

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 29, 2016

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Roger Lemieux, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Gary Thoms, TBT Engineering, Beau Little, Ministry of Transportation
Kelly Johnson, Leadhand arrived at 7:20 p.m.

Absent: Councillor Loan

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 items 8a), 14b), 15a) & b) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
MARCH 14, 2016 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Mr. Roger Lemieux, Fire Operations Supervisor for the Thunder Bay Fire Management Headquarters and Fire Chief Mattas were welcomed to the table. Introductions were made. Mr. Lemieux discussed the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and the Township of O'Connor's Fire Agreement and the map showing the areas of coverage was reviewed. It was noted that Mr. Lemieux did not have the updated map which included the new area agreed to in 2015. The MNRF is responsible for fire suppression in the North East corner and the South East corner of the Township as indicated on the map. It was noted that this agreement does not cover structural fires in these areas. The Township is still responsible for responding to all structural fires in the Township. The updated Appendix C to the Agreement, which includes the new rates for 2016, should a fire occur, was also reviewed. Having an agreement in place does reduce the costs for the MNR services should a forest fire occur in the Township where they do have to respond.

Mr. Lemieux also commented on the Fire Smart Community Grant Phase 1. This funding is available to Municipalities and provides access to up to \$5,000 per year for 3 years to develop and implement a Community Wildland Fire Protection Plan for the Township. Mr. Lemieux provided the name of the advisor to contact if the Township is interested in applying. The deadline for applications is April 29, 2016.

Council asked Mr. Lemieux about the opportunity of working as a fire fighter for the MNRF. Mr. Lemieux noted that the S100 course and a fitness test are required. It is a two day training course however you are not guaranteed a job. It would totally depend on the fire season.

Mr. Lemieux was thanked for attending and he left the meeting. Fire Chief Mattas also left the table.

Mr. Gary Thoms from TBT Engineering, Mr. Beau Little from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and Mr. Kelly Johnson, Leadhand were all welcomed to the table. Introductions were made. Mr. Thoms was invited to attend the Council meeting to further discuss his letter sent to the Township of O'Connor on March 7, 2016 with regard to a proposed detour for Highway 590 in the Year 2018. TBT Engineering has been retained by the MTO to undertake a detail design for a multi-year project, which includes four structural culvert replacements and resurfacing on sections of Highway 590 and Highway 588. As a result of two structural replacements on Highway 590, one at Whitewood Creek and one at Pitch Creek, TBT is proposing a full road closure and is

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asking permission to direct traffic to use Earl Road and Connolly Road to access Highway 595 and then Highway 590. A map of the proposed detour was reviewed. The two structures would be replaced concurrently and June 25 to August 24, 2018 has been selected for the block of time required for the proposed detour. The successful contractor would be responsible to apply dust suppressant, perform roadway maintenance and upon completion of the detour, return the condition of the two roads to the current condition prior to the detour. TBT Engineering will require a resolution from Council to move forward.

Council and Mr. Johnson expressed their concerns with regard to this detour. Earl road and Highway 595 intersection does currently have a blind spot. Earl Road does have some narrow areas and there was a concern if two large trucks were to meet in these locations there could be issues. It was also noted that the sections of both Earl Road and Connolly Road in Marks Township are very narrow. Mr. Johnson also noted that there are a couple of deep culverts on Earl Road which currently may not hold up to heavy traffic and the road base is currently not designed to carry heavy truck traffic. There could also be a lot of camper and fishing traffic during the summer months, along with the large trucks which could be a concern.

Mr. Little from the MTO requested that Council supply a list of improvements necessary for the detour to be safe and to ensure that the road or any structures do not fail during the detour, as well as the estimated costs of these repairs. It was noted that the contractor is responsible for the maintenance of the alternate route as per the Highway Traffic Act. The Roads will be turned back to the Township following the detour in the same or better shape. Mr. Johnson will determine what work will be required for both Earl and Connolly Roads.

Mr. Thoms, Mr. Little and Mr. Johnson were thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Fire Chief Mattas was invited back to the table. The Fire Department report from February 21 to March 27, 2016 was read. There was one fire related call and three First Response calls in that time period. Fire Chief Mattas reported that the fire call was out by the time the team arrived. Fire Chief Mattas reported that the MNRF will be assisting with some upcoming combined fire training with the Township's of Conmee, Gillies, Nolalu and O'Connor for grass fires. The date will be determined by the weather and when the snow is gone. April 5th will also be the next date of the combined training hosted by O'Connor with Gillies and Nolalu and will be on brush fires.

Fire Chief Mattas noted that during the 2018 Road Closure he should also be made aware as the Zone One Coordinator for Mutual Aid calls.

The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) – Essentials of Municipal Fire Protection & Emergency Management to be held on March 30th in Thunder Bay was briefly discussed. Fire Chief Mattas, Deputy Chief Budiselic, Morris Douglas and Councillor Alkins will be attending representing the Township of O'Connor.

Fire Chief Mattas reported that the Fire Department are currently doing some maintenance and painting in the fire hall, in the training room.

Fire Chief Mattas informed Council that the Auxiliary has recently purchased a used 650 Artic Cat quad for brush and grass fire fighting. He also reported that they have not used the 4 x 4 truck in the last two years and it was difficult to use in the spring as it would get stuck in wet areas. The Township of Conmee has had a quad for several years and has found it works well in the spring conditions. Fire Chief Mattas is currently fabricating the department's trailer so that it can be pulled by the quad. Mr. Grant Noy is currently doing a safety on the quad and it will be registered and licensed in time for the fire season. Council asked if this vehicle will require a flashlight for emergency response and Fire Chief Mattas agreed to look into this. It was noted that after the fire season is over some of the surplus equipment, including the 4x4 should be sold. An inventory of surplus items will be made up and brought back to Council. The items will then be advertised in the Cornerstone for sale.

The Fire Department Auxiliary meeting minutes from the February 9, 2016 and March 8, 2016 were read.

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A document from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs with regard to barn fires and other farm emergencies was read. The document also included information with regard to the disposal of dead farm animals after a fire. Fire Chief Mattas noted that in Eastern Ontario it is becoming a big issue and the insurance companies are going after the farmers to upgrade their buildings or they won't be covered.

Fire Chief Mattas and Mayor Vezina attended a border crossing for emergency services meeting held in the Municipality of Neebing on March 24, 2016. The meeting was briefly discussed. It was noted that if an emergency were to happen across the border it is closer for emergency services such as HAZMAT to come from Thunder Bay than Duluth and these are some of the concerns that are being addressed.

Fire Chief Mattas congratulated Councillor Alkins on her new position as Councillor. He was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

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

2. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by K. Foekens

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

CK#13508	KELLY JOHNSON (SAFETY ATTIRE)	\$ 175.00
CK#13509	JERRY LOAN (COUNCIL HONOURARIUM)	\$ 125.00
CK#13510	RECEIVER GENERAL FOR CANADA (RADIO)	\$ 625.00
CK#13511	LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	\$20,778.43
CK#13512	THUNDER BAY CATHOLIC DIST SCHOOL BD	\$ 2,238.50
CK#13513	CSDC DES AURORES BOREALES	\$ 125.64
CK#13514	NORTHWEST INSURANCE GROUP INC.	\$36,088.60
CK#13515	TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE (EMO)	\$ 1,236.00
		<u>\$61,392.17</u>

Carried

Councillor Racicot left the room.

The Policy for Administrative Benefits was reviewed. The Clerk-Treasurer asked Council if they would consider covering massage therapy under the self-insured dental benefit coverage as currently only seven dollars for massage therapy is covered under the Sunlife benefits. Currently chiropractor services are covered under the self-insured benefit. Council agreed that since this coverage is provided at a fixed dollar value per year, per employee and if the employees are requiring this service than it will be covered. Council was thanked for allowing this.

Council did not feel any changes were needed for the policy.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

Consent Application 1B/06/16 for a property located on Fleming Road in Conmee Township was reviewed. As the property is located on a boundary road Council was provided an opportunity to comment on the application. Council did not have any concern with the application.

Two quotes for a computer backup system were reviewed for the Township office. Three quotes were originally requested but only two were received. Both quotes were very similar in costing and were below the value requiring Council's approval as per the Procurement By-law. Council agreed to have the staff communicate with the supplier and get more detail to see which would be the better coverage for our needs and that the amount be included in the 2016 budget.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) The Town of Richmond Hill requesting a review of the land use appeals process was filed.

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- b) The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) regarding the Ontario Energy Board Consultation on Cost Recovery for Expansion of Natural Gas Services, which was previously discussed at the March 14, 2016, was brought back to Council. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that there were two resolutions for consideration at the last meeting and only one was discussed. It was agreed that the correct resolution was endorsed and the second one will be filed.
 - c) Common Voice Northwest regarding the position before the Ontario Energy Board was discussed and it was
3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

WHEREAS THERE ARE 13 MUNICIPALITIES IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO AND A NUMBER OF FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES WHO DO NOT HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO PIPED NATURAL GAS; AND A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER WHO ONLY HAVE PARTIAL SERVICE, AND

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

WHEREAS A CONNECTION TO THE EXISTING NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM MUST BE PAID FOR BY THE NEW CUSTOMERS CONNECTING TO THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM; AND

WHEREAS 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 CONSULTATION PROCESS ON WHO SHOULD PAY FOR ANY EXPANSION; AND

WHEREAS NOMA, NOACC, AND CVNW (THE NOACC 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 IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT NO COMMUNITY IS PLACED AT A DISADVANTAGE DUE TO THEIR GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION;

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.

Carried

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee (Coalition) - (LRMC) – Minutes of the February 18, 2016 meeting.
- b) Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) – 2016 NOMA & TBDML Levy. The levy is slightly lower than 2015.
- c) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) – MPAC News March 18, 2016. In the document it noted that the new Property Assessment Notices have been redesigned and there will be a clear explanation of the phase-in, the valuation process and the Ontario property assessment system. The notices will also be coming out earlier in the year. This change will bring greater stability and predictability to the property assessment and taxation system.
- d) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – regarding the Energy East Project
- e) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) i) Watch File March 17, 2016

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- ii) Watch File March 24, 2016. This issue has information on the Provinces launch of the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) prevention strategy. Council asked that Ms. Coderre, coordinator for the O'Connor First Response team be contacted with this information.
- iii) AMO Policy Update – Province Announces Updated Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy.
- iv) AMO Communications – message from the chair of Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA).
- v) AMO Policy Update – 2016 Federal Budget.
- vi) Message from AMO President – The Federal Budget and Infrastructure Funding.
- f) Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) – regarding the Federal Budget 2016 highlights.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Ontario Provincial Police – Section 5 or Section 10 Agreement. As per Council's discussion at the last meeting it was confirmed that the Township of Conmee is interested in entering into a Section 10 contract and joining a Joint Board. Reference materials were provided for review, including a draft copy of a Section 10 Agreement. Council discussed the two options and agreed that at this time they will stay with a Section 5 and not enter into a Section 10 Agreement. The Townships of Conmee and Gillies and the Municipality of Neebing will be notified of Council's decision.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- b) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) regarding the Annual General Meeting to be held on April 28th & 29th, 2016 was discussed and it was

- 4. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 28 & 29, 2016 IN THUNDER BAY.

**MAYOR VEZINA
COUNCILLOR RACICOT, FOEKENS
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT**

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- c) LAS Town Hall Sessions – information sessions with regard to their programs – April 27, 2016 prior to the NOMA Conference was discussed. No one will attend.
- d) Ombudsman Ontario letter discussed at the March 14, 2016 meeting regarding Council's concern of not listing NOMA in their letter as a stakeholder in their recent outreach. The Clerk-Treasurer did contact Kristen Oliver, Executive Director of NOMA and she did confirm that she was contacted and they asked if they could be an exhibitor at the upcoming conference.
- e) Council discussed the meeting held March 18, 2016 hosted by the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge with regard to the City of Thunder Bay's proposed truck routes. Representatives from several organizations were in attendance, including the Ministry of Transportation, Ontario Provincial Police and City of Thunder Bay Police Department, Lakehead Board of Education and the affected municipalities. The Ministry provided the number of trucks that would be rerouted based on previous traffic counts and it was noted that there could be 1200 to 2000 additional trucks running through the village of Kakabeka Falls each day, with the peak time being 4 p.m. It was noted that the City cannot post a negative sign on the truck route, example "no trucks allowed", and they cannot enforce the by-law if it is implemented.
- f) Township of Warwick – regarding a Conference call for municipalities with populations under 6,000 to be held on March 30 at 10:00 a.m. No one will participate as it will be held at the same time as the MMAH Planning Conference.

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g) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – On-line courses – Councillor Alkins is interested in taking a session. It was

5. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S PARTICIPATE AND REGISTER FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO (AMO) ON-LINE EDUCATION PROGRAM – MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION 101.

COUNCILLOR ALKINS

REGISTRATION: \$177.00 + HST

Carried

h) Thunder Bay District Municipal League – Sponsorship – It was suggested, as the Conference will be held in Oliver Paipoonge, that a breakfast sponsorship be shared with the Township's of Conmee & Gillies and it was

6. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HEREBY AGREES TO SPONSOR THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE MEETING TO BE HELD IN OLIVER PAIPOONGE, FOR A BREAKFAST MEAL, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE AND THE TOWNSHIP OF GILLIES, FOR THE APPROXIMATE COST OF \$300.00 PER TOWNSHIP.

Carried

i) Information with regard to extending the Township of O'Connor's disposal site hours was reviewed as a result of the Township survey. It was noted that due to the times of sunset, the winter hours cannot be extended as requested by the residents. Currently on Saturdays the site is open for five hours. By extending the hours as was previously discussed, the disposal site operators must be provided with an eating period. Council agreed to provide a paid break to the attendant which can be taken at their discretion. The disposal site hours will be extended on Saturdays, with the site opening permanently at 9 a.m. and on a trial basis staying open until 4 p.m. until September 30th. The caretaker will be asked to track the number of residents using the site between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. to determine if it is required. The policy will be amended and brought back for approval at the next meeting.

j) Security Cameras for the community centre yard have been purchased. Signage still needs to be purchased and a policy put in place for their use. The Clerk-Treasurer will continue to work on this.

Under New Business, Council discussed

Councillor Racicot left the room.

a) AMCTO Zone 9 Spring Meeting & Conference – April 26 & 27, 2016. It was

7. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE AMCTO ZONE 9 SPRING MEETING AND CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON APRIL 26 & 27, 2016 IN THUNDER BAY.

**CLERK-TREASURER BUOB
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT**

REGISTRATION: \$100.00

Carried

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The office will be closed for these two days to allow staff to attend.

- b) Ontario Health and Safety for Managers & Supervisors in Ontario course was discussed. The course is an on-line e-learning course, made up of 8 modules. It was
8. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S PARTICIPATE AND REGISTER FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS IN ONTARIO COURSE.

DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT

REGISTRATION: \$169.00

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- c) The casual relief janitor position was discussed. Council was informed that Ms. Scheurman, who was hired June 24, 2015 for this position has informed the Clerk-Treasurer that she is no longer interested in the position due to the lack of hours. Ms. Endler, our current janitor is going to be away for one week in April and we will need to have someone come in and setup for an event. As there was one other person who did apply for the casual position it was suggested that she be contacted by the Clerk-Treasurer to see if she still might be interested and if so she will be hired.
- d) NOMA – regarding the City of Dryden's request for assistance in collecting data regarding a levy payment collected through property taxes for local hospital foundation. Council felt this did not apply to the Township of O'Connor and the item was filed.

Under further new business, Council discussed the proposed detour on Earl Road and Connolly Road. Council agreed to provide the requested resolution provided that the safety concerns can be met and addressed prior to the detour. The resolution will be drafted and brought back to the next meeting for approval. A list of the Township's concerns will also be provided.

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

- a) Ontario Provincial Police – April Newsletter. The information with regard to the seatbelts has been included in the April issue of the Cornerstone.
- b) Combined Table Top Exercise scheduled for June 22, 2016 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Council was asked if have any specific agency that they would like to ensure is invited to attend and at this time they do not have anyone who is not already included.

For information purposes, no building permits were approved.

9. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE MEETIN ADJOURN TO THE BUDGET MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 9:54 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer