

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 28, 2018

Minutes of the meeting held on May 28, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Handy, Loan
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas, Deputy Fire Chief Monica Budiselic
Morris Douglas – Training Officer – O'Connor Fire Department

Absent: Councillor Foekens and 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, MAY 14, 2018 AND THE BUDGET MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

The Fire Department members were welcomed to the table.

The Fire Department report was read. There were three fire related calls since the last meeting. One Mutual Aid call to Nolalu, one brush and grass fire and one call to a home where someone was burning during the fire ban.

Fire Chief Mattas also reported that a few of the members attended the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry fire training in Neebing on Saturday. The training trailer has been delivered and is at the disposal site. Gravel will be put down in the area and it will be setup for use in the near future. Fire Chief Mattas also informed Council that he has given permission for the Road Department to use the tanker truck for spraying water on the roads during the gravel resurfacing projects if required.

Fire Chief Mattas noted that he has possibly four new members looking at joining the department. He is continuing to try and recruit more. It was also noted that the group training with the Township of Gillies and Nolalu is going well.

The letter from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services with regard to the Fire Safety and Mandatory Certification of firefighters was discussed. The Ministry has developed three new fire safety regulations. They are related to certification of firefighters, risk assessment to inform the delivery of fire protection services, and public reporting on fire department response times. The regulations were posted for comment and several comments were submitted with concerns and a number of changes were made to reflect the thoughtful feedback. The Township of O'Connor did submit their concerns and comments to the proposed regulations.

The new mandatory training was discussed. Firefighters, both professional and volunteer, are now required to be certified as a firefighter, based on internationally recognized National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. The Ministry has delayed the in-force date for several roles to July 1, 2019 and for others to January 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021. For those who have made best efforts to complete the certification in 24 months but were not able to do so, they may request an extension of 12 months, however it must be approved by the Fire Marshal. Members may also be grandfathered. The grandfathering program allows existing firefighters to achieve alternative compliance with specific NFPA standards based on knowledge or experience gained to December 31, 2015 and using the same requirements as the previous program in 2013/14. Firefighters who wish to take advantage of grandfathering must submit an application through their fire department by September 30, 2018 and include supporting documents.

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 28, 2018

The Ministry usually implements regulation(s) as a result of numerous coroner's inquest that have identified and/or recommended the need to implement them. The Occupational Health and Safety Act require employers to provide information, instruction and supervision to a worker to protect their health and safety however there is no mandatory requirement to train to a specific standard.

Mr. Douglas, Training Officer for the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department explained our departments concerns. This training with the EFR-Medical training, station and equipment will require approximately 9 – 10 hours per month for 36 months to get our members prepared to write the exam for certification and having provincial evaluator attending with local evaluators doing the skill evaluations to become certified. He has been speaking with the members about this and they will be considering working for 4-5 hours on scheduled Saturdays. The concern is the commitment of the volunteer members to get this training completed within the time limit. At this time he does not feel that any of the members would be eligible for grandfathering. There will be a cost involved with the training material and the certification and he stressed that the Township has to continue to push the Provincial government for funding to cover these expenses. It was also noted that a storage area will need to be made available for each member's records of certification, approximately 235 pages for each member. These documents are very important and must be kept in a safe place. Current members do not have to be certified however if they want to progress to Captain or Fire Chief they need NFPA 1001: Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications Firefighter Level 1 and 2 and other required NFPA qualifications. Any new recruits hired after July 1, 2019 will have to enroll in the internship program which will require two hours per week with 52 weeks per year over the course of a two year period to complete. There is the concern that volunteers may not wish to commit to this much training.

Changes keep coming and we have to move forward and the next 48 months will set the direction and Mr. Douglas is hoping to exceed what the requirements are and protect the Township and the Fire Chief from any liability by training the members to the standards required. They are for local members and are hoping to guide them through providing them with all the training documents to move forward.

Mr. Douglas also made comment of his concern with regard to the reporting requirements and response times. With regard to the Community Risk Assessment, the Township already has this included in the Emergency Plan, it will just have to be put together in the new format and approved by the Fire Marshal.

The visitors were thanked for attending and providing this important information and they left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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

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

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

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------|
| CK#14985 | JERRY LOAN (COUNCIL HONOURARIUM) | \$ 250.00 |
| CK#14986 | HYDRO ONE | \$ 467.26 |
| CK#14987 | THUNDER BAY DSSAB | \$6,477.00 |
| CK#14988 | ALS ENVIRONMENTAL | <u>\$ 49.72</u> |
| | | <u>\$7,243.98</u> |

Carried

By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

- a) A copy of the final budget was presented to Council. Line items that were amended from the previous budget meeting were discussed and explained.
- b) Administration Report entitled Disclosure Regarding Budget Impacts as per Ontario Regulation 284/09. This report confirms and explains that the 2018 budget was developed using cash basis and has excluded amortization expenses and landfill closure and post-closure expenses. It was

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 28, 2018

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT DATED MAY 28, 2018 ENTITLED REQUIRED DISCLOSURE REGARDING BUDGET IMPACTS AS PER ONTARIO REGULATION 284/09 BE ADOPTED AS READ.

Carried

- c) By-law Number 2018-10 – regarding tax ratios was reviewed and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2018-10 BEING A BY-LAW TO ESTABLISH TAX RATIOS FOR THE YEAR 2018 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- d) By-law Number 2018-11 – regarding the adoption of the 2018 tax rates was reviewed and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2018-11 BEING A BY-LAW TO ADOPT THE ESTIMATES OF ALL SUMS REQUIRED DURING THE YEAR 2018 FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSES OF THE MUNICIPALITY, AND TO STRIKE THE LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2018 AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF TAX RATES AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR PENALTY AND INTEREST IN DEFAULT OF PAYMENT THEREOF FOR 2018 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) – A letter was read from the Board with regard to the 2017 Surplus Disposition. The Board has approved the return of the 2017 levy surplus to member municipalities and Territory Without Municipal Organization. The Township of O'Connor will be receiving \$1,795 as a result of the surplus.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Pioneer Construction – Public Notice for Highway 590 Closure at Whitewood Creek and Pitch Creek. The Ministry has identified the detour route during these closures from June 6th to August 18th to be Highway 588 and 595. It is anticipated that the local traffic will be using the Township roads and not the marked detour. The Township will keep a record of any complaints or concerns with regard to the traffic on our roads during this time.
- b) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation - MPACNEWS – May 2018. It was noted in this newsletter that in the 2018 Ontario budget the Province has directed that the valuation date be moved from January 1, 2020 to January 1, 2019 for the 2020 Assessment update. Current Value Assessments as of January 1, 2019 will be in place for the 2021-2024 property tax years.
- c) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – regarding AMO's Municipal Guide for the 2018 Provincial Election. AMO has prepared a Municipal Guide to provide members with an analysis of what the election promises mean or do not mean for our top municipal interests.
- d) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – i) Minutes from the April 19, 2018 meeting.
ii) Copy of letter to the Honourable Don Rusnak, MP, Thunder Bay-Rainy River from the LRMC regarding an Announcement for Calgary. The Federal government has earmarked in an amount of up to \$1.53 billion dollars for the "Green Line Light Rail Transit" project in Calgary, Alberta, which equates to \$1,234.65 per person. The LRMC respectfully requests equal consideration. With funding of this magnitude, the infrastructure deficit could be significantly reduced in our area.

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 28, 2018

- iii) Municipality of Shuniah – their decision regarding Thunder Bay District Social Service Administration Board (TBDSSAB) Area One Representative.

The balance of the correspondence were passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) appointment of the Thunder Bay District Social Service Administration Board (TBDSSAB) Area One Representative. Council once again discussed the options and the Municipality of Shuniah's recommendation. As full Council was not in attendance and there is still a Council meeting prior to the next LRMC meeting, this item was deferred to the next meeting.
- b) The draft Municipal Funding Agreement for Ontario's Main Street Revitalization Initiative was reviewed. Immediately following the execution of the agreement the Township must provide the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) with a Communication Report, including the eligible project and total costs. The Clerk-Treasurer provided Council with some suggestions with what has been considered and requested additional information from Council. Estimated costs for the project will be brought back to Council at the next meeting for approval and the passing of the Agreement.

Under further Old Business, Councillor Loan provided Council with an update from the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting that he attended, along with Mayor Kevin Holland from the Township of Conmee, on behalf of the Lakehead Police Services Board. More information will be coming when the slide decks are sent out from the Conference. He mentioned concerns with regard to the new cannabis legalization that were discussed at the conference. He also noted that all board members will have to have approved training, as per regulations, by 2020. The OAPSB Nomination Report 2018-2019 was provided. An email was also received late in the day from Ms. Evans, Board Secretary, providing the name of the community representative member from the Municipality of Neebing to be appointed to the Board. Due to the lateness of the email, a resolution will be added to the next agenda, which is prior to the next Lakehead Police Services Board meeting.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) A report was read from Ms. Laforest, Administrative Assistant, with regard to the Municipal Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Challenge Fund. The deadline to apply for the next round is July 13, 2018. The Township did apply in the first round but was unsuccessful. In a follow up webinar it was noted that the projects are scored using a points system and the successful applications in the first round excelled in significant and cost effective GHG reductions, had feasible work plans to achieve the project outcomes, demonstrated strong alignment with municipal GHG emission planning and higher scores were given to applications when more dollars were leverage by the applicant. In 2017 the Township submitted two applications, one for a new municipal garage and firehall combined building and one for a new fleet. Ms. Laforest is recommending that an application be once again submitted, however for a municipal garage only, as there are more significant issues and GHG reductions opportunities than with a combined building. By reducing the total expense of the project this would also allow for the Township to leverage a larger percentage of the total cost of the project. While she also recommended applying for a new fleet, Council agreed to have Ms. Laforest proceed with one application for a new municipal garage only and leverage 20% of the total cost through the Township.
- b) Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) – invitation to join the preferred autonomous vehicle test corridor. This invitation was addressed to the Township however the proposed corridor is stretching from Windsor to Ottawa. This item was filed.

There were no issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed.

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

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 28, 2018

It was

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

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
ON MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

TIME BEING: 9:25 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer