

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 9, 2016

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Theiann Scherby
Monika Endler arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Absent: Councillor Foekens

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 FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

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

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

The visitors were asked if they wished to address Council on any personal matters in which they are not already on the agenda for and they replied no.

Ms. Scherby was welcomed to the table. Ms. Scherby is the new casual janitor, who will fill in for Ms. Endler when she is unavailable to work. Introductions were made and Council welcomed Ms. Scherby to the position. Ms. Scherby left the meeting.

Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table. The Road Department Report for April 9 to May 6, 2016 was read. Mr. Johnson noted that the roads are currently in the worst shape he has seen in 20 years, with regard to the frost heaves. Half loads are still on. He usually pulls them off the same time as the Ministry of Transportation but he can extend them longer if he feels that the roads are not ready. Mr. Johnson reported that Ms. Earl has been called back to work.

Roadwork in general was discussed. They are trying to keep ahead of the traffic by fixing the frost heaves and removing trees off the road from the strong winds. They have been doing equipment repairs, taking the sanders off the trucks and changing lights over. They are hoping to get the gravel resurfacing projects done prior to the Highway 595 road closure on June 13th. They will also have to ensure the proposed detour is in good shape prior to the closure.

The Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) Rural Road Maintenance training was discussed. Mr. Johnson noted that both himself and Mr. Dennhardt attended a road school a couple of years ago. This course is being held May 17 & 18, 2016 in Thunder Bay. Mr. Johnson noted that it is not good timing for their department to be away with all the work that they need to get done in the near future. It was agreed that no one will attend the training at this time.

Flagging training was discussed. Council would like to ensure that the employees are up to date on any training required and that the information is documented.

The upcoming Ritchie Bros. Auction to be held in Thunder Bay on June 9th was discussed. It was recommended that Mr. Johnson attend. Mr. Johnson will try to get

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more information as to what items will be available and if necessary money could possibly be included in the budget.

Ms. Endler had arrived and was welcomed to the table. She apologized for being late and introductions were held. Ms. Endler is the janitor for the Township, taking over in the full time capacity when Mr. Chessell left, but has never met Council. Previously she was the casual janitor, working when Mr. Chessell was unavailable. Council thanked her for attending and she left the meeting. Mr. Johnson was also thanked for attending and left the meeting.

The Administration and Roads voucher for April and bills to be paid were reviewed and it was

3. Moved by Chantal Alkins
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR APRIL 2016
TOTALLING \$71,342.46 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

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

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

CK#13595	LEX CONSTRUCTION	\$661.05
CK#13596	PINEWOOD FORD LIMITED	<u>\$ 14.92</u>
		<u>\$675.97</u>

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to April 30, 2016 were reviewed. A question from the Balance Sheet and the Capital Tangible Assets with regard to the what the Land Improvements line included was asked. The Clerk-Treasurer suggested that it was possibly the outdoor rink and ball diamond areas, etc, but this will be confirmed with the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer who does all the posting and Council will be notified. It was also noted that a Journal Entry is still required to be made for the previous year's deficit amount.

By-laws were reviewed as follows:

- a) By-law Number 2016-06 – Being a By-law authorizing the execution of an agreement with Minister of Natural Resources regarding the FireSmart Communities Grant and it was

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

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2016-06 BEING A BY-LAW 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

- b) By-law Number 2016-07 – Being a By-law to enter into an agreement with Ambashi Engineering and Management Inc. for office space rental and it was

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2016-07 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING THE
EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH AMBASHI ENGINEERING AND
MANAGEMENT INC. FOR THE USE OF OFFICE SPACE IN THE O'CONNOR
COMMUNITY CENTRE BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

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Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) City of Welland regarding the development of Provincial Legislation for Private Supportive Living Accommodations was filed.
 - b) Township of South Stormont, Municipality of Trent Lakes, Township of Clearview, Town of Prescott, Town of Hawkesbury requesting support for Bill 158, Saving the Girl Next Door Act, 2016 were filed.
 - c) Municipality of South Dundas regarding the suspension of and the integration of the Rural Economic Development Program into the Jobs and Prosperity Fund was filed.
 - d) Township of Champlain regarding the Review of the Green Energy Act and it was
7. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF CHAMPLAIN REQUESTING THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO PLACE A MORATORIUM ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR FARMS AND WIND TURBINES AND TO COMPLETE AN EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF THE GREEN ENERGY ACT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY TO OUR CITIZENS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- e) Town of Amherstburg requesting support for Bill 180, Workers Day of Mourning Act, 2016 was filed.
- f) Town of Amherstburg requesting support for upgrades to the Marathon Petroleum facility was filed.
- g) Town of Essex calling upon the Government of Ontario to make the completion of the final phase of Highway 3 Widening Project a top priority was filed.

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) – Documents with regard to the Food Security in the District of Thunder Bay were read. These documents included a copy of the letter sent to the Minister of Education, the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Deputy Premier/Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction from the TBDSSAB, as well as the Position Paper: Food Security in the District of Thunder Bay and the resolution passed by the TBDSSAB approving the report and the recommendations contained in it.

An update on the DSSAB mediation process with the Area One municipalities was briefly discussed. Meetings have been scheduled for May 16, 18 and 20, 2016.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Mosey & Mosey – regarding the 2016 Renewal Rate Sheet effective June 1, 2016. There will an increase of 15.2% for the Township of O'Connor.
- b) Thunder Bay District Health Unit – 2015 Financial Statements.
- c) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watch File – April 28, 2016
ii) Watch File – May 5, 2016
iii) AMO Communications – AMO Board of Directors 2016 to 2018 Call for Nominations. No one will put their name forward at this time.
iv) AMO Notice – Process for Ministers' and Parliamentary Assistants' Delegations at the AMO Conference.
v) AMO AGM and Annual Conference – August 14 – 17, 2016 – Windsor, ON. It was decided that no one will be attending the conference this year.
- d) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) – i) ROMA will deliver a Stand Alone Municipal Conference in January 2017, after 16 years of partnering with the Ontario Good Roads Association. They feel they need to come together with the rural and smaller municipalities and use their own forum to explore solutions to deal with current frustration with the Province
ii) Comments from Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) in regard to this conference. The group is encouraging support for this standalone conference. It was noted that the board structure should be addressed, as they only have one Northern representative. It was suggested that the LRMC should recommended that a representative from both Northwestern Ontario and Northeastern Ontario be on the board.

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- e) Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade – regarding Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship. The criteria for the eligibility of this award will be looked into further and it was suggested that, if eligible, Clerk-Treasurer Buob be nominated.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Official Plan and Zoning By-law – i) Public Open House scheduled for May 30, 2016. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that after speaking with Mr. Posen and Mr. Hicks from Fotenn they will not have the draft Official Plan and Zoning By-law ready in time for Council to review and for them to then amend any of Council comments prior to May 30th. They have asked that Council determine whether or not they wish to change the date or move forward without the documents being available for the public to review at the Open House. The Open House would then just explain the process of the review and give the public an opportunity to express what they would like to see in the document. If Council are willing to change the date, the documents would then be available for review. Their proposed timelines were reviewed, unfortunately Council do not meet between the dates that they are proposing to have the documents ready for and the return of Council's comments to them. Also the Community Centre is not available on the date they are suggesting for the Open House. Council discussed this further, including whether or not they should wait until fall, as they are concerned that if the Open House was held in the summer months people may not attend. The O'Connor Fire and First Response are holding an Open House on Saturday, June 25 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and it was suggested that possibly we could hold the Official Plan and Zoning By-law Open House on the same day in the afternoon and possibly the residents would make an effort to attend both events. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact the Fire Department to ensure that this would not interfere with their event. If okay with them, she will also contact Fotenn to see if their suggested dates could be adjusted to work with the June 25th Open House. This will be brought back to Council for further discussion and approval at the next meeting.
- ii) A copy of an email from Fotenn with regard to Council's comments from April 11 Council meeting were read. They have revised the report for some items and others will be discussed and clarified with Council later in the process.
- iii) A copy of revised Issues and Options Report was made available for Council.
- b) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – Section 10 contract and Joint Services Board. The Clerk-Treasurer reported to Council that she has spoken with the Clerk of the Township of Gillies and she noted that the Council of Gillies have not at this time committed to entering into a Section 10 contract with the OPP. It was Council's understanding at the last meeting that the four municipalities were all interested. She will be confirming their decision at their Council meeting also being held tonight and will get back to us on their final decision. If Gillies does not enter into the Section 10 contract the Townships of Conmee and O'Connor cannot join the Municipality of Neening in forming a Joint Police Services Board.
- c) Complaint with regard to low flying airplanes follow up and further response from NAV Canada with regard to the complaint was read. NAV Canada did provide the complainant with the correct contact information for her concerns, that being with Transport Canada. Councillor Loan provided copies of sections of the Canadian Aviation Regulations, with regard to the Operating and Flight rules and negligent operation of aircraft. He also explained some of the training procedures that the College uses for training new pilots, which does include forced approaches, however they must do so without creating a hazard to persons or property. Councillor Loan also explained how to identify if a plane is flying too low, and if they are, what information is required to make an official complainant that can be acted upon. Council would like a letter sent to the College informing them that we have received complaints and to ask them to possibly reconsider their flight corridor and to also inform them that we will be providing our residents with information on how to contact Transport Canada if any planes are flying too low or are causing a hazard to our residents or their property. Councillor Loan will be speaking with the complainant tomorrow to explain the rules and how to proceed if there is an issue. The information will also be included in the next issue of the Cornerstone and will be made available on the Township's website.

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The Clerk-Treasurer also noted that a second complainant has been received in this regard but was not signed by the complainant. A reply to the email asking for them to provide their personal information so that the Township can provide them with the information on how to deal with their issue has been sent out.

- d) Wayne Gates – Superior North Emergency Medical Services – regarding the Thunder Bay Paramedics contract negotiations. A tentative settlement has been reached with the union and the deal was ratified on April 28, 2016.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Rural Cupboard Food Bank– invitation to the groundbreaking ceremony to be held on Thursday, May 12th. Councillor Racicot will attend in support of the event.
b) AMO – Support for Fort McMurray – Call to Action. At this time Council will not be making a donation.

Under further New Business Councillor Alkins asked about the process of addressing a complaint that is made directly to her with regard to the Township. Council explained the process and noted to her to never make a commitment to the complainant at the time as she is only one vote in the process. Councillor Alkins thanked Council for their comments and advice.

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

- a) Premier Kathleen Wynne regarding the announcement of investments and regulatory changes to support the use of schools as community hubs. These amendments will provide for more opportunities for community organizations to purchase or lease surplus school properties in order to allow for continued community use.

No building permits have been approved since the last meeting.

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

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE BUDGET MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 9:25 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer