

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – OCTOBER 11, 2016

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand

Absent: Councillor Alkins, Councillor Foekens

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016 AND THE NOTES FROM THE TOWNSHIP INSPECTION, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2016 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

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

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was then invited to the table. He provided a verbal update on the recent repairs to the road equipment. Truck #9 repairs are complete and the final bill did come in higher than the quoted price. The water pump was one of the items that was replaced as an extra. An annual safety will also be completed on this truck in the near future. Truck #7 will be going into the shop for walking beam repairs, and while it is there they will also be doing the annual safety on it. The backhoe has had some line boring and pin replacements done to the front bucket. Mr. Johnson noted that he will not be doing the injection work on the backhoe as per budget. After looking into the problem further, the throttle cable was stretched and once this was adjusted it is working much better.

Mr. Johnson also reported that the cause of the breakdown of the compactor at the disposal site in the late summer was a small hydraulic valve. It has since been replaced and was working well, however the truck was down again on Saturday, October 8th due to a belt issue. Mr. Johnson will have it fixed before the site is open for next Saturday.

Roadwork in general was discussed. Ms. Earl has been laid off. The flood repairs have been completed. Some ditching will still have to be completed as per budget. Three culvert replacements on the road system are complete and there are three more to do. Five driveway culverts were also replaced this year. He will not be taking on anymore contract work this season.

The Township Inspection held on October 4<sup>th</sup> was discussed. It was noted that the Highway 590 road closure was opened up on Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. The Township's road system held up not too bad with all the extra traffic. The Broome road arch culvert bolt issue was discussed. Mayor Vezina and Mr. Johnson will look at the culvert to see if it is still settling. If there is no further movement he will look at having the new bolts installed.

A concern that was brought up during the Township Inspection was the Ministry of Natural Resources pit, leased by the Ministry of Transportation and located on Strom road within the Township of O'Connor. The Township currently does not receive any royalties from the Province for the gravel removed from the pit. Currently, pit owners are required to pay royalties to the municipality in which the pit is located. It was noted that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is currently reviewing the Aggregate Resources Act in Ontario and it was suggested that a comment be submitted in this regard. The aggregate is being removed from the Township and the trucks hauling from

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this pit are using the Township road system and the Township should be compensated whether it is a Ministry owned pit or not. It was also suggested that the Ministry be reminded that if the Ministry of Transportation were to give up their interest in the pit the Township of O'Connor would be interested in acquiring the permit for it.

It was noted that there were no major concerns or issues that were identified during the inspection.

Mayor Vezina reported that he attended a meeting earlier today with the Minister of Transportation and he did briefly bring up about the flooding June 25th and the Highway 590 road closure. It was suggested that the Regional Director of the Ministry of Transportation be invited out to an upcoming meeting to discuss the detour used for this closure.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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

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

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR SEPTEMBER 2016 TOTTALLING \$112,419.12 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

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

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

<b>CK#13873</b>	<b>HYDRO ONE (STREETLIGHTING)</b>	<b>\$ 64.84</b>
<b>CK#13874</b>	<b>TOROMONT CAT</b>	<b>\$ 124.79</b>
<b>CK#13875</b>	<b>PEROZAK'S WELDING INC. (420 BACKHOE)</b>	<b>\$2,183.50</b>
<b>CK#13876</b>	<b>TBAYTEL (TELEPHONE)</b>	<b><u>\$ 427.69</u></b>
		<b>\$2,800.82</b>

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to September 30, 2016 were reviewed.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) regarding work to close the fiscal gap.  
It was

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

**WHEREAS RECENT POLLING, CONDUCTED ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO INDICATES 76% OF ONTARIANS ARE CONCERNED OR SOMEWHAT CONCERNED PROPERTY TAXES WILL NOT COVER THE COST OF INFRASTRUCTURE WHILE MAINTAINING MUNICIPAL SERVICES, AND 90% AGREE MAINTAINING SAFE INFRASTRUCTURE IS AN IMPORTANT PRIORITY FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES;**

**AND WHEREAS INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSIT ARE IDENTIFIED BY ONTARIANS AS THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS FACING THEIR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT;**

**AND WHEREAS A TEN-YEAR PROJECTION (2016-2025) OF MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES AGAINST INFLATIONARY PROPERTY TAX AND USER FEE INCREASES, SHOWS THERE TO BE AN UNFUNDED AVERAGE ANNUAL NEED OF \$3.6 BILLION TO FIX LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROVIDE FOR MUNICIPAL OPERATING NEEDS;**

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**AND WHEREAS THE \$3.6 BILLION AVERAGE ANNUAL NEED WOULD EQUATE TO ANNUAL INCREASES OF 4.6% (INCLUDING INFLATION) TO PROVINCE-WIDE PROPERTY TAX REVENUE FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS;**

**AND WHEREAS THIS GAP CALCULATION ALSO PRESUMES ALL EXISTING AND MULTI-YEAR PLANNED FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL TRANSFERS TO MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS ARE FULFILLED;**

**AND WHEREAS IF FUTURE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL TRANSFERS ARE UNFULFILLED BEYOND 2015 LEVELS, IT WOULD REQUIRE ANNUAL PROVINCE-WIDE PROPERTY TAX REVENUE INCREASES OF UP TO 8.35% FOR TEN YEARS;**

**AND WHEREAS ONTARIANS ALREADY PAY THE HIGHEST PROPERTY TAXES IN THE COUNTRY;**

**AND WHEREAS EACH MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN ONTARIO FACES UNIQUE ISSUES, THE FISCAL HEALTH AND NEEDS ARE A CHALLENGE WHICH UNITES ALL MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, REGARDLESS OF SIZE;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO IN ITS WORK TO CLOSE THE FISCAL GAP; SO THAT ALL MUNICIPALITIES CAN BENEFIT FROM PREDICTABLE AND SUSTAINABLE REVENUE, TO FINANCE THE PRESSING INFRASTRUCTURE AND MUNICIPAL SERVICE NEEDS FACED BY ALL MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS.**

Carried

- b) City of Belleville supporting Agricultural Experts in their fields was filed
- c) Township of Madawaska Valley supporting the changes to the parole system proposed in the Private Member's Bill was filed.

Mayor Vezina provided an update on the current DSSAB issues. He noted that he missed the last meeting held with the Area One municipalities. He informed Council that a meeting has been scheduled with the Deputy Minister of Community and Social Services on October 21, 2016. If he cannot make it due to work he will let Council know as someone from O'Connor should be in attendance.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Department of Finance Canada – reply letter to Council with regard to their endorsed resolution regard campgrounds and small business tax deduction.
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watch File September 29, 2016.  
ii) Watch File October 6, 2016.  
iii) AMO Communications – Construction Lien Act Review. A report is available on line.  
iv) AMO Communications – Highlights of the September 2016 Board Meeting.
- v) AMO Communications – Arbitrated Settlement with the OPPA. The Ontario Government and the Ontario Provincial Police Association have reached an arbitrated decision and this award will have significant budgetary impacts for municipal governments. The OPP advised that estimate to actual cost reconciliations for 2015 and 2016 would not be completed until 2018 Annual Billing Statement. AMO will be pursuing this matter to have this reconciliation done sooner.
- c) Ministry of Municipal Affairs – Minister Bill Mauro – regarding ROMA's Annual meeting and conference. Councillor Racicot will be attending this conference. Council requested that the Clerk-Treasurer contact the surrounding municipalities to see who else will be attending and consider putting in a request for a delegation meeting with the Ministers. Suggested topics were discussed.
- d) Stewardship Ontario – regarding Industry Funding for Municipal Blue Box Recycling.
- e) Northern Policy Institute – New commentary suggests a prosperous future for Northern Ontario rests on how we are governed.
- f) Canadian Union of Postal Workers – regarding another opportunity to have your say in Canada Post review. No comments will be made at this time.
- g) Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport – regarding Ontario Support for the Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015.

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- h) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – regarding Introduction of Legislation to Amend the Aggregate Resources Act. It was noted that Council would like to make a comment to the Ministry in regard to the issue previously discussed with regard to no royalties being paid to the municipalities when the pit is owned by the Ministry. The Township is losing the aggregate from within their boundaries and are responsible for maintaining the road system in which the trucks and traffic entering the pit are using.
  - i) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of the Attorney General – regarding the review of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).
  - j) Municipal Tax Equity Consultants – introduction to the Northern Service Alliance. Council were not interested in becoming members at this time.
- The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Thunder Bay District Municipal League – October 28 & 29, 2016 and who will be attending. A draft agenda was also reviewed. It was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN OLIVER PAIPOONGE ON OCTOBER 28 & 29, 2016.**

**MAYOR VEZINA, COUNCILLORS LOAN AND RACICOT, CLERK-TREASURER BUOB.**

**REGISTRATION: \$175.00**

Carried

- b) A Township Emergency Table Top Exercise possible date – The Clerk-Treasurer contacted Mr. Coupland in this regard and his reply was forwarded to Council. The Township of O'Connor has met its requirements of the Ministry by participating in the June 22, 2016 table top exercise and the emergency training session held in Oliver Paipoonge. He also noted that the Township of O'Connor was the only municipality who included their fire department and first response teams in the exercise. The exercise is usually just for the Community Control Group (CCG). He also noted that he would be willing to assist with an exercise, however we have had another emergency this year and our group is aware of how to deal with an emergency. Council discussed his comments and agreed to not hold our own table top exercise this year.
- c) Ministry of Municipal Affairs – request for assistance for flood damage which occurred on June 25, 2016. The Township is required, as part of the Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance program to pass a resolution requesting assistance. It was

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

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM THE MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS THROUGH THE MUNICIPAL DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE DAMAGE THAT OCCURRED DURING THE JUNE 25, 2016 FLOOD.**

Carried

Under further old business, Council asked about the installation of the air conditioner in the municipal office and Council chambers. Clerk-Treasurer Buob will follow up with the contractor to see when they will be doing the installation.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – i) Annual Billing Statement for 2017. The Township of O'Connor OPP costs will be \$71,727 for 2017, up by \$13,528 from 2016.  
ii) 2017 OPP Municipal Policing Billing General Information.
- b) Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs – Minimum Distance Separation – update information session. The Clerk-Treasurer will inquire further into the webinar and may participate in the one to be held on December 8, 2016.

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- c) Request for donation for O'Connor Fire Department Auxiliary 2-bit auction to be held October 15, 2016. The money raised from this event is used to purchase equipment and gear for the O'Connor Fire Department. It was
7. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by B. J. Loan

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR MAKE A DONATION TO THE O'CONNOR FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY FOR THEIR UPCOMING 2-BIT AUCTION TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 15, 2016 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200.00.**

Carried

- d) Don Rusnak, MP – Thunder Bay-Rainy River – invitation for consultations. There are three pre-budget consultations and a National Housing Strategy Consultation to be held throughout the week. It was
8. Moved by B. J. Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE UPCOMING PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION WITH MP PATTY HAJDU (THUNDER BAY – SUPERIOR NORTH) AND MP DON RUSNAK (THUNDER BAY – RAINY RIVER) TO BE HELD DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 11 TO 14, 2016.**

**MAYOR VEZINA & COUNCILLOR LOAN**

Carried

- e) Municipality of Neebing – regarding West Oliver Lake Recreation Area – Open House to be held October 12, 2016. No one from Council will attend.
- f) Ernie Hardeman, MPP Oxford – request for input on Bill 7, Promoting Affordable Housing Act. No comments will be submitted.
- g) North of Superior Travel Association – NOSTA's 40th Annual General Meeting – no one will attend.
- h) Fairtax – The Strategic Recovery Solution – Offering services for assistance with funding opportunities. A draft agreement for reference of services was reviewed. It was agreed that the cost was too high and Council will not enter into an agreement with them.

Under further new business, Mayor Vezina reported on the meeting he attended earlier in the day with the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Steven Del Duca. Other Mayors and members of Council from the Thunder Bay District were also in attendance.

For information purposes a building permit was approved for a new home at 32 Chambers Road.

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

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 8:56 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer