and Council agreed to follow up with Minister Mauro on this matter. Mr. Bodnar also expressed his concern with what the Province is currently doing with hydro rates and noted that we will all be paying later for the current reduction.

Mr. Bodnar thanked Council for listening to his concerns and for being the only level of government to he can talk to and get a response. Council thanked Mr. Bodnar for expressing his concerns with regard to the taxes and noted that they will also follow up with the Province on his Provincial issues and see if they can get a response for him. Mr. Bodnar then left the meeting.

Fire Chief Mattas was unable to attend the meeting. The Fire Department report from May 20 to June 25, 2017 was read. There was one First Response call in this time period. The sale of the Fire Department 4 x 4 ATV was discussed. It has been on kijiji with a few inquiries but no sale as of yet. It was agreed to lower the asking price from \$4,000 to \$3,600 or best offer and it will also be included in the July issue of the Cornerstone.

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Bills to be paid were reviewed and it was

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

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

CK#14338	HYDRO ONE	\$ 684.76
CK#14339	OMERS	\$ 3,280.86
CK#14340	CUPE LOCAL 87	\$ 216.83
CK#14341	TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR (PETTY CASH)	\$ 83.60
CK#14342	BRAD'S WATER TREATMENT	\$ 839.59
CK#14343	KELLY JOHNSON (MEDICAL/DENTAL)	\$ 88.00
CK#14344	MINISTER OF FINANCE	\$ 652.74
CK#14345	LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES	\$ 394.93
CK#14346	SUN LIFE ASSURANCE CO OF CANADA	\$ 1,154.38
CK#14347	LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	\$25,182.80
CK#14348	THUNDER BAY CATHOLIC DIST SCHOOL BD	\$ 2,443.11
CK#14349	CSDC DES AURORES BOREALES	\$ 145.85
CK#14350	COMPASS MINERALS CANADA	\$ 2,535.39
CK#14351	RICHARD PITTON (MILEAGE)	\$ 46.00
CK#14352	JERRY LOAN (COUNCIL HONORARIUM)	\$ 250.00
CK#14353	VANLENTHE AUTO SERVICE	\$ 922.67
CK#14354	KAK CONTRACTING	\$ 4,746.00
		<u>\$43,667.51</u>

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenses to May 31, 2017 were reviewed. Council did not have any concerns at this time.

A By-law to enter into an agreement with Tbaytel for the new cellular tower to be built on the Township of O'Connor property directly behind the current Tbaytel central office building was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2017-20 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH TBAYTEL BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Bids were opened for the Multiple Culvert Replacement excavator contractor. Three bids were received and it was

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

THAT THE QUOTE OF BAY CITY CONTRACTORS TO PERFORM MULTIPLE CULVERT REPLACEMENTS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$85.00 WITH FLOAT CHARGE OF \$115.00 PER HOUR BE ACCEPTED.

Carried

The Clerk-Treasurer will contact the bidders to inform them of the results. Mr. Johnson left the meeting.

The Clerk-Treasurer made Council aware of an error in the bid accepted at the June 12, 2017 meeting with regard to the basement renovations. The bid price included three optional projects that were not included in the Ontario Trillium Foundation funded project and were to be priced separately with Council's discretion as to whether to move forward with them. The Clerk-Treasurer in the meantime has contacted the successful bidder and requested separate pricing for those project. As the second bid opened at

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the June 12th meeting did not have all the requested pricing, there was not a concern with contacting the bidder. It was

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

THAT RESOLUTION #5 OF THE JUNE 12, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING TO ACCEPT THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY LAKEHEAD ENTERPRISES LTD. TO DO REPAIRS AND PROVIDE SHELVING TO THE BASEMENT STORAGE ROOM AND SUPPLY AND INSTALL WASHROOM DIVIDERS IN TWO BASEMENT WASHROOMS IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE BE ACCEPTED AT A COST OF \$15,350 + HST BE RESCINDED.

Carried

Council reviewed the new bid prices and agreed to only move forward at this time with the basement storage room and washroom renovations. It was

6. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY LAKEHEAD ENTERPRISES LTD. TO DO REPAIRS AND PROVIDE SHELVING TO THE BASEMENT STORAGE ROOM AND SUPPLY AND INSTALL WASHROOM DIVIDERS IN TWO BASEMENT WASHROOMS IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE BE ACCEPTED AT A COST OF \$10,580.00 + HST.

Carried

Council will consider both bidders pricing for the option projects, once the budget is reviewed further to see if these funds would be available.

Resolutions for endorsement were reviewed as follows:

- a) Municipality of Neebing regarding a Proposal for Compensation to Municipalities for Lands lost to the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program. It was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING REQUESTING THAT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO CONSIDER A FLAT RATE PER ACRE TO COMPENSATE MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE LOSS OF DEVELOPABLE LAND THROUGH THE CONSERVATION LAND TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- b) Town of Amherstburg – regarding EMS Services was filed.
c) Town of New Tecumseth – regarding Ontario Carbon Tax was filed.
d) Township of Selwyn – regarding Employment Standards Act Review was filed.
e) Township of Lake of Bays – regarding a resolution of support requesting the tax-exempt portion of remuneration paid to local officials be reinstated. It was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS SUPPORTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF EAST FERRIS REQUESTING THAT THE TAX-EXEMPT PORTION OF REMUNERATION PAID TO LOCAL OFFICIALS BE REINSTATED BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- f) Municipality of Brockton regarding the amendments to the Conservation Authority Act which was deferred from last meeting. Mayor Vezina noted that he was unable to attend the last Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) meeting to get clarification on the matter. Council discussed the resolution further and it was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF BROCKTON OPPOSING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT TO REQUIRE THE BOARDS TO HAVE A COMPOSITION OF 50% MEMBERS WITH SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUNDS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- g) Municipality of West Nipissing regarding the proposed changes under Bill 68 pertaining to out of court payments. It was

10. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF WEST NIPISSING SUPPORTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF KILLARNEY, IN THEIR REQUEST TO THE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS TO RECONSIDER THE PROPOSED CHANGES UNDER BILL 68 PERTAINING TO OUT OF COURT PAYMENTS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) 2016 Annual Report was available for review.

A TBDSSAB Update from the Board newsletter was read, along with a request for feedback with regard to the newsletter. As there have only been two newsletters printed at this time Council did not have any comment but felt that perhaps the Board could ask again in six or seven months. The Clerk-Treasurer will forward their comment.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Ontario Provincial Police - Thunder Bay OPP – July Newsletter. Council would like articles on the kids graduation and the dialing of 911 for emergency calls included in the next issue of the Cornerstone.
- b) Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care – reply to Council's endorsed resolution with regard to provincial funding for pharmacies serving rural and remote communities. The reply confirmed that rural and remote community pharmacies do receive additional funding from the Ministry for dispensing fees.
- c) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watchfile – June 15, 2017.
ii) Watchfile – June 22, 2017.
iii) AMO Communications – AMO Member Update – regarding the New Federal-Provincial Agreement on Child Care and Early Learning Results in More Funding for Ontario.
iv) AMO Communications – AMO Member Update – regarding AMO Report to Member Municipalities Highlights of the June 2017 Board Meeting.
- d) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Letter from Minister Bill Mauro regarding the Announcement that Bill 68 – the Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017 received Royal Assent on May 30, 2017.
- e) Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Nuclear – regarding Ensuring a Safe, Permanent Solution to Manage Nuclear Waste.
- f) Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Caledon – From the Park Newsletter – Spring Session. The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed:

- a) Township of Gillies – request for comment on whether or not to reopen the hill on Main Street, the boundary road between the Township of O'Connor and the Township of Gillies. Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, provided Council with written comments and suggestions as to why he would like to see this temporarily closed road be reopened. Mr. Johnson did not have any concerns of reentering into a Boundary Road Agreement for the maintenance of this section of the roadway once it has been repaired and widened. Council were in agreement that they would also like to have this road reopened and a letter will be forwarded to the Township of Gillies Council.
- b) Stefan Huzan, Northern Planning, regarding 63 Loghrin Road property – Response to Fotenn's comments with regard to Mr. Huzan's request of proposed amendments to draft Official Plan and Zoning By-law discussed at the June 12, 2017 meeting

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were read. A reply from Fotenn regarding Mr. Huzan comments were also read. The Clerk-Treasurer also informed Council that she spoke with Mr. Huzan earlier in the day to clarify some of her concerns with regard to the comments provided and was informed that his client and the seller cannot come to an agreement and the purchase of the property is currently on hold. He noted that as a planner he would still like to pursue with Council the additional severance allowances for Commercial and Industrial properties and he would be willing to speak to Council further on this matter if they wish. Mr. Posen, of Fotenn, in his comments made note that if Council were to allow Plans of Subdivision in their new Official Plan this could possibly be an option. Council were in agreement at this time to include this in the revised draft.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Superior North Emergencies Medical Services (SNEMS) - regarding the possible expansion of the SNEMS. Mr. Gates, Chief of EMS, is advising Council that he will be seeking approval from the City of Thunder Bay Council on June 26, 2017 for the expansion of a 12 hour ambulance, 365 day for city operations effective July 1, 2017. If this item is accepted by the City, the Township's 2017 current levy will increase.
- b) Municipality of Neebing – i) Report regarding Landfill Gas Offset Protocol was read. As the deadline for comments had already passed Council will not be adding any further comments.
ii) Report regarding Excess Soil Management Regulatory Proposal was read and again the deadline for comment has passed and Council will not add anything further.
- c) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Conservation Policy Branch – regarding the Authorities Act Review. Council will review this document further and the item will be brought back to the next meeting to see if they will make comment to the Ministry by the deadline of July 31, 2017.
- d) AMCTO – regarding Update on Assessment Review Board (ARB) Rules of Procedure. Municipalities must identify and provide contact information for an appeal representative and a complaints representative. If the Municipality does not provide this information the default representative is the Clerk for both, however it notes that they should be different people. It was suggested that this item be brought up at the next Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) meeting to see what the other surrounding municipalities are doing with regard to this matter. The Municipality must also file a short list of properties of interest with the ARB.
- e) KBM Resources Group – regarding Controlled Wood Risk Assessment Consultation requesting comments by July 31, 2017. Councillor Alkins provided an explanation on this matter. Council agreed to submit a response in favour of the low risk assessment.
- f) Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport – regarding the launch of the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program (OMCC) on May 29, 2017. Participation Declaration are due by August 18, 2017. As this launch is encouraging people to cycle rather than drive their cars and in the rural area this is much more difficult than in the urban areas it was agreed to file the item.

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 tripling of OCIF by 2019. The Township of O'Connor would be eligible to apply for the 2017 intake Top-Up application fund, for up to \$1,900,000. As the letter came in late in the day administration did not have time to confirm what types of projects are eligible but will look into this further and bring back to the next Council meeting.

For information purposes one building permit was approved for a modular home at 125 Holomego Road.

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

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
ON MONDAY, JULY 10, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M .
TIME BEING: 9:08 P.M.**

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer