

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 12, 2018

Minutes of the meeting held on November 12, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Councillor Bob McMaster, Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) Representative  
Kelly Johnson, Leadhand – arrived at 7:20 p.m.  
Glenn Mitchell, Roman Pacion and Steve Wall from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Absent: Councillor Foekens

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

1. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by B. Jerry Loan

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2018 AND THE NOTES FROM THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 29, 2018 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Councillor McMaster was welcomed to the table and introductions were made. Councillor McMaster thanked Council for allowing him to represent the Township of O'Connor for the past four years on the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU). He noted that there is one more meeting of his term and then the seat will be turned over to the Township of O'Connor. Councillor McMaster provided a brief update on the current Health Unit nurses strike and informed Council that the Board is not involved in the negotiations. All negotiations are with the management team. The nurses have not had a contract since December 2016. He confirmed that services are continuing. The Norwest Community Health Clinic has picked up on some of the services, including flu clinics.

Councillor McMaster noted that there will be changes to the Board in the next term. Councillor Joe Virdiramo is the current chair and he was not re-elected to the City of Thunder Bay Council. Also with the new Provincial government he is not sure if they will appoint provincial members to the Board. It was noted that the previous government was discussing having the TBDHU become a part of the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) which would result in less local representation on the Board. He stressed the importance of the TBDHU for our area and having the local members of Council on the Board.

There is nothing unusual in the budget for next year; however there could be a wage increase as a result of the current strike.

One of the successful provincial programs implemented in 2016, which the TBDHU has been enforcing is the food services grading. It has proven to be very successful and will be brought out into the District next year.

Council asked for details on the Board meetings. Councillor McMaster notes that the meetings are held the third Monday of the month from approximately 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. There may be a few in camera meetings. The representative, while representing the Township of O'Connor and the Township of Conmee need to remain independent and represent the value for all.

Council thanked Councillor McMaster for attending the meeting and providing the update and for serving as the Township's representative for the past term and he left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Pacion and Mr. Wall from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) were welcomed to the table and introductions were made. The Ministry staff requested to meet with Council to hear Council's concerns with regard to the step down from a "B" to a "C" with the Highway Improvements, GWP 6573-16-00 being the replacement of Cedar Creek Culvert on Highway 590, 2.57 km West of Highway 595. A large precast box culvert will be installed at this location. Council expressed their concern with regard to the number of large trucks, including those from Firesteel Contracting and Taranis Contracting, which will be affected by this detour as well as additional recreation traffic in the summer months. The last detour posted in 2018 for other culvert replacements on Highway 590 was very confusing for the travelling public and was also very long and unlikely to be used by anyone who knows the area. The representatives were asked if an onsite detour could be put in place and they replied no, this was not an option. A posted detour on Cronk road was discussed. There is concern with regard to the intersection at Highway 595 and Cronk Road and the dip in the road to the North of the intersection. The trucks pulling onto Cronk Road from Highway 595 will have to swing wide at the top of the hill to make the turn onto Cronk Road. There is also a blind spot in the hill that traffic will have to be very cautious of pulling off of Cronk Road onto the Highway.

The maintenance of Cronk Road was discussed. There is an "S" corner at the O'Connor/Marks Townline that will need to be made wider and brush cleared back. Dust was also a concern and the Ministry or contractor would consider putting a load of calcium straight through from Highway 595 to Highway 590. Prior to the detour being opened Ministry staff will inspect the current condition of the roadway and take pictures of the road with the Leadhand. Any maintenance required during the detour will be the responsibility of the contractor. Proper signage will be installed providing adequate direction, addressing safety concerns and encouraging traffic to drive slower. If there are issues with traffic the Ministry's enforcement could be asked to come out and monitor the road. It was suggested that perhaps the trucking companies could be contacted well in advance and alternate work plans could be made for the time of the closure. It was also suggested that Sovereign and Fleming Roads be used for the empty truck traffic, however the Ministry will only sign and maintain one detour.

The project is scheduled to take 53 working days, with the full closure to be 40 days and is currently in the final design stage.

The Ministry staff will bring this discussion back to their supervisors for final approval. They will also contact Taranis Contracting and Firesteel Contracting to discuss their plans for 2019. A meeting will be scheduled with Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, to discuss and address any problem areas. They were thanked for attending and left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. A Road Department update and roadwork in general was discussed. The Road crew have been sanding, plowing and scraping ice. The roads were rough this fall due to the wet weather and not allowing proper conditions for the grader to get all the potholes fixed prior to snowfall. If the weather permits they will still try to put some gravel down. The crew will also be out pulling beaver screens.

Truck #9 has been picked up from the shop. So far it has not smoked. The repair shop had to tear down the motor again. The wiring harness was also changed and they had the exhaust system changed. The truck will be sent in for its annual safety tomorrow.

The Road Department Equipment Report was read. It was noted that the bodywork on the 4x4 still has not been completed however the materials have been purchased and if time permits it may still get down this year. There were no major concerns with any of the equipment at this time.

The Structural Inspection Report for three bridges and two corrugated steel box culverts from KGS Group Consulting Engineers was available for review at the meeting. Mr. Johnson noted that in 2019 he would like to budget to do the bearings on the Smith Road bridge as well as the deck on bridge #2 on Smith Road. All structures are sound with no major issues.

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Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Vouchers for October 2018 and the additional bills to be paid were reviewed and it was

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR OCTOBER 2018  
TOTALLING \$82,286.34 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

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

**THAT THE ROADS VOUCHER FOR KEVIN'S TIRE SERVICE FOR OCTOBER  
2018 TOTALLING \$96.05 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR NOVEMBER 2018 BE PAID. THESE  
BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE NOVEMBER 2018 ADMINISTRATION  
AND ROAD VOUCHER.**

<b>CK#15276 MORRIS DOUGLAS (TRAINING MANUALS)</b>	<b>\$2,518.93</b>
<b>CK#15277 JOE POOHACHOFF (REIMBURSEMENT)</b>	<b>\$ 109.87</b>
<b>CK#15278 JIM VEZINA (NOMINATION FEE REFUND)</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>CK#15279 RURAL CUPBOARD FOOD BANK</b>	<b><u>\$ 50.00</u></b>
	<b>\$2,878.80</b>

Carried

The Revenue and Expenditures to October 31, 2018 were reviewed.

A By-law for the purpose of setting the honourarium for Council for the upcoming term of Council was reviewed as per discussion at the previous meeting and it was

5. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2018-17 BEING A BY-LAW FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
SETTING THE HONOURARIUM FOR MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS BE  
PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

A resolution for endorsement was read from the Township of McKellar with regard to an open meeting with AMO Members prior to AMO discussions with the Province was filed.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – i) November 2018 Newsletter. It was suggested that the breakdown of Operations Impact 2018 with the number of charges laid between October 5 – 8, 2018 in the Province be included in the next newsletter.
- b) Lakehead Police Services Board – June to September 2018 Report. The report summarized the calls for the Township of O'Connor as well the total number of calls for all Board members combined for this time period and totals for the year to date.
- c) AMO Communications i) Queens Park this Week  
ii) Member's Update: While You Were Busy  
iii) AMO Watchfile – November 8, 2018
- d) ROMA – regarding the Board of Directors Zone Representation – Call for Nominations. No one will put their name forward at this time.

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Under Old Business, Council discussed:

- a) Update - Play Space in the O'Connor Community Centre. Ms. Thorne has decided not to pursue the O'Connor Community Centre for a play space.
- b) The draft municipal presentation to be made at the public meeting with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) on November 26, 2018 was reviewed. The presentation will include information with regard to how assessment affects the ratepayers tax bill and how the outside agencies use MPAC's numbers to levy the municipality. Council made some suggestions as to what else they would like to see included in the presentation and the administration will continue working on it and forward a draft to Council prior to the meeting.
- c) North Line – Quote on Black Cat Radar Detection was reviewed. Council would like to consider the purchase of one of these items in the 2019 budget. Further information with regard to the capabilities of this device and whether or not this could also be used as a traffic counter will be pursued.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) OTIS – Proposal for recommended maintenance to the Platform Lift with regard to the lighting system was reviewed. At this time it was agreed that if this is not a mandatory item it will be deferred.
- b) Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management – regarding Essentials of Municipal Fire Protection Seminars and the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management looking for host communities. At this time the Township of O'Connor is not be interested in hosting a seminar.
- c) ROMA – 2019 Conference Registration – Early Bird registration extended to November 15th due to the Municipal election. Council previously discussed have a Council member attend the upcoming Conference and agreed to wait until after the election to see who would attend. Upon further discussion it was

6. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE RURAL ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 27- 29, 2019 IN TORONTO.**

**REGISTRATION: \$550.00 PLUS HST (EARLY BIRD RATE)**

**COUNCILLOR WENDY HANDY**

Carried

- d) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – MSO North (Thunder Bay) office offering Municipal Councillors a series of educational modules in preparation for commencement of their term of office. Council would like to have the new Councillors participate and it was

7. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING – MSO NORTH (THUNDER BAY) OFFICE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS EDUCATIONAL MODULES. THE FIRST IN-PERSON EVENT WILL BE HELD DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2018 IN THUNDER BAY WITH THE FUTURE TOPIC SPECIFIC WEBINARS OFFERED OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.**

**REGISTRATION FEE – N/C**

**COUNCILLOR WENDY HANDY**

**COUNCILLOR ELECT ALEX CRANE**

Carried

- e) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – 2019 Representative for the Board of Directors was briefly discussed and deferred until the December 3, 2018 Inaugural meeting.

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- f) Intercultural Cooperation Workcamp call for partnership – Summer 2019. Council agreed not to participate.
- g) Ontario Nurses' Association – letter regarding the Public Health Services during the Thunder Bay District Health Unit Strike. No action will be taken in regard to the letter.

Under further New Business, The Clerk-Treasurer noted that Ms. Sharron Martyn of the Lakehead Rural Planning Board and Fire Chief, Mike Horan of the Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge are retiring and a retirement farewell will be held on Wednesday, November 21, 2018 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.. Unfortunately it is being held on the same day as the Treasurer's Forum and she will not be able to attend. Council was asked if anyone would like to attend and no one was available.

Mayor Vezina noted that he received a congratulation letter from Judith Monteith-Farrell, MPP. Councillor Loan noted that he also received a letter. It was noted that there were errors in both letters. Council would like to invite MPP Monteith-Farrell to a Council meeting in the new year to introduce her to the Township of O'Connor and Council.

An invitation email from Ontario Power Generation (OPG) for their Dam Safety Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) meeting for the Kaministiquia River System was read. They will be holding a Skype meeting, rather than an in person meeting, on November 29, 2018 and it was

- 8. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE ONTARIO POWER GENERATION KAMINISTIQUIA RIVER SYSTEM DAM SAFETY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN STAKEHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 29, 2018 VIA SKYPE.**

**REGISTRATION FEE – N/C**

**MAYOR VEZINA  
FIRE CHIEF MATTAS  
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

Carried

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

Council was reminded of the Tabletop Exercise to be held on Wednesday of this week and the next regular meeting of Council will follow the Public meeting with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) on November 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. All of these meetings will be held in the O'Connor Community Centre.

- 9. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE TABLETOP EXERCISE TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

**TIME BEING: 10:14 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer