

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 23, 2015

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, November 23, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Paul Phillips, O'Connor Fire Department
Linda Racicot arrived at 8:10 p.m.

Acting Mayor Racicot called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

1. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 9, 2015 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

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

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report from October 22 to November 19, 2015 was read. There was one First Response call in this period. Fire Chief Mattas reported that the water tanks at the disposal site and on the Byers property on Sitch Road have been emptied for the winter. He also reported that the First Response Rescue vehicle was taken into Tractor Trailer Service to have the springs checked as per members concern. The results were that the springs are ok and that is the way they are installed.

Fire Chief Mattas informed Council that he does have someone in mind for the position of Deputy Fire Chief for the department. Monica Budiselic has been a member of the department since September 2012 and prior to that she was with the Neebing Team. She is well trained and qualified for the position. Fire Chief Mattas has spoken to her about this and she would be interested. Council reviewed her qualifications and agreed to appoint her to the position. A By-law for the appointment will be brought to the next Council meeting for endorsement.

A letter was read from Mr. Wayne Gates, Acting Chief of Superior North Emergency Medical Service (SNEMS) with regard to the Tiered Response Agreement. Mr. Gates has requested a 90 day extension from the Ministry of Health for their request to have an agreement in place. Currently the agreements are with the City of Thunder Bay legal department for review.

The O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary minutes for the November 10, 2015 meeting were read.

A copy of a letter from the Ministry of Transportation to the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs was read. Effective November 1, 2015 the Ministry is increasing the remuneration rate for fire response services on provincial highways.

Council asked Fire Chief Mattas for his opinion on item 11b) on the agenda, a resolution for endorsement with regard to auto-extrication on provincial highways.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

Bills to be paid were reviewed and it was

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

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THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR NOVEMBER 2015 BE PAID. THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE NOVEMBER 2015 ADMINISTRATION AND ROAD VOUCHER.

CK#13259	MONIKA ENDLER (JANITORIAL SUPPLIES)	\$ 67.78
CK#13261	RON NELSON, ESTATE OF (HONOURARIUM)	\$150.00
CK#13262	COLE MAKI (420 CAT WELDING)	\$337.50
CK#13263	FLORENCE SCARROW (GRAVEL)	\$193.23
CK#13264	MINISTER OF FINANCE (CACC DISPATCH CALLS)	\$ 15.00
CK#13265	STAPLES (OFFICE SUPPLIES)	\$188.90
CK#13266	TBAYTEL (TELEPHONE)	\$396.64
CK#13267	HYDRO ONE	\$721.36
CK#13268	ROLLASON FLOWERS LTD (RON NELSON)	<u>\$122.61</u>
		\$2,193.02

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditure to October 31, 2015 was reviewed.

By-law Number 2015-13 was reviewed. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the Ministry of Transportation has cancelled the Fire Department's driver training program and the By-laws appointing the Recognized Authority Official and Signing Authority for Driver Certification Program were still included in the active by-laws in our By-law book and it was

3. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded J. Vezina

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2015-13 BEING A BY-LAW TO RESCIND BY-LAW NUMBER 2012-07 AND BY-LAW NUMBER 2012-19 WITH REGARD TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT DRIVER TRAINING BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Municipality of Neebing regarding Consultation on the Polices Services Act was filed.
- b) United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria requesting that the Province assume responsibility for auto-extrication on provincial highways not protected by local fire departments and it was

4. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT RESOLUTION FROM THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF HEAD, CLARA & MARIA REQUESTING THAT THE PROVINCE ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR AUTO-EXTRICATION ON PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS NOT PROTECTED BY LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- c) City of Kingston – regarding Bill C-24, Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act was filed.

A copy of the draft letter to be sent to the Honourable Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services from the Area One municipalities with regard to two letters that were sent to her from the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board was read.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee – Minutes October 15, 2015 meeting.
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) AMO Watchfile – November 12, 2015. This issue included a story – Remembering Ron Nelson.
ii) AMO Watchfile – November 19, 2015.
iii) AMO Communications – 2016 OMPF Allocations Announced. There will be a \$10 million dollar cut in the total envelope but the grant component allocation has changed from 2015. More funding will be allocated to the Northern Communities Grant, the Rural Communities Grant and the Northern and Rural Fiscal Circumstances Grant.

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- c) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) – Staffing Announcement. Chad Turner will be serving as the MPAC Account Manager effective November 9, 2015.
 - d) Ernie Hardeman, MPP Oxford – regarding Local Government Week.
 - e) Ontario One Call – regarding the 2015 In-Year Refund for Ontario One Call Members. As a smaller member who did not use their \$500 credit from the start of the year, the Township of O'Connor will not receive a refund.
 - f) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) – Save the Date for the Planning Workshop 2016 – March 30 & 31, 2016.
 - g) Ministry of Finance letter regarding decisions related to municipal flexibility with the Property Tax System and recent proposed legislative amendments relating to property tax and the Request for Reconsideration process.
 - h) Economic Developers Council of Ontario – Introduction to the association and invitation to attend the upcoming annual conference. No one will attend.
- The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table, including cards and emails with condolences for the loss of Mayor Nelson.

Under Old Business, Council discussed the boundary road agreement with the Township of Gillies. Gillies Council met on November 9, 2015 and passed a resolution to close a section of Main Street, beginning at the intersection of Main Street and Prouty Road and ending at the intersection of Main Street and Lysak Road, temporarily, starting December 1, 2015 while they decide what to do with the road issues. They have also asked for a one-year extension of the boundary road agreement. As both O'Connor and Gillies met on November 9th, in their correspondence to the Township of O'Connor they were not aware of O'Connor Council's concerns with regard to signage during the closure. Clerk-Treasurer Buob has contacted their Township office and informed them of these concerns. Council's suggestions with regard to signage and Mr. Johnson's comment with regard to a short 0.2 km section of Main Street between Prouty Road and Sitch Road be added to the Township of Gillies responsibility as they are driving through this area to get to the next section of Main Street which is also their responsibility, have been added into the new draft agreement for their review at their meeting also held tonight. Council approved the draft agreement as presented and will wait to hear if Gillies Council also approved the changes. If so a By-law to enact the one-year agreement will be passed at the next meeting.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Declaring the Mayor's seat vacant. Information from Clerk-Treasurer Buob with regard to procedure, along with information from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing referring to different sections of the different Acts with regard to the declaration and filling the vacancy were read. Information from the Municipal Elections Act regarding a By-election was also read.

- 5. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE SEAT OF MAYOR RON NELSON BE DECLARED VACANT DUE TO HIS DEATH.

Carried

Council had a long discussion with regard to filling the Mayor's seat and it was agreed that the seat will be filled by appointment from within the current Council. Both Councillor Racicot and Vezina expressed interest in the position. The official appointment will be discussed further at the December 7, 2015 Council meeting.

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

THAT THE VACANT SEAT OF MAYOR BE FILLED BY APPOINTMENT.

Carried

As Council has agreed that the vacant Mayor's seat will be filled by one of the current Councillors, this will then result in a vacant Councillor seat. Discussion with regard to whether or not this seat will be filled by appointment or by by-election was had. The Clerk-Treasurer will prepare for the next meeting the estimated cost involved in having a by-election.

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- b) Ministry of Finance – Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) – Letter to the Heads of Council from the Minister of Finance – Charles Sousa and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Ted McMeekin announcing the 2016 OMPF and the 2016 Allocation Notice. The Township of O'Connor will receive \$5,500.00 less than 2015. The decrease will be less than anticipated due to the revised formulas.
- c) Application for Dog Control Officer – One application has been received. It was agreed to move the review of the application to the Closed portion of the meeting.
- d) Ministry of Transportation – News Release – Applications Open for Ontario's New Connecting Links Program on November 19. The Clerk-Treasurer will look into whether or not the Township is eligible for this funding.
- e) Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) – Heads Up Alert – Province to Begin Accepting Applications for Connection Links Program on November 19th.
- f) Update from Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee meeting held on November 19, 2015. Acting Mayor Racicot attended and reported on the meeting. A presentation was made by Mr. Marco Grigio from the Ministry of Natural Resources with regard to hunting on road allowances and the issue it is becoming. They will be forwarding additional information to each Council on how the Townships can assist with the problem.

Ms. Rosalie Evans reported on the Integrity Commissioner appointment. She has spoken with three people who would be willing to fill this position for the six municipalities, as well as Mr. Ian Robson. Each municipality would have to enter into their own agreements with any or all the persons they choose by December 31, 2015. The Township of O'Connor has already appointed Mr. Ian Robson and Council felt that they were comfortable with him in this position and will continue as is, until Mr. Robson is no longer interested.

It was also noted that Ms. Evans reported that the fee for administrative services from her law office which was charged to each municipality for her legal work with regard to Social Services issues will be donated to the Rural Cupboard Food Bank.

The Township of Conmee is working on putting up an addition to their community centre for the Rural Cupboard Food bank and will be looking for letters of support from the surrounding municipalities for their funding application.

The municipalities would also be interested in having an amalgamated emergency "Table Top" exercise for 2016. It was suggested that each municipality share a list of what supplies they have available in their Evacuation Centres in case a neighbouring municipality may need to borrow something.

- g) Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade – Ontario's volunteer recognition programs for 2016. The Clerk-Treasurer was asked to check into the number of years of volunteering the Township's fire fighters between the age of 15 and 24 have to see if they would be eligible for the Young Volunteers award.
- h) Rural Ontario Institute regarding Nominations Open for ROI's Youth Engagement Showcase. No nominations will be made for the program.
- i) Independent Electricity System Operator – Invitation to attend the 2nd Annual Northwest Ontario Electricity Forum to be held on December 2, 2015 in Thunder Bay. Councillor Vezina will be attending.

Under further new business, the Clerk-Treasurer discussed the presentation of the Federal and Provincial forty-year service awards for Fire Chief Mattas. There currently is not a formal ceremony for the presentation for these awards. It was agreed to make the presentation to Fire Chief Mattas at the Township's Christmas party.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed

- a) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) regarding an agreement with FP Innovations to do a research study on the forest industry. They are looking for pictures of wood structures from with the communities. The Township of O'Connor will not submit any photos.

No new building permits were approved since the last meeting.

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The meeting was then closed to discuss a personal matter and to also review the Dog Control Officer application. Ms. Racicot and Mr. Phillips left the meeting. It was

7. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by J. Vezina

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER IN DISCUSS A PERSONAL MATTER ABOUT AN IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING MUNICIPAL OR LOCAL BOARD EMPLOYEES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(E) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001 AND SUBSECTION 239(2)(D) TO DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS.

TIME BEING: 8:42 P.M.

Carried

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

TIME BEING: 8:58 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

Due to Mayor Nelson's passing Council would like to offer the extension of the EFAP for his spouse and it was

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

THAT THE EMPLOYEE AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BE OFFERED TO MAYOR NELSON'S SPOUSE FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.

Carried

The Policy for this program will be reviewed and amended to offer this program for an extended period following a death or departure of enrolled member or family member.

The application from Mr. David Frowen for the position of Dog Control Officer was reviewed and discussed under the Closed portion of the meeting and it was

10. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2015-14 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT A DOG CONTROL OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Council would like Mr. Frowen to attend the next Council meeting to be held on December 7, 2015 to introduce themselves and to meet him.

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

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 9:00 P.M.

Carried