

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - NOTES
TOWNSHIP INSPECTION OCTOBER 4, 2016

Notes of the Township Inspection held on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. starting at the municipal office.

Present: Councillors: Alkins, Foekens, Loan
Clerk-Treasurer Buob
Leadhand K. Johnson

Absent: Mayor Vezina, Councillor Racicot

Acting Mayor Foekens called the meeting to order and the Township Inspection began at 8:35 a.m.

The Township Inspection began with a tour of the south side of the Township, starting at Connolly Road. Mr. Johnson pointed out the road projects which have been completed in 2016, as well as some of the work that has also been done in the past couple of years, for our newest Councillor, Councillor Alkins. Sitch Road, between Connolly and Earl road was resurfaced under the Federal Gas Tax funding this year.

Mr. Johnson informed Council that the Pitch Creek arch culvert did have some protective rocks, on the downstream side of the culvert, wash away during the June 25, 2016 flood. The replacement of the rocks will be done this week with a permit approved for emergency flood repairs. If the work was to be left until the spring, further damage could occur with the spring runoff and high waters.

It was noted that there is a tree on the hydro line on Rosengren road west, just past emergency number 12. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact Hydro one to have it removed.

The Road Department is working on Earl Road in preparation for the Ministry of Transportation road closure in 2018, where they have requested the use of both Earl Road and Connolly Road for their detour. The road was resurfaced from Highway 595 to Sitch Road this year under the OCIF funding, as well, some of the deeper culverts were changed out. There will also be a couple more smaller culverts replaced this fall. Earl road from Sitch road to Allan road will be resurfaced in 2017.

Mr. Johnson noted that Allan road, the boundary road between O'Connor and Marks Township, was in very poor shape in the spring. He has put some B gravel on the road, and the Ministry has added some finer material on top to cap the surface. The Township will try to grade the road this week. The Ministry does plow the road in the winter.

The Township of Gillies' Main Street road closure and barricades were looked at. The Township of O'Connor formerly maintained this portion of Main Street as part of the boundary road agreement. As that portion of the road is in the Township of Gillies, their Council are still looking into whether or not they are going to close the road permanently or do the maintenance required. Mr. Johnson noted that this is the better hill to get into Hymers however the trees need to be removed on the west side of the road to allow for proper drainage and visibility.

Bridge #1 on Blaikie road, over the Whitefish River was looked at. It was noted that the approaches will need to be re-asphalted in the next few years. The warning marker on the east side of the bridge has been damaged and should be replaced. The high water marks and the flooding that have occurred on Blaikie road and Diana road over the past few years were discussed. It was noted that Mr. Johnson will again be closing off the one section of the Y intersections off of Diana road onto Blaikie road for the winter.

The ditches along the road at the intersection of Cliffmclean and Highway 588 were discussed. As a result of the June 25th flood cleanup and ditching is still required and will be completed in the next few weeks.

The Smith Road – bridge #2 was looked at and it was noted that this is the only wooden deck left in the Township. The culvert on Smith road just before bridge #3 was replaced this year after the flood on June 25th. The road was closed at this location during the flood, fixed temporarily to reopen and allow traffic to flow and then closed again during

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the installation of the new culvert. Bridge #3 does need bearings replaced as noted in the bridge inspections and is the Township's next priority with regard to major bridge repairs.

The new arch culvert on Broome Road over Cedar Creek was looked at. A tree was jammed in the structure and Mr. Johnson will have it removed. He will also follow up with regard to the replacement of the broken bolts. There were still mud marks on the culvert, showing the height of the water from the June 25th flood. The water was running through at full capacity.

The Helipad was inspected. It was noted that the cones that were stolen last year were found in the spring of this year and have been put in place along with the new one that was ordered.

Mr. Johnson informed Council of a stolen yield sign at the intersection of Pool and Whittaker road just prior to the Highway 595 detour.

Pool Road will also still require ditching from the June 25th flood. Three garbage bags were noticed in the ditch on Pool road. The Highway 590 direct route to the disposal site is currently closed and a different route is required to get there. Mr. Johnson had already picked up two other bags in the ditch last week.

Also due to the Highway 590 road closure, traffic, including commercial traffic have been using Cronk road, as well as Sovereign, Fleming and Strom roads as a detour even though the Ministry of Transportation has their numbered Highways marked as the route. Due to the detour's length of 30 km, traffic is using the Township road system. Two of the local contractors have been cooperating with the Township by using one-way directional traffic to avoid the meeting of the large trucks on our sideroads. The Cronk road has been holding up fairly well, with minor maintenance.

Mr. Johnson noted that he has had a traffic counter on the end of Cronk Road near the intersection of Highway 595 for the past two weeks and will leave it up again when the Highway is reopened to see what the additional amount of traffic was during the Highway closure.

The rest of the roads in the North East corner of the Township were toured and lunch was had in Kakabeka Falls from 11:55 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.

The tour continued with an inspection of the O'Connor cemetery. It was noted that the culvert at the entrance of the cemetery off of Highway 590 is crushed. Mr. Johnson will contact the Ministry of Transportation to inform them. It was noted that the cremated ashes garden will need the shrubs trimmed up and plots cleared of weeds. The maps will also be brought into the office for updating.

The final roads, Sovereign, Fleming and Strom were driven, this being the second part of the detour the traffic is using due to the Highway 590 road closure. The Township of Conmee does maintain the first half of Fleming road, and they have graded the road three times, once prior to and twice during the closure. On the second half of Fleming road, Mr. Johnson, in preparation for the additional traffic, had the road allowance brushed and the road graded with additional material added. Since the closure he has also added approximately twenty loads of gravel. Strom Road has held up to the extra traffic.

The Disposal site was inspected. It was noted that the hours of operation on the entrance sign will have to be updated to the new 9 a.m. opening. It was also noticed that the sign indicating where the fridges and freezers are to be placed is still indicating that the resident has to pay to drop them off. As this is not the case, Mr. Johnson, will have the sign removed and place a new sign, similar to the other areas, indicating where to drop them off. It was also noted that the electronics bin door was left open and was almost full. The Clerk-Treasurer will request a pickup. There are still several microwaves in the old storage bin. This will also be looked into to see what can be done with them.

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The Ministry of Natural Resources' pit on Strom Road, used by the Ministry of Transportation was briefly discussed. It was noted that the Township does not receive any royalties from the Ministry for any material pulled from the pit, like any private pit owner would be required to pay to other municipalities.

During the inspection the locations of new building permits this year were also pointed out.

The inspection returned to the Municipal garage and Fire hall at 1:35 p.m. The buildings and yards were inspected. It was noted that two of the tires on the Fire Departments quad were low. The Clerk-Treasurer will notify the Fire Chief. It was also noted that there were no signs posted not to drink the water in the fire hall. The Clerk-Treasurer will follow up on this regard. The cold storage building was looked at. Now that the 4 x 4 has been sold there is more storage space available. Overall the Fire Hall was very clean and neatly kept. The municipal garage and equipment were also looked at. The garage was also in a neat and tidy condition. Mr. Johnson noted that the emergency generator needs a new battery. How often an inspection of the above-ground fuel tanks is required was questioned. Mr. Johnson will look into this further to confirm.

The outdoor rink and recreation area was looked at. The basketball nets will be taken down for the winter, the rink surface will be cleaned off once the leaves have finished falling and Jesse Buob will be requested to come and pickup his tires used for his exercise classes, which he is no longer doing here. Also the kick boards need to be secured to the boards in a few different places.

It was noted that the security cameras and signage have been installed around the grounds of the Community Centre.

The O'Connor Community Centre was inspected. The platform lift was tested. The furnaces, fuel tanks and water system were looked at. The basement kitchen was also looked at. The cover over the air exchange unit will have to be put up for the winter months and a cabinet for utensils still has to be purchased, as per budget.

The municipal office building was also looked at and there were no major concerns with any of the buildings. The inspection ended and it was

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

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP INSPECTION ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.**

TIME BEING: 2:30 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer