

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 27, 2017

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, November 27, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Mr. Rami El Mawed and Ms. Amalia Rey-McIntyre, Ministry of Transportation
Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer and CEMC – Linda 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 K. Foekens
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

THAT THE NOTES OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 24, 2017 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

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

THAT THE NOTES FROM THE EMERGENCY TABLETOP EXERCISE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017 AND THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mayor Vezina asked Ms. Racicot if she wished to address Council on any personal matters and she replied no.

Mr. El Mawed and Ms. McIntyre were welcomed to the table. Introductions were made. The guests explained that they are here tonight to ask permission for the Ministry of Transportation to use the Township of O'Connor roads for detours during construction of two culvert replacements. One culvert replacement will be on Whitewood Creek on Highway 595 as a design build in 2019, with a requested detour using Smith Road, Garbutt Road and Broome Road. The second replacement would be on Cedar Creek on Highway 590 as a design and bid build in 2020. The detour suggested by the Ministry staff would be to use Pool Road and Cronk Road. Council was then asked if they had any questions or comments to their request.

Council did not have any concerns at this time with the Whitewood Creek closure but did make note that Highway 590 does have a lot of heavy truck traffic with the Taranis gravel pit located just past the culvert location and a lot of logging and chip trucks also use this highway. It was noted that another culvert crossing on Highway 590 at Cedar Creek was changed in 2016 and Council was disappointed that the Ministry did not enter into an agreement with the Township for a detour and the maintenance of the Township roads during this time. They instead posted the detour using the Highway 590 and 588 route which was unacceptable for local traffic. The Township did make arrangements with a couple of the local trucking companies to continue using the Township roads as the proposed route was very time consuming and inconvenient for their businesses and it was suggested perhaps, to address these same safety concerns, they could be approached again. Council informed Mr. El Mawed and Ms. McIntyre that they would like to discuss this further with Mr. Johnson, the Township's Leadhand, and suggested that they come back to a meeting in the new year when he will be in attendance. They agreed to come back and asked that perhaps the Township could send a letter with details of Council's concerns so that they could also discuss them with their supervisors prior to coming back to the meeting so they could perhaps be resolved at the time.

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The question of whether or not a new service treatment on Highway 595 was scheduled in the near future was asked to the Ministry staff. They are unaware of anything scheduled at this time however this would be the maintenance department's project not theirs and they recommended contacting them directly. Mr. El Mawed and Ms. McIntyre left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Fire Chief Mattas and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer and CEMC, Linda Racicot were welcomed to the table.

The Fire Department report from October 23 to November 23, 2017 was read. In the report it was noted that there was one fire related call since the last report. Fire Chief Mattas also noted that since the document was prepared one first response call also came in. The report also included the recent meetings Fire Chief Mattas has attended.

Fire Chief Mattas informed Council that he has recently had drivers abstracts completed for the members of the team, with only two more to do. He also reported on the training trailer which he has been inquiring about getting to place up at the disposal site. He will be getting a trailer from Secure Storage but they are having an issue with getting it here. He has made arrangements with Gary's Towing but the wheels will have to come off of it or it is too high to move. The road department will have to be available upon delivery to help unload it. The trailer will be no charge however there will be transportation costs to get it here. Due to the time of year they will now wait until spring to move it. The trailer will be used for fire department training exercises, having smoke in a building and using their turnout gear, also for search and rescue exercises.

The report on the compressed breathing air analysis at the fire hall was reviewed. Everything is good. The test is required every six months.

The O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary meeting minutes from October 10, 2017 were read. It was noted that in the minutes it states that the ACTAR's were ordered, however Ms. Racicot noted at the November meeting they were informed that there was an issue with the supplier and Ms. Coderre is still looking into ordering them.

A review of the Emergency Tabletop Exercise was held. Ms. Racicot noted that following an exercise the Emergency Management Program Committee must review the exercise. As the majority of the members are in attendance tonight she asked to do this now rather than calling a special meeting. Each member was given the opportunity to make comment on how they felt the exercise went and if they had any comments or concerns. Overall everyone agreed that it was a good exercise and it was well organized. Fire Chief Mattas made note that everyone assumed that it was a large passenger plane that crashed when it was only planned to be a small plane, which perhaps could have been made more clear in the scenario. He also noted that in a large emergency there are not a lot of volunteers to deal with a large scale emergency. The timing of an actual emergency of this size would have taken a lot longer than what was planned in the scenario. It was also suggested that a microphone should have been made available for each person who was speaking.

Ms. Racicot noted that the Emergency Plan and the Emergency Management Program still have some changes to be made and the documents will be coming back to Council for approval as per previous discussions.

It was also suggested that perhaps it could be checked into whether or not CACC's radio equipment could be added to the new cell tower currently being installed next to the municipal office. Fire Chief Mattas will look into this further and he left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Ms. Racicot presented her report with regard to the Development of an Amended Blue Box Program Plan following her attendance at a pre-brief meeting with the City of Thunder Bay and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and a pre-consultation session hosted by Stewardship Ontario. The Township will have options when it comes to recycling in the future. The Township could choose not to transition, staying status quo, meaning that we stay with the current 50% cost recovery. If the Township chooses to transition there are two options. We could turn over the responsibility to Stewardship Ontario to manage our recycling program completely and

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receive no funding from the Ministry or have the Township continue to act as a contract manager and receive compensation for program costs at 100% based on prescribed and benchmarked performance standards. This would include the Township's current expenses for recycling including the bin exchange fees, public education, snowplowing, administration etc. The stewards will be responsible for 75% diversion of their packaging. There was a concern that this diversion could be met in Southern Ontario and the North would not be compensated at all. They have confirmed that they are looking at catchment areas and each catchment would be responsible for 75% diversion. At this time only #1 & #2 bottle neck plastics are recycled in our area. Under the new amended program we will have the opportunity to recycle all plastics and glass. The timeline for submission to the Ministry from the Stewardship for the proposed new Blue Box Program Plan is February 15, 2018 with a draft of the plan being released in December 2017. Ms. Racicot recommends that Council wait on making a decision on how to proceed until the Municipal Resource Recovery and Research Collaborative (M3RC) provides the draft council report in January. Council did have concerns with this new program and will await the draft.

Council agreed to move item 12b) Ministry of Finance - Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) – 2018 Allocations forward on the agenda to also discuss with Ms. Racicot. The Township's funding will once again be dropping from the previous year's allocation with the amount being \$21,700 less than 2017. This amount continues to go down each year making a significant impact on the Township's budgets.

Ms. Racicot was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Resolutions for endorsement were reviewed as follows:

- a) Town of Ingersoll and the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock calling upon the Government of Ontario and all political parties to formally grant municipalities the authority to approve landfill projects in or adjacent to their communities, prior to June 2018 was filed.
- b) National Eating Disorder Information Centre - Outreach and Education Team regarding Eating Disorder Awareness Week – February 1 - 7, 2018 was filed.

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) Position Paper – Food for Thought: An Evidence-Based Proposal for School-Based Hot Meal Programs in the District of Thunder Bay was read.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) i) – Minutes – October 19, 2017 meeting
- ii) Notes from the Meeting with the Ministry of Transportation held November 6, 2017. Mayor Vezina noted that in the notes, with regard to Mayor Vezina's comments with regard to historic change for Highway 590, it should read Highway 595.
- iii) Clerk-Treasurer Buob reported on the November 16, 2017 meeting and questions from Mayor Kloosterhuis regarding upcoming meetings were discussed. The Rural Cupboard Food Bank made a deputation to the group at the meeting with regard to provisions of food during an emergency. They now have enough supplies available in their new location to offer the resource of food if required by a municipality for an evacuation centre in our communities during an emergency. They would supply the food and the Township would then reimburse them for the actual costs to replace them. This food is completely rotated at least every six months. This way we would not need to have emergency food on hand, as we currently do. Council did still want to have some supplies available here as well but liked the idea and agreed that the food bank contact information will be added to our emergency plan.

The appointments to the Lakehead Police Services Board, the joint board with the Municipality of Neebing and the Township's of Gillies, O'Connor and Conmee were also briefly discussed and it was agreed that each municipality would appoint one member at this time and the board would start their meetings in the near future. Ms. Evans will make the necessary arrangements and each Council will have to make their official appointments.

A quick update on the Thunder Bay DSSAB was made. It was noted that the agendas are available on their website and the Kakabeka Falls office will remain open for another year.

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With regard to Mayor Kloosterhuis' questions for each Council to consider was the attendance at the LRMC meetings. The LRMC meetings are currently being held on the third Thursday of the month. In 2018 the TBDSSAB will be changing their meeting to the third Thursday of the month and Mayor Kloosterhuis is asking if the group would considering changing the LRMC meetings to the fourth Thursday so they are not meeting on the same day as three members of the board are also members of the LRMC. Council did not see an issue with this. The second question was related to attendance, some Heads of Council have not always been available to attend and she would like to know whether or not each Council feel that if this is the case an alternate attend. Council did agree that an alternate should attend. The third question was with regard to the location of the meetings. Would Council prefer that the meetings go back to a rotation as they have in the past or stay central in Oliver Paipoonge. Council agreed that they wish to continue to use the Oliver Paipoonge Council chambers. These items will be discussed further at the upcoming December LRMC meeting and Council opinions will be brought forward.

- b) Ministry of Finance – Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund – 2018 Allocations was discussed earlier on the agenda.
- c) Ministry of Municipal Affairs / Minister of Labour – regarding Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act (Bill 148). The letter acknowledged the municipalities concerns with regard to this Bill and noted that the Ministry have brought forward amendments. If the amendments are approved there will be exemptions to the on-call pay.
- d) Ernie Hardeman, MPP Oxford, PC Critic for Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding Bill 148 amendments. Mr. Hardeman, along with MPP John Yakubuski, PC Critic for Labour will be putting forward amendments to the Bill.
- e) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) - MPAC News – November 2017.
- f) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) –
 - i) Watch File – November 16, 2017.
 - ii) Watch File – November 23, 2017. Council agreed that the Watch Files are available on the AMO website for Council's review and they will not be copied and added to the agenda unless there are topics pertaining directly to the Township.
 - iii) AMO Communications – Call to Action – Talk to Your MPPs about Legislated Protection for Fire-Medic Approach for Municipalities.
 - iv) AMO Communications – New Apprenticeship Grant, Tax Cuts for Small Business at Centre of Fall Economic Statement.
 - v) AMO Communications – 2018 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund Allocations
 - vi) AMO Queen's Park Legislative Update.
 - vii) AMO Communications – Federal Government Releases National Housing Strategy.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed:

- a) The AMO Communications – New Policing Legislation Introduced in Queen's Park November 2, 2017. This release follows a five-year review by the Future of Policing Advisory Committee. This document was discussed at the last LRMC meeting with several concerns being noted. In the communications it mentions that this new legislation will have municipal cost associated with the changes. Municipalities will be required to establish an advisory committee with a prescribed membership that shall include community service representatives from LHINs, health care, education, social services, child services, an elected official, a police service board member, and others as prescribed. The committee will develop a plan to mitigate crime, victimization, addiction, drug overdose, suicide, prioritize risk factors, provide new services, and set measureable outcomes related to public safety services. A failure to comply with this requirement will result in the appointment of a community safety planner by the Ministry who would be empowered to exercise the powers of a municipal council. The cost of appointing a planner would be charged to the municipality. This requirement treats all municipal governments from the smallest to the largest, exactly the same. The government does not demonstrate the value of developing such a plan if it cannot be successfully implemented. In this document it is suggesting that a number of functions could be overseen by a police service, but delivered by others. They include ground services for missing persons, some types of minor property offences like break-ins or vehicle theft, directing traffic, and crime scene security, etc. Court security and prisoner transportation could also be delivered in more efficient ways but changes in these areas are now restricted. AMO also understands from this document that the proposal would reduce the number of OPP community policing advisory committees and police service boards by consolidating

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into one per detachment.

Council have a concern with the increasing levy for the OPP services and now the proposed reduction in these services, the extra requirements being assigned to municipalities and the additional costs associated with them.

- b) Joint Police Services Board – Appointment to the Board. As was previous discussed if Council were to have a seat on the Board Councillor Loan would be interested and it was
3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT COUNCILLOR JERRY LOAN BE APPOINTED AS THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LAKEHEAD RURAL POLICE SERVICES BOARD FOR THE BALANCE OF THIS TERM OF COUNCIL.

Carried

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Kristal Carlson's request for permission to continue living in their garage through the winter of 2017 – 2018. Council discussed the situation and it was
4. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by Chantal Alkins

THAT KRISTAL AND JASON CARLSON BE GIVEN PERMISSION TO CONTINUE LIVING IN THEIR GARAGE, LOCATED AT 889 HIGHWAY 590, THROUGH THE WINTER OF 2017 – 2018 UNTIL THEY CONSTRUCT THEIR NEW HOME IN 2018.

Carried

- b) Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy – Launch Event held November 23, 2017. As an invitation to this event arrived after the last Council meeting and attendance was not previously discussed by Council and Councillor Racicot's attended the event, it was
5. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by B. J. Loan

THAT COUNCILLOR RACICOT ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY AND AREA FOOD STRATEGY – LAUNCH EVENT HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2017 IN THUNDER BAY.

REGISTRATION FEE – N/C

Carried

Councillor Racicot provided some facts with regard to local food market that were presented at the launch.

- c) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding Proposed Changes to the Municipal Act and Municipal Elections Act. The changes provide an exemption to the requirement of 25 signatures endorsing a candidate's nomination for those candidates in municipalities with less than 4,000 electors. Third Party Advertising will also be regulated in the 2018 municipal election.
- d) Gravel Watch Ontario – regarding Cornerstone Standards Council (CSC) Municipal Outreach letter.

Under further new business Mayor Vezina brought to Council's attention an AMO – Bill 68 workshop which has been scheduled for the day prior to the ROMA Conference in January and asked Council for their opinion on whether or not they felt it was worth it for him to attend. It was agreed that he will not attend.

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

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- a) Ministry of Municipal Affairs – regarding Implementation of a tax on transient accommodation which will come into force on December 1, 2017. The 2017 Ontario Budget proposed that single-tier and lower-tier municipalities be provided the authority to implement a tax on transient accommodation, should they choose to do so. The municipality will be required to share revenues from the tax with eligible not-for-profit tourism organizations. The Township will not implement this tax at this time as we do not have any transient accommodations.
- b) Request from Copperfin Credit Union's Commercial Account Manager to meet with Clerk-Treasurer. Council agreed that the representative should be addressing Council not the Clerk-Treasurer at this time. The Clerk-Treasurer will ask him if he would like to do a deputation to Council in the new year.
- c) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – December Newsletter. The Information with regard to the Thunder Bay OPP 6th Annual Stuff a Cruiser campaign which will be held at the Odena in Kakabeka Falls on December 9th for the Rural Cupboard Food Bank will be included in the December issue of the Cornerstone.

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

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

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.**

TIME BEING: 9:25 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer