

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 8, 2017

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, May 8, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Linda Racicot, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Absent: Councillor Chantal Alkins

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

- Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 18, 2017, THE MINUTES OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET MEETING HELD ON APRIL 24, 2017 AND THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 24, 2017 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mayor Vezina asked the visitors if they wished to address Council on any personal matters and they replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand was welcomed to the table. A Road Department update and roadwork in general was discussed. The road crew has been grading the roads, dealing with heaves and filling in sunken culverts due to the frost. The beavers are starting to get active so they will be putting beaver screens in culverts. They will also be cleaning up some of the trees and brush along the sides of the roads. There have been some issues with the equipment, both the grader and the backhoe but everything is working again. The backhoe work will once again be under warranty. The 4 x 4 truck currently has a miss fire and Mr. Johnson is looking into why and the International truck is scheduled to have the windshield replaced next week. The recent ice storm was also discussed. Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher and additional bills to be paid were reviewed and it was

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR APRIL 2017 TOTALLING \$132,583.12 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

- Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

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

CK#14285	HYDRO ONE (STREETLIGHTING)	\$ 58.84
CK#14286	LINDA RACICOT (WILDFIRE COMMUNITY DAY)	\$ 337.88
CK#14287	CIBC VISA	\$ 261.55
CK#14288	WILSON'S BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	\$ 350.99
CK#14289	LOUDON BROS WHOLESALE (WILDFIRE COMMUNITY DAY)	\$ 178.78
		<u>\$1,188.04</u>

Carried

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It was noted that the payroll from January to March 2017 had not been included on the previous months vouchers and were included now on the April one.

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditure and the Balance Sheet to April 30, 2017 were reviewed.

A By-law with regard to the FireSmart Communities Grant was reviewed. It was noted that Council also entered into an agreement last year for this program but the project was never started due to time constraints. It was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2017-16 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ONTARIO TRANSFER PAYMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE PROVISION OF THE FIRESMART COMMUNITIES GRANT BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Town of Amherstburg and the Town of Richmond Hill regarding support for postal banking. The resolution was filed.

- b) Lanark County requesting support for Opioid Strategy and it was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM LANARK COUNTY REQUESTING THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ENHANCE LOCAL RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID PROBLEM IN THEIR COMMUNITY BE ENDORSED.

Carried

While the resolution was more related to their community, Council felt that this is becoming a problem everywhere.

- c) Township of North Frontenac regarding Hydro reduction of 25% not being applicable to seasonal residents. It was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH FRONTENAC REGARDING THE 25% REDUCTION IN DELIVERY CHARGES ETC. ON HYDRO RATES NOT BEING APPLICABLE TO SEASONAL RESIDENTS, IN THE NAME OF FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY, REQUESTING THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT REMOVE THESE CHARGES FROM ALL HYDRO ONE CUSTOMER BILLINGS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

The following items were discussed under DSSAB issues:

- a) A copy of the letter dated April 25, 2017 from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) informing them of the amendments to Schedule 6 of Ontario Regulation 278/98 of the DSSAB Act, to increase the Board representation for Area One. The amendments came into force on April 18, 2017 and provide for Area One and the Board to take the next steps to fill the new positions immediately.
- b) TBDSSAB Newsletter – April 2017 Edition was read.
- c) TBDSSAB – 2016 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements were reviewed.

A copy of the presentation from the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) with regard to the parameters of the District Social Services Administration Board governance and accountability review was available at the meeting.

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Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Statistics Canada – New 2016 Census data for the Township of O'Connor. The information includes the population by age and household count.
 - b) Super North EMS – First Quarter Levy 2017. There is a slight increase from the initial amount previous provided.
 - c) Ontario Provincial Police – May newsletter. Council would like to see the information with regard to the Social Media and Self-Peer Exploitation and Bear facts included in the next issue of the Cornerstone.
 - d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watchfile - April 27, 2017.
ii) Watchfile – May 4, 2017.
iii) AMO Communications - Policy Update – Province Announces Details of Basic Income Pilot.
iv) AMO Communications - MEPCO Supports Recent OMERS Proposal.
v) AMO Communications – Policy Update 2017 Provincial Budget Delivered.
vi) AMO – Municipal Delegations at AMO Conference request form now available. Council will not be requesting any delegations at this time.
 - e) AMCTO – 2017 Federal Budget Update.
 - f) Municipal Finance Officers' Association – Provincial Budget 2017: A Stronger, Healthier Ontario.
 - g) Mosey & Mosey – i) Update on 2017 Renewal Rates. The renewal rates for the Township's coverage will be less than projected in January, reducing the overall change from 28% increase to 6.6% increase. The Clerk-Treasurer will continue to get price comparisons from other suppliers.
ii) News Bulletin – Ontario Budget 2017 Announces Free Prescription Drug coverage for children and youth under age 24.
 - h) Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport – regarding implementation of a one-time \$1 million investment in our northern, rural and Indigenous libraries.
- The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Joint Police Services Board – The Township of Gillies approved the formation of the Joint Board, with the Municipality of Neebing and the Townships of O'Connor and Conmee. The process of forming the Board will continue through the Municipality of Neebing as the administrator. Further discussion will still have to be had with regard to who the appointees on the board will be.
- b) FireSmart Communities Grant – the program and mapping was discussed. The Township has been approved for the FireSmart Communities Grant and has passed a by-law earlier in the meeting to enter into an agreement for the Ontario Transfer Fund. A FireSmart Community Risk Assessment Analysis Document was reviewed. This document has been developed to help communities be able to identify the potential risk their community may face under a moderate to high fire hazard situations. It has been confirmed that the cost of the acquisition of leaf off, spring 2017 imagery through the Ministry of Natural Resources would be covered under this program. Council agreed that the mapping would be an asset to the Township for collecting the risk area information and it was

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

THAT THE CLERK-TREASURER BE AUTHORIZED TO SIGN A LETTER OF INTENT TO COMMIT FUNDING – AREA OF INTEREST OPTION WITH REGARD TO THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO ORPHOPHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT 2017.

Carried

A formal agreement will be forwarded to the Township for the orphophotography at a later date from the Ministry.

- c) The upcoming Budget meeting scheduled for May 15, 2017 was discussed. Due to time restraints the Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that she does not feel that she will have a complete budget for the meeting date. It was agreed that, if at all possible, Council would still like to be able to send out the tax bills in June. A new date was discussed and it was

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8. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017 AT 7 P.M. BE CHANGED TO MONDAY, MAY 29, 2017 AT 7 P.M.

Carried

Notice of this change will be posted on the Township's website as well as in the office and on the bulletin boards.

Under further old business Councillor Racicot noted that he had an electrician look at the current hydro meter at the fire hall with regard to the possibility of a central metering system or a shared meter with the municipal garage as was discussed at a previous meeting. The energy use at peak times would have to be determined to see if one meter could handle the load. If we would have to increase the system to 200 amps it would not be worth the change. It was also noted that if the delivery charges are based on usage, the usage would not change and therefore there would not be any savings from that. If there is a meter rental fee included that would be a saving. The power usage will be looked into further.

Also under further old business, the Clerk-Treasurer reported that she has ordered some free promotional items for Canada 150 celebration that will be handed out at our July 8, 2017 event and asked if Council would like to purchase any Canada 150 Promotional items. Council agreed not to purchase any other items at this time.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – regarding the 2018 Municipal Policing Billing Statement Property Count. The property count data is based upon the 2016 Assessment Roll data delivered by MPAC to municipalities for 2017 tax year. This number will be used for the 2018 OPP municipal billing. The total households noted for the Township of O'Connor is 292, 20 households more than the current Stats Canada information stated. As this number will be the base number for our OPP billing/per household fee, the Clerk-Treasurer will look into this further.
- b) Reamined - email regarding the New Multi-Residential Class for 2017 was read. The Province has implemented a mandatory New Multi-Residential property class province-wide. This will support and encourage the development of new, purpose-built rental housing as a step to improve housing affordability in the rental market. Even though the Township does not currently have any multi-residential units, a new ratio will be included in the Township's by-law when it is approved.
- c) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – Common Voice Northwest regarding a Report on Energy East Task Force. Deadline for comments is May 22, 2017. A presentation in this regard was held at the recent NOMA conference. NOMA will be making comment on the groups concerns and Council will not be submitting any additional comments.
- d) Cheryl Gallant – regarding 2017 Federal Deficit Budget and the removal of the tax-exempt portion of remuneration paid to local officials. Previously 1/3 of a Council honourarium was considered an expense and was not included as a taxable income on their T-4. The removal of the exemption will not only increase the member of Council's reported income, it will increase the Township's EHT and CPP costs as well as remove the portion of the HST rebate claimed on the expense portion.

Under Further new business, Councillor Racicot made comment that a resident recently approached him with regard to a consent application for a new lot creation. One of the conditions was to have septic approval. Councillor Racicot would like the Clerk-Treasurer to confirm what is required.

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

- a) Thunder Bay District Health Unit Board report – April 2017 from Councillor MacMaster, Board representative for O'Connor/Conmee.
- b) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) - Municipal Policing Bureau – Progress update. Along with the update the OPP provided two - 2017 Municipal Policing Bureau calendars with information about municipal policing. Council would like to get more copies of this calendar if possible for our residents to provide them with this information. Councillor Loan will look into this.

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- c) Chronicle Journal – regarding Canada 150 Anniversary Tabloid advertising. Due to the cost of the advertising Council agreed not to include an ad.
- d) Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport – Ontario 2017 budget includes investment of \$50 million for commuter cycling infrastructure in 2017-2018.

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

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

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 8:48 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer