

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 24, 2016

Minutes of the meeting held on May 24, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand  
Don Bowes, TBT Engineering

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

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

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016 AND THE BUDGET MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2016 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Mr. Johnson was asked if he wished to address Council on any personal matters and he replied no.

Mr. Don Bowes, TBT Engineering, Project Engineer, was welcomed to the table and introductions were made. Mr. Johnson was also welcomed to the table for the discussion. Mr. Bowes noted that Mr. Thoms, Manager, Civil Group of TBT Engineering was unavailable this evening and he was here to bring back to him Council's concerns with regard to the proposed detour for Highway 590 in the Year 2017. TBT Engineering has been retained by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to undertake detail design of the project. It has been determined that it would not be safe to recommend staged construction of Cedar Creek #3 and they are recommending a full closure and a detour through the Township's road system. A letter to the Township dated May 17, 2016 was read and discussed at the budget meeting, held on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and Council asked for TBT Engineering to attend a meeting to discuss their concerns with regard to this detour on the Township roads.

Mr. Bowes explained that they are proposing that traffic use the same roads, Earl and Connolly in 2017, as Council have agreed to, for a detour in 2018. Council expressed their concerns and explained to Mr. Bowes why they do not feel that this detour route they are proposing would be used by the traffic. The proposed detour route is too far out of the way and would not be used by the vehicles who know the area. There are much closer roads, including Cronk road which is directly across from Boreal Road, that the traffic would use rather than drive the extra distance of up to 25 km, and they would not be acceptable or safe. The number of heavy, large trucks that would be affected, including trucks going to and coming from Firesteel Contractors' chip site, Taranis gravel pit, Scarrow's pit, other logging trucks coming off of Boreal Road and Adrian Lake road each day, would be unacceptable on our gravel roads. As well there would be extra summer traffic heading out to all the lakes in the area. These roads were not built for this much heavy truck traffic, they would not be able to handle that amount of traffic safely without major construction and there would not be enough time or money to have any road ready for next year. The roads and intersections are not wide enough for this type of traffic and the safety of our residents is a concern. If a weight restriction was placed on the road this would affect a lot of these companies financially, would not solve the safety issue and would be very difficult to enforce without OPP on duty 24 hours per day. The cost for this would be unacceptable to the Township. Council also noted that this traffic does start moving between 4 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. and this again would be a concern for our residents.

Mr. Bowes explained that the structure is a full replacement and is not ideal for staging. The MTO wanted to pursue putting the money in the roads system rather than them putting money into a detour which they would just have to take out again in the end.

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Mr. Bowes will bring Council's concerns back to Mr. Thoms and the MTO. They will take a few more weeks to determine their best options. Mr. Bowes was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Councillor Racicot asked Mr. Johnson how much he thought it would cost to bring Cronk Road up to a safe condition. It was agreed that if this was the only option it would not be a Township cost and the cost would be put onto the MTO. However the safety of this option is still a concern. Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and he left the meeting.

Fire Chief Mattas was unavailable for the meeting and no report was received, as well no concerns were discussed. The Fire Department Auxiliary minutes of the May 10, 2016 meeting were read.

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

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

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

<b>CK#13597</b>	<b>GRANT NOY (650 QUAD REPAIRS)</b>	<b>\$ 179.50</b>
<b>CK#13598</b>	<b>TBAYTEL (TELEPHONE)</b>	<b>\$ 99.11</b>
<b>CK#13599</b>	<b>LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTH</b>	<b>\$ 3,470.00</b>
<b>CK#13600</b>	<b>JERRY LOAN (COUNCIL HONOURARIUM)</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>CK#13601</b>	<b>HYDRO ONE</b>	<b>\$ 859.10</b>
<b>CK#13602</b>	<b>STRONGCO (GRADER ENGINE REPAIRS)</b>	<b>\$21,406.37</b>
<b>CK#13603</b>	<b>CHEADLES LLP (OVERPAYMENT TAXES)</b>	<b>\$ <u>9.63</u></b>
		<b>\$26,223.71</b>

Carried

By-laws and Policy were reviewed and discussed as follows:

- a) Amendments made to the budget after the May 18<sup>th</sup> Budget meeting were discussed. It was noted that the final credit for the grader engine was received and has been included in the budget, additional expenses for equipment maintenance were also added. Line items were adjusted as required to have the final budget expense remain as approved by Council at their May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with a 0% tax rate increase.
- b) The Township of O'Connor's Administrative Report required under Regulation 284/09 explaining to Council that the 2016 budget was developed using cash basis and has excluded amortization expenses and landfill closure and post-closure expenses was read and it was

- 3. Moved by B. J. Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT DATED MAY 24, 2016 ENTITLED REQUIRED DISCLOSURE REGARDING BUDGET IMPACTS AS PER ONTARIO REGULATION 284/09 BE ADOPTED AS READ AND AMENDED.**

Carried

- c) By-law Number 2016-08 with regard to tax ratios was read and it was

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

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2016-08 BEING A BY-LAW TO ESTABLISH THE TAX RATIOS FOR THE YEAR 2016 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

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d) By-law Number 2016-09 with regard to exiting the tax capping program was discussed. Since the program was introduced no property in the Township of O'Connor has been affected by the capping and it was

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

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2016-09 BEING A BY-LAW TO EXIT THE TAX CAPPING PROGRAM FOR THE COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND MULTI-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX CLASSES FOR THE YEAR 2016 AND FOR SUBSEQUENT TAXATION YEARS BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

e) By-law Number 2016-10 with regard to the adoption of the Township of O'Connor tax rates for the year 2016 was read and it was

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by K. Foekens

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2016-10 BEING A BY-LAW TO ADOPT THE ESTIMATES OF ALL SUMS REQUIRED DURING THE YEAR 2016 FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSES OF THE MUNICIPALITY, AND TO STRIKE THE LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2016 AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF TAX RATES AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR PENALTY AND INTEREST IN DEFAULT OF PAYMENT THEREOF FOR 2016 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

f) The Policy for the Employee and Family Assistance Program was reviewed as per changes recommended at the May 18, 2016 Budget meeting and it was

7. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

**THAT THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS BE MADE TO THE POLICY FOR AN EMPLOYEE AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**UNDER THE HEADING "RESPONSIBILITIES", THIRD PARAGRAPH, NOW READS AS FOLLOWS:**

**"THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR WILL PAY 50% OF THE ANNUAL COST OF EACH SEASONAL, PART-TIME AND CASUAL EMPLOYEE AND 100% OF THE ANNUAL COST FOR THE FIRE AND FIRST RESPONSE MEMBERS WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM. TO BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM, PAYMENT, WHERE APPLICABLE, MUST BE MADE TO THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BY JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> OF EACH YEAR OR UPON ENROLMENT IF ENROLLED DURING THE YEAR."**

**FOURTH PARAGRAPH NOW READS AS FOLLOWS "THE EFAP IS PROVIDED THROUGH A RECOGNIZED APPROVED PROVIDER WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR."**

**UNDER THE HEADING "PROCEDURES" ITEM D), NOW READS AS FOLLOWS:**

**D) ANY FIRE AND FIRST RESPONSE MEMBER AND THEIR SIGNIFICANT OTHERS RESIDING WITH THEM WHO HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THE EFAP.**

Carried

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- g) The Township of O'Connor's Building Permit By-law Number 2006-14 and schedule "A" - fees schedule was discussed. As per the Chief Building Official's recommendation and previous discussion with regard to Building Permit fees, Council would like to host a public meeting to review an increase in these fees. The draft By-law will be available at the next meeting but in order to advertise in the June issue of the Cornerstone a date for a public meeting was discussed. As the Township is also hosting an Fire Department Open House and a Zoning By-law and Official Plan review Open House on June 25<sup>th</sup>, it was
8. Moved by B. J. Loan  
Seconded Chantal Alkins

**THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR A PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FEES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BUILDING PERMITS AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES.**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2016 AT 12:30 P.M.**

**THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) City of Timmins with regard to Regulating Gas Prices in Ontario and it was

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

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF TIMMINS PETITIONING THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO TO REGULATE FUEL PRICES TO THE LEVELS THAT ARE AFFORDABLE AND PROFITABLE AS IN JURISDICTIONS WITHIN ONTARIO THAT HAVE LOWER FUEL PRICES BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

- b) Town of Shelburne requesting the Province of Ontario amend the policy with regard to Intensive Behaviour Intervention (IBI) was filed.  
c) Town of Petrolia regarding Canada Post PO Box addressing changes was filed.  
d) Township of Killaloe-Hagarty-Richards challenging all municipalities in Ontario to make a donation to the Red Cross Alberta Fire Appeal for the Fort McMurray fire victims was filed.  
e) Township of Wellington North urging the Provincial Government to ban all door-to-door sales in the home service sector was filed.  
f) Niagara Region requesting an increase in funding for Lyme Disease research aimed to enhance the testing for Lyme disease and it was

10. Moved by Chantal Alkins  
Seconded by K. Foekens

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE NIAGARA REGION REQUESTING THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO INCREASE FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AIMED TO ENHANCE THE TESTING OF LYME DISEASE;**

**AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA INCREASE FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AIMED TO ENHANCE THE TESTING FOR LYME DISEASE AND DETERMINE BETTER TREATMENT FOR LONG TERM OUTCOMES OF LYME DISEASE BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board – 2015 Audited Consolidated were reviewed.

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Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – 2015 Audited Financial Statements.
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) AMO Watch File – May 12, 2016.  
ii) AMO Watch File May 19, 2016.  
iii) AMO Policy Update – AMO Seeking Clarity on Ontario Climate Change Action Plan.
- iv) Judy Dezell, Director AMO Enterprises Centre – Asset Management Plan and Federal Gas Tax Requirements.
- c) AMCTO – Municipal Accountability and Transparency in the Wake of Bill 8.
- d) Rural Ontario Municipal Association – (ROMA) – raising awareness about ROMA.
- e) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding a letter introducing Bill 204 – the Promoting Affordable Housing Act, 2016.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) The date of the Official Plan and Zoning By-law Open House originally scheduled for May 30th has to be changed as the draft reports will not be available. A new date was discussed and it was

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

**THAT THE DATE OF MAY 30, 2016 FOR A PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETING WITH REGARD TO THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW BE CHANGED TO SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2016 FROM 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. THE OPEN HOUSE WILL BE HELD IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

Carried

- b) John Coupland, Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) – regarding the attendance at the upcoming Mandatory Emergency Education and Tabletop Exercise to be held with the surrounding municipalities in June and it was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MANDATORY EMERGENCY EDUCATION AND TABLETOP EXERCISE TO BE HELD ON JUNE 22, 2016 AT THE MURILLO COMMUNITY HALL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF OLIVER PAIPOONGE.**

**COUNCILLOR LOAN, ALKINS, RACICOT  
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB  
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT  
ROAD DEPARTMENT - LEADHAND KELLY JOHNSON & EQUIPMENT  
OPERATOR BRENT DENNHARDT  
FIRE CHIEF MATTAS, DEPUTY CHIEF BUDISELIC & MO DOUGLAS**

Carried

- c) Councillor Loan provided an update on the low flying airplane complaint. He has spoken with the complainant and provided copies of information with regard to the guidelines of flying over public areas and what to do if a plane is flying lower than allowed and what information they should collect to make the report. A letter will be sent to Transport Canada from the Township of O'Connor informing them of the recent complaint. This information will also be put into the next issue of the Cornerstone for all residents to be made aware.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Kristen Oliver, NOMA – Request from Union Gas, regarding the Province of Ontario implementing legislation that would see the use of natural gas as a heating source in the province phased out. The Ontario Government is proposing to eliminate the use of natural gas for home heating in newly built homes by 2030 and all others by 2050.

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This policy would force homeowners to move to more expensive forms of energy such as electricity. Council agreed to send the draft letter provided by NOMA to the Premier requesting the reconsideration of this policy.

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

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – Minutes of the April 21, 2016 meeting. Mayor Vezina also provided an update on the mediation process as was reported by Mayor Holland and Mayor Kloosterhuis at the May 19, 2016 LRMC meeting.
- b) Ministry of Energy regarding the Development of the next Long-Term Energy Plan. Mayor Vezina reported the Energy Task Force is currently preparing a seven point philosophical report for Northwestern Ontario which will be circulated for endorsement. Council agreed to wait for the report before commenting. The comments are due by June 15, 2016.
- c) Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding the introduction Bill 204 – the Promoting Affordable Housing Act, 2016 in Legislature. If passed it would enable municipalities to require the inclusion of affordable housing units in new residential development projects through inclusionary zoning.
- d) AMO Communications – Policy Update – Bill 181, The Municipal Elections Modernization Act 3rd Reading.

For information purposes no new building permits were approved since the last meeting.

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

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 8:47 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer