

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2016

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Paul Phillips

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

Chantal Alkins was welcomed to the meeting as the Township of O'Connor's new Councillor appointee. Ms. Alkins read aloud the Declaration of Office and the document was signed by both herself and the Clerk-Treasurer Buob. Mayor Vezina explained to Councillor Alkins what pecuniary interest was and explained how a disclosure is done.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Foekens declared an interest in item 8b) as he is the owner to the business being paid and Councillor Alkins declared an interest in item 12 a) i) as she is an employee of Union Gas.

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

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mayor Vezina asked the visitors if they wished to address Council. Mr. Phillips congratulated Councillor Alkins on her new position and thanked her for her interest in Council. Mr. Johnson replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. The Monthly Road Report for February 8 to March 11, 2016 was read. Mr. Johnson answered questions with regard to the report.

Roadwork in general was discussed. Mr. Johnson updated Council on the grader engine replacement invoicing. Strongco has a new manager. He has been contacted and informed of the situation and Mr. Johnson's unhappiness with regard to the bills and credit process. They are hoping to get back to the Township in the near future.

The road department has been working with Mother Nature, the water is currently moving nicely, they have been cleaning some culverts ends. No steaming has been required so far. They did haul some material to the garage yard while the roads were still frozen to do some spring repairs. The grader has been out fixing up the rough roads and pushing the snow back. The snow is melting nicely. It was noted that the approaches to the Smith road bridge are rough.

The Township of O'Connor disposal site was discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer and the Leadhand have prepared a document for the auditors with regard to the estimated life expectancy of the site. The estimated life expectancy of the site has been lowered by the Leadhand to 40 years. This number will be reviewed again in five years to see if it is still accurate.

The results of the ratepayers survey were discussed. Mr. Johnson made note that while a lot of residents requested that the Disposal Site stay open to 7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings during the winter hours, it cannot stay open in the dark. There is not enough lighting at the site to have residents walking around in the dark. He also would not like to see the site open on Sundays. Council reviewed all the results and will consider opening at 9 a.m. on Saturdays year round as most respondents requested, also possibly staying open to 4 p.m. The winter hours, start and end date, will also be looked into to see if they could be adjusted to allow less days with the early hours as

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2016

residents do seem to have a hard time getting to the site by 6 p.m. when they are working. It will continue to only be open two days a week.

Other general comments with regard to the Township of O'Connor were also read.

A letter was read from TBT Engineering with regard to the Ministry of Transportation's Highway 595 at Cedar Creek, culvert replacement – Proposed Step-Down Notice. Mr. Johnson or Council did not have any concerns with the Class Environmental Assessment Step-Down from a Group B to a Group C project.

A second letter from TBT Engineering with regard to the proposed detour for Highway 590 in the Year 2018 was discussed. TBT Engineering has been retained by the Ministry of Transportation to undertake detail design on the project. They are requesting a detour from Highway 590, down both Earl Road and Connolly Road to Highway 595. Council does have a concern with the additional truck traffic that could use these roads and would like to propose that a 5 tonnes/axle weight restriction be put on these roads during that time. While Council understands that both the Boreal and Adrian Lake roads, where a lot of the truck traffic comes from, will not be affected by the road closure, traffic coming down Highway 588 going towards the chip site on the Boreal Road could possible use these roads. A response letter will be sent to TBT Engineering with an invitation to attend an upcoming Council meeting if they want to discuss the detour further.

It was noted that the Road Employees Union Agreement expires July 31, 2016. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to contact the Union to see when they would like to start negotiations.

Possible budget dates for the Road Department budget were discussed with Mr. Johnson. It was agreed that starting at 6 p.m. prior to the April 11, 2016 meeting would work for everyone. A resolution with all dates will be passed further on the agenda.

Councillor Racicot asked Mr. Johnson if he would be interested in a plate packer for the roads department. He is aware of one that is being sold as surplus. Mr. Johnson was interested and this will be looked into further.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR FEBRUARY 2016 TALLING \$69,858.51 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

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

THAT THE ROADS VOUCHER FOR KEVIN'S TIRE SERVICE FOR FEBRUARY 2016 TALLING \$1,874.44 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

4. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR MARCH 2016 BE PAID. THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE MARCH 2016 ADMINISTRATION AND ROAD VOUCHER.

CK#13503	TBAYTEL (TELEPHONE)	\$ 719.44
CK#13504	HYDRO ONE	\$1,016.07
CK#13505	TOROMONT CAT	\$ 28.43
		<u>\$1,763.94</u>

Carried

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2016

The Township of O'Connor Income Statements to February 29, 2016 were reviewed.

By-laws were reviewed as follows:

a) By-law Number 2016-05 with regard to authorizing the borrowing of monies was discussed and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2016-05 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE BORROWING OF MONIES BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

b) By-law Number 2002-22, being the by-law to govern the proceedings of Council and Committees was reviewed. Item Number 6, with regard to the absence of Head of Council was discussed and it was agreed to continue using this rotation and it was

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

THAT ACTING HEAD OF COUNCIL SHALL BE APPOINTED ON ROTATING ALPHABETICAL ORDER OF COUNCIL FOR EACH MONTH OF THE YEARS, FROM MARCH 2016, 2017 AND 2018 AS FOLLOWS:

COUNCILLOR ALKINS:	MONTHS OF JANUARY, MAY, SEPTEMBER
COUNCILLOR FOEKENS:	MONTHS OF FEBRUARY, JUNE, OCTOBER
COUNCILLOR LOAN:	MONTHS OF MARCH, JULY, NOVEMBER
COUNCILLOR RACICOT:	MONTHS OF APRIL, AUGUST, DECEMBER

BE IT RESOLVED THAT IF THE ACTING HEAD OF COUNCIL IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR MEETINGS, EMERGENCIES, ETC., THE COUNCILLOR FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH WILL BE APPOINTED ACTING HEAD OF COUNCIL IN HIS/HER STEAD.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

Councillor Alkins left the room.

a) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – i) regarding the Expansion of Natural Gas Service. It was

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

WHEREAS THERE ARE 21 RURAL AND REMOTE MUNICIPALITIES IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO AND A NUMBER OF FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES WHO DO NOT HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO PIPED NATURAL GAS; AND

WHEREAS THE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IN THOSE COMMUNITIES WITHOUT NATURAL GAS SERVICE MUST PAY SIGNIFICANTLY MORE TO HEAT THEIR BUILDINGS AND HOMES THAN COMMUNITIES WITH NATURAL GAS SERVICE; AND

WHEREAS WE BELIEVE THERE IS A PUBLIC INTEREST AND BENEFIT IN EXTENDING NATURAL GAS SERVICES TO RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES; AND

WHEREAS WE OFTEN HEAR FROM THE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES EXPRESSING THEIR INTEREST IN HAVING ACCESS TO NATURAL GAS

AND THE LIMITATIONS AND BARRIERS THEY FACE IN NOT HAVING ACCESS TO NATURAL GAS CAUSES; AND

WHEREAS CURRENT ECONOMIC TESTS AND RATEMAKING MECHANISMS ASSOCIATED WITH NEW CONNECTIONS TO THE EXISTING NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM DO NOT ENCOURAGE UTILITIES TO EXPAND IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO; AND

WHEREAS CURRENTLY NATURAL GAS EXPANSION IN NORTHWEST ONTARIO REQUIRES THE NEW CUSTOMERS TO PAY. IN CONTRAST THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM WAS PAID FOR BY THE RATE PAYERS AS A WHOLE; AND

WHEREAS THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD HAS INITIATED A HEARING ON ITS OWN MOTION TO CONSIDER WHAT MECHANISMS MAY BE USED TO RECOVER THE COSTS OF EXPANDING NATURAL GAS SERVICE TO ONTARIO COMMUNITIES THAT DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE ACCESS TO NATURAL GAS; AND

WHEREAS NOMA, NOACC, AND CVNW (THE COALITION) HAVE REQUESTED INTERVENOR STATUS ON BEHALF OF THEIR MEMBER RATEPAYERS (CURRENT AND FUTURE) IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO; AND

WHEREAS THE POSITION OF THE COALITION IS THAT THE COST OF EXPANDING NATURAL GAS SERVICE TO COMMUNITIES WITHOUT IT SHOULD BE SHARED BY ALL GAS RATEPAYERS IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO AND THE OEB IMPLEMENT NEW RATEMAKING MECHANISMS INCLUDING CHANGES TO CURRENT ECONOMIC TESTS TO EXPAND NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION ON SUCH BASIS.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ADVISES THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD THAT IT SUPPORTS THE POSITION ADOPTED BY NOMA, NOACC, AND CVNW THAT THE EXPANSION OF THE NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM SHOULD BE PAID FOR BY ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE GAS RATEPAYERS AND THE OEB IMPLEMENT NEW RATEMAKING MECHANISMS INCLUDING CHANGES TO CURRENT ECONOMIC TESTS TO EXPAND NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION ON SUCH BASIS.

Carried

Councillor Alkins returned to the meeting.

a) ii) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – ii) regarding Intercity-Community Bus Service. It was

8. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

WHEREAS THE COMMUNITIES OF NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO HAVE SEEN BUS SERVICE TO AND FROM THEIR COMMUNITIES REDUCED AS WELL AS ELIMINATED OVER TIME, AND

WHEREAS THE STUDY “THE FUTURE OF INTER-COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO” PRODUCED BY COMMOM VOICE NORTHWEST AND ENDORSED BY THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION AND THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE POINTS OUT THAT THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT ALREADY PROVIDES GROUND TRANSPORTATION SUBSIDIES TO ONTARIO RESIDENTS RESIDING IN NORTH EASTERN ONTARIO AND IN THE GREATER TORONTO AREA, AND

WHEREAS THE STUDY ALSO IDENTIFIES THAT THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT, THROUGH A VARIETY OF MINISTRIES PAYS FOR

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2016

INDIVIDUALS TO BE TRANSPORTED BETWEEN COMMUNITIES FOR MEDICAL AND SOCIAL INCOME SUPPORT REASONS, AND

WHEREAS THE STUDY RECOMMENDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO PROVIDE AN ANNUAL SUBSIDY TO ENSURE THAT EACH COMMUNITY IN THE NORTHWEST HAS ACCESS TO REGULARLY SCHEDULED 7 DAY A WEEK INTER-COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ENDORSE THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMON VOICE NORTHWEST REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF INTER-COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO, AND

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT BE REQUESTED TO IMPLEMENT THE CONCEPTS CONTAINED WITHIN THE REPORT, AND

THAT COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- HON. STEVE DEL DUCA, MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION
- HON. MICHAEL GRAVELLE, MINISTER OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES
- HON. BILL MAURO, MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY
- HON. KATHLENN WYNNE, PREMIER OF ONTARIO
- SARAH CAMPBELL, MPP KENORA RAINY RIVER
- NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION
- NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
- COMMON VOICE NORTHWEST

Carried

- b) City of Hamilton – regarding Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods legislation was filed.
 - c) City of Cambridge – regarding Municipal Planning Matters Involving Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) was filed.
 - d) Town of Carleton Place – regarding the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs Grant Scoring and it was
9. Moved by B.J. Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF CARLETON PLACE CALLING UPON MINISTER JEFF LEAL TO DISCONTINUE THE USE OF THE CURRENT EVALUATION CRITERIA THAT PENALIZES MUNICIPALITIES THAT PLAN TO MAINTAIN THEIR INFRASTRUCTURE AND INSTEAD DISTRIBUTE ALL FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS TO ALL MUNICIPALITIES UTILIZING A FAIR AND EQUITABLE FORMULA BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- e) City of Stratford – regarding the Overview of the 2015 Annual Report of the Auditor General and recommended improvements to the Social Assistance Management System was filed.

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) Final Year 2016 Weighted Assessment and Levy Apportionment was reviewed. A significant shift of apportionment from the municipalities to the Townships without Municipal Organization (TWOMO) which is paid for by the Province of Ontario was made. The Township of O'Connor's 2016 levy will be lower than 2015 by \$5,115.00.

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2016

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Hydro One – Power interruption March 18, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for a portion of the Township, however it will not affect the Township office.
- b) Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services – regarding Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act compliance. The Township of O'Connor has complied with the Act and the Regulation for 2015.
- c) Thunder Bay OPP – March Newsletter. Council would like the changing of ice conditions to be included in the next issue of the Cornerstone if it still applies.
- d) Councillor Bob McMaster - i) Thunder Bay District Health Unit Board Meeting Report
ii) Medical Officer of Health Officially Appointed for District of Thunder Bay.
- e) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) – regarding the Waukesha Diversion Comments. Mayor Vezina provided additional information with regard to the LRCA's concerns.
- f) Grant Thornton – 2016 Ontario Budget Summary.
- g) Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) – Provincial Budget 2016: Municipal Implications.
- h) AMCTO The Municipal Experts – i) 2016 Ontario Budget Update.
ii) Government Releases New Disaster Assistance Programs.
- i) Ontario Good Roads Association – i) Heads Up Alert – Ontario Government Releases 2016 Budget.
ii) Heads Up Alert – Premier Wynne Announces Additional Funding at the 2016 OGRA/ROMA Conference.
iii) Robert Burlie, Manager of Road Operations ascends to OGRA Presidency.
- j) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation – regarding Non-profit Long-term Care Home – Tax Exemption.
- k) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watch File – February 25, 2016.
ii) Watch File – March 3, 2016.
iii) Watch File – March 10, 2016.
iv) AMO Communications – AMO welcomes increased infrastructure funding for Municipalities.
v) AMO Policy Update – 2016 Provincial Budget.
vi) AMO Policy Update – Ontario introduces the Climate Change Mitigation and Low Carbon Economy Act, 2016, Regulation.
vii) AMO Communications – MEPCO Update March 1, 2016 OMERS Announces 2015 Investment Returns.
viii) AMO Communications – ROMA/OGRA Conference Follow up.
- l) Newsroom – News Release – Province Expanding Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, Connecting Links Program.
- m) The Premier of Ontario – reply letter to Council's endorsed resolution with regard to long-term care funding.
- n) Ombudsman Ontario – regarding the Ombudsman's new jurisdiction with respect to municipalities effective January 1, 2016. Council was concerned that this document noted that they have reached out to different associations, including the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) but did not mention Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA). Kristen Oliver, Executive Director of NOMA will be contacted in this regard to see if they had been contacted for comment.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Municipality of Neebing regarding the Conservation Land exemptions given to private property owners. Council at their last meeting asked that a resolution for endorsement be drafted for the next meeting, however upon speaking further with the Solicitor-Clerk of the Municipality, they have asked that we wait for a resolution for endorsement from them as they are still looking into all the details.
- b) Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services – Province Seeking Public Feedback on its Strategy for a Safer Ontario. No comments will be made at this time.
- c) Mayor Todd Case, Township of Warwick regarding a meeting held at the OGRA/ROMA Conference for small municipalities. Mayor Case was encouraged by the attendance of over 50 municipalities and will be setting up an information meeting in the near future.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Setting dates for 2016 budget meetings and it was

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2016

10. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATES BE SET FOR BUDGET MEETINGS

ROAD BUDGET – APRIL 11, 2016 AT 6 P.M.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET – APRIL 25, 2016 AT 6 P.M.

FULL BUDGET – MAY 18, 2016 AT 7 P.M.

THE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Carried

- b) YES Employment Services – regarding the Summer 2016 Update on Employment Ontario Program Changes. The Summer Job Service program and the Jobs for Youth program have been discontinued. This is the program that the Township has used to hire our summer students for the past three years. They do have a couple new programs, Youth Job Connection and Youth Job Link, however they will not be hiring as many students and the employer will have to pay more for the students than the previous programs. As the notice did come out prior to the cutoff date of the Canada Summer Jobs application, the Clerk-Treasurer did submit an application for two students through this program. She will also continue to follow the YES programs and submit an application once they become available.
- c) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding the 2016 Annual Repayment Limit for the Township of O'Connor.
- d) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) – 2016 LRCA Levy Request. The Township of O'Connor levy is slightly lower than 2015.
- e) The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) – Essentials of Municipal Fire Protection & Emergency Management – March 30 in Thunder Bay was discussed and it was

11. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE ESSENTIALS OF MUNICIPAL FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO BE HELD ON MARCH 30, 2016 IN THUNDER BAY.

FIRE CHIEF HENRY MATTAS, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF MONICA BUDISELIC, ALTERNATE CEMC MORRIS DOUGLAS, COUNCILLOR ALKINS

REGISTRATION: NO CHARGE

Carried

- f) Minister Responsible for Seniors Affairs – Senior of the Year Award – deadline April 30, 2016. An application will be submitted.
- g) Ms. Niva - email complement with regard to staff and methods of operation in the Township, with regard to the use of the Community Centre.
- h) An update was provided to Councillor Alkins on current municipal matters. Mayor Vezina also explained about the outside boards that the Township of O'Connor is a part of and who is currently sitting on these boards from the Township. All seats have been filled for the term so she will not need to sit on any at this time.

Some additional information with regard to online training offered by AMO was provided to Ms. Alkins to review to see if she might be interested in taking any of the courses.

Councillor Alkins thanked Council for the information and noted that this will all be a learning experience.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed:

- a) A meeting in Oliver Paipoonge March 18th regarding the City of Thunder Bay's By-law designating truck routes which divert truck traffic through Kakabeka Falls has been called and it was

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2016

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MUNICIPALITY OF OLIVER PAIPOONGE MEETING TO DISCUSS THE CITY OF THUNDER BAY'S PROPOSED DESIGNATED TRUCK ROUTES TO BE HELD MARCH 18, 2016 IN MURILLO.

**MAYOR VEZINA
COUNCILLOR LOAN, RACICOT, ALKINS**
Carried

- b) Lakehead Conservation Foundation and Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – Thank you letter for the donation made towards their dinner auction was read.
c) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Inspection of Approved 2016-2017 Annual Work Schedule Black Spruce, Dog River Matawin, Lakehead Forests was reviewed.

13. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 9:40 P.M .

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer