

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, September 12, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Mr. Chad Tanner, Account Manager, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC)
Kelly Johnson, Leadhand – arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Absent: Councillor Alkins, Councillor Loan

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 16 c) i) and ii) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mr. Chad Tanner was welcomed to the meeting. Introductions were made and Mayor Vezina turned the meeting over to Mr. Tanner. Mr. Tanner gave a brief history with regard to his position with MPAC. His role is to be the liaison with municipal staff and Council with regard to sharing of information, issues and concerns. If Council have any concerns at any time he is willing to come out to a meeting to discuss them.

Mr. Tanner continued with a power point presentation, including information with regard to the background of the Ontario Assessment System, delivering of the 2016 Assessment update initiatives, including the residential experience, assessment notices, mailing dates and RFR deadlines. Two way service level agreements between each municipality and MPAC are currently being written with four representatives from Northwestern Ontario on the committee. The MPAC websites and the information they provide with regard to each resident's individual property, municipal information and MPAC information in general were discussed. Five video tutorials can be found on the About My Property website. New brochures have been developed with regard to the different types of properties. Mr. Tanner's presentation also included comparisons of the Residential Market Trends from 2016 to 2017, comparing the Township of O'Connor to the rest of Ontario as well as the comparison of the 2012 Current Value Assessment (CVA) to 2016 CVA for the Township of O'Connor. An additional comparison of the CVA for the six surrounding municipalities and the City of Thunder Bay was also discussed. Mr. Tanner noted that the Township of O'Connor had 58 property sales to use as comparison during this process.

Council informed Mr. Tanner that they feel that all of the new assessments for the Township of O'Connor are too high. This will affect the Township of O'Connor's weighted assessment value used by outside agencies for service invoicing. It was noted that the markets were high but they are coming back down and the assessed values are no longer accurate. It was suggested that a letter be sent to MPAC informing them of this.

Mr. Tanner was asked if he knows how many property owners in O'Connor did appeal their new assessment value and what the results were. The deadline for residential properties was August 30, 2016. Mr. Tanner was not aware of the numbers at this point and noted that the results have not all be determined. He did note that this information is available on Municipal Connect 2.0. Council thanked Mr. Tanner for attending and he left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table. He provided Council with an update with regard to the Township road equipment. Currently truck #9 is in for repairs with regard to the engine running rough and Mr. Johnson is waiting on results of the problem. Truck #7 will also be going in for walking beam and brake repairs. Safeties will also be done on both trucks this fall.

Roadwork in general was discussed. Culverts on Earl Road have been installed. They are still working on flood repairs from the June flood. Ditching is still required on a couple of roads and rock will need to be put in place at Pitch Creek but do to timing, will have to wait until next year when they can work in the creek again. Mr. Johnson will get a quote for the cost so that it can be submitted for funding.

A letter from the Ministry of Transportation, dated August 2, 2016 with regard to the Cedar Creek #3 Replacement on Highway 590 and the proposed detour route was discussed. The Ministry of Transportation cannot commit to the Township of O'Connor's road improvements as outlined in the July 8, 2016 letter and the Ministry has decided to proceed with a detour route utilizing and signing Highway 595 & 588 for the duration of the construction.

A notice from Ministry of Transportation and LH North Ltd. with regard to the Temporary Road Closure for Highway 590 Cedar Creek Culvert detour was reviewed. Included on the notice was a map showing the detour route. It was noted that this detour route is 30 km in length.

The Township is aware that this route is not going to be used by the travelling public, that knows the area, due to its length. The Township road system will be used and the road department has tried to do some maintenance prior to the traffic, including brushing and some gravel applied on Fleming Road, as well, calcium was applied on Cronk, Sovereign, Strom and Fleming roads. Slow signs have been posted.

Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to contact the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority to see if we can borrow their traffic counter to get an idea of how much traffic is using Cronk road.

Mr. Johnson has spoken with Firesteel Contractors and Taranis Contracting Group. They have been asked to use Fleming road when heading west empty and Cronk Road heading East to try to alleviate the amount of traffic on one road as well try to avoid trucks meeting on the roads. They are both willing to cooperate with the Township to make this road closure run smoothly. They will be policing their own trucks and want to be made aware of any concerns.

The Clerk-Treasurer provided a list of what has transpired as of today, day one of the road closure. Two complaints were received before 9:30 this morning with regard to the speed of the trucks. Since then both companies have been notified and have talked to their drivers. It was noted that one of the culverts on Cronk Road in Marks Township was showing some signs of sinking and the Ministry was notified.

Mr. Johnson also discussed his call out list for extra drivers during the winter months. The list has currently dwindled down and he needs to get more names of people to call in case of illness, holidays or long snow storms where the drivers are limited to their hours of work. A notice will be put in the next issue of the Cornerstone and Council was also asked to spread the word.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Bills to be paid were passed around the table and it was

2. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR AUGUST 2016
TOTALLING \$80,796.39 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

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

**THAT THE ROADS VOUCHER FOR ARMTEC FOR AUGUST 2016
TOTALLING \$11,238.07 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

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

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

CK#13813	TBAYTEL	\$426.56
CK#13814	HYDRO ONE	\$ 65.81
CK#13815	KELLY JOHNSON (MEDICAL/DENTAL)	\$ 35.00
CK#13816	HOLLAND ENTERPRISES	<u>\$796.65</u>
		\$1,324.02

Carried

The Statements of Revenue and Expenditure to August 31, 2016 were reviewed. It was noted that the posting of the DSSAB payments and the escrow payments will be discussed with the auditor to confirm how they should be posted.

Consent applications were discussed as follows:

- a) Application 1B/22/16 – Part North Half Lot 9, Concession 1 – Woodbeck. It was

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

**THAT THE CONSENT APPLICATION 1B/22/16 FOR DANIEL WOODBECK
FOR THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS PART NORTH HALF LOT 9,
CONCESSION 1, PARCEL 3086 FOR A SEVERANCE OF 10.14 HECTARES
BE APPROVED.**

Carried

- b) Lakehead Rural Planning Board – Decision regarding Application 1B/21/16 – O'Loughlin. The application was approved by the Board.

Opening of quotes for air conditioning for the Municipal office and quotes/estimates for air conditioning and heating for the O'Connor Community Centre were opened. Three were received. It was

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

**THAT THE QUOTE OF HEATPRO SALES & SERVICES FOR THE
INSTALLATION OF AIR CONDITIONING IN THE O'CONNOR MUNICIPAL
OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,800.00 PLUS HST BE ACCEPTED.**

Carried

The quotes/estimates for the Community Centre will be used in the application for funding to the Ontario 150 Community Capital Program if Council agree later on the agenda to submit an application.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Cheryl Gallant, M.P. regarding Small Campground Taxation Issue and it was

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

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WHEREAS, CAMPING IS ABOUT CELEBRATING THE GREAT OUTDOORS AND IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR NATION'S HISTORY AND OUR IDENTITY AS CANADIANS;

WHEREAS NEARLY 5.8 MILLION CANADIANS GO CAMPING EACH YEAR, ALONG WITH NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL VISITORS WHO WANT TO EXPERIENCE THE NATURAL WONDER OF OUR COUNTRY;

WHEREAS CAMPGROUNDS ARE ACTIVE, LABOUR-INTENSIVE, RECREATIONAL, HOSPITALITY BUSINESSES THAT PROVIDE AFFORDABLE VACATIONING OPTION FOR MIDDLE-CLASS CANADIAN FAMILIES AND INTERNATIONAL VISITORS WITH MANY CAMPGROUNDS IN CANADA BEING FAMILY-RUN SMALL BUSINESSES THAT HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR GENERATIONS;

WHEREAS CAMPGROUNDS ACROSS CANADA HAVE BEGUN RECEIVING NOTICES FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WARNING THEM OF REASSESSMENTS AS THEY ARE DEEMED TO BE TOO SMALL TO QUALIFY FOR THE SMALL BUSINESS TAX DEDUCTION, BECAUSE MANY FAMILY-RUN CAMPGROUNDS DO NOT HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES TO QUALIFY FOR THE SMALL BUSINESS TAX RATE;

WHEREAS SOME FAMILY-RUN CAMPGROUNDS WILL NOW BE TAXED AT TRIPLE THE RATE OF OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES – RATES HIGHER THAN EVEN CANADA'S BIGGEST BILLION DOLLAR BUSINESSES, WITH PENALTIES AND INTEREST, BACK TAX BILLS WILL BE IN THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS, CRIPPLING OTHERWISE HEALTHY BUSINESSES, AND LEADING TO RUIN FOR OTHERS;

WHEREAS THE 2016 FEDERAL BUDGET ABRUPTLY CONCLUDED A PROMISED 2015 REVIEW OF THESE TAX RULES;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HEREBY RESPECTFULLY URGES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SET-ASIDE THESE AUDITS UNTIL THE UNCLEAR AND UNFAIR APPLICATION OF THESE RULES CAN BE RESOLVED.

AND FURTHER, TO DO THAT, WE REQUIRE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE SMALL, MOSTLY FAMILY-RUN CAMPGROUNDS AS SMALL BUSINESSES, AND PAY THE SAME TAX RATE AS OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES.

Carried

b) Town of Lakeshore regarding debt incurred from the 2015 PAN AM and PARAPAN AM games and it was

8. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF LAKESHORE REQUESTING SUPPORT TO SUGGEST THAT THE \$342 MILLION ADDITIONAL COSTS INCURRED FOR THE PAN AM AND PARAPAN AM GAMES SHOULD BE FUNDED BY THE CITY OF TORONTO BE ENDORSED.

Carried

c) Township of Carlow/Mayo regarding support regarding for Bill 171, Highway Traffic Amendment Act, 2016 was filed.

d) Municipality of Hastings Highlands regarding Bill 171 Highway Traffic Act 2016 was filed.

Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) items were discussed as follows:

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- a) TBDSSAB – Statement of Account regarding interest charges for late payment. Council discussed this statement and it was

9. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE COUNCIL FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR REQUEST THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD (TBDSSAB) TO WRITE OFF THE INTEREST CHARGED DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY TO JUNE 2016, ON THE MONEYS HELD IN ESCROW DURING THE MEDIATION PROCESS BETWEEN THE AREA ONE MUNICIPALITIES AND THE TBDSSAB.

Carried

- b) A copy of the letter from the Honourable Dr. Helena Jaczek, Ministry of Community and Social Services to Mayor Kloosterhuis, Area One representative, and Mr. Katajamaki, chair of the TBDSSAB, with regard to the mediation process and the Ministry's decision with regard to the establishment of a new board by Area One was read. The letter noted that the TBDSSAB were not willing to accept the proposal resulting from the mediation process and the Area One municipalities are not supportive of just amending the regulation to increase Area One's representation. As the two groups cannot come to an agreement, the Ministry representatives have been asked to work with DSSAB's to explore options including reviewing the DSSAB Act, in particular Board governance and accountability. In the coming weeks Deputy Minister Janet Menard will be coming to Thunder Bay to meet with representatives for the TBDSSAB and Area One to further discuss the concerns.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – i) September newsletter. The article on recruitment will be included in the next issue of the Cornerstone.
ii) Municipal Policing Bureau regarding the 2017 Annual Billing Statements. As the result of ongoing collective bargaining between the Crown in Right of Ontario and the Ontario Provincial Police Association the 2015 actual costs reconciliation cannot be completed due to the salary rates for 2015 and beyond not yet established. The OPP will therefore include both the 2015 and 2016 reconciliation adjustments in the 2018 Annual Billing.
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watchfile – August 11, 2016.
ii) Watchfile – August 25, 2016.
iii) Watchfile – September 1, 2016.
iv) Watchfile – September 8, 2016.
v) AMO Communications – Federal Public Transit Infrastructure Funding Announced in Ontario.
vi) AMO Communications– What's the impact of Climate Change in Your Municipality.
vii) AMO Communications – Add your voice to What's New Ontario?
- c) Lakehead Forest 2017-2020 Contingency Plan.
- d) Ministry of Energy – Letter from the Minister with regard to update changes to legislation.
- e) Ontario Good Roads Association re: OGRA Conference, Feb. 26 – Mar.1, 2017. The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old business, Council discussed

- a) Ontario 150 Community Capital Program. The Clerk-Treasurer advised Council of the possible projects that could be completed using this funding. At the last meeting it was suggested that we apply for funding to install air conditioning in the O'Connor Community Centre. Upon further consideration, more items were added to the draft application and with approval of Council will be submitted. The additional items to be included are repairs to the basement storage room, including repairs to concrete walls, ventilation and new shelving units, as well new partitions in the basement washrooms. With regard to the air condition, during inspection and site visit with contractors it was suggested that new heating source also be included in the application as the current furnaces are reaching their end of life. A draft of the question and answers for the application were reviewed and it was

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10. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR APPLY FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE ONTARIO 150 COMMUNITY CAPITAL PROGRAM FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE. APPLICATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 14, 2016.

Carried

- b) The Clerk-Treasurer reported to Council that the fundraising suggestion made at the last meeting, with regard to the purchase of calves in the spring and their sale in the fall is not an eligible investment as per the Ontario Regulation 438/97.
c) Under further old business, Council Racicot informed Council that he did attend the Rural Heritage Days and participated in the celebrity class of the Plow Match on behalf of Council.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – regarding the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – webex session for discussion of the development of an Agriculture, Aquaculture and Food Processing Sector Strategy for Northern Ontario. It was

11. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S PARTICIPATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS WEBEX SESSION WITH REGARD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN ONTARIO TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2016.

COUNCILLOR ALKINS

Carried

- b) Ministry of Labour – Field Visit Report – regarding Consultation to discuss building activity in the O'Connor Area. The Chief Building Official is required to give notice to the Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Ministry of Labour for any projects over \$50,000 including time and material.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- c) AMCTO – i) AODA Workshop and Zone 9 Fall Meeting – September 19, 20 & 21, 2016 was discussed. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE AMCTO ZONE 9 FALL MEETING AND AODA WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON SEPTEMBER 19, 20 & 21, 2016.

**CLERK-TREASURER BUOB
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT**

REGISTRATION: \$100.00

Carried

The municipal office will be closed for these three days.

- ii) The Municipal Elections Act: All you need to know for the 2018 Elections. It was agreed that no one would attend this session.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

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- d) Concerns with regard to Tbaytel coverage in the area – i) Copy of Township of Gillies letter sent to Tbaytel and ii) Copy of the Township of Conmee letter sent to Tbaytel were read. This item came forward at the last Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition meeting and the Mayor's requested that these letters be submitted to each municipality for information purposes. Councillor Alkins, in her absence, also submitted to the Clerk-Treasurer her comments with regard to this concern and the poor coverage she is recently receiving. The Township of O'Connor will also submit a letter to Tbaytel with regard to the service reduction in the area of the past several months. Council would also like a notice put in the next issue of the Cornerstone informing the residents that if they have concerns with their own service that they contact Tbaytel directly to ensure that they are aware of all of the concerns.
- e) City of Thunder Bay Court Services – regarding 2015 Financial Statements, 2015 Reconciliation and 2016 Partial Payment – Court Services. Payment has been received and was slightly lower than budgeted.
- f) Local Employment Planning Council (LEPC) – Introduction of program. This item will be brought back to the next meeting for more information from Councillor Loan as he requested that it be included on the agenda from a presentation made at the Thunder Bay District Municipal League meeting.
- g) Thunder Bay District Municipal League – 99th Annual Meeting and Conference – tentative agenda topics were reviewed. Registration for this meeting will be brought back to Council for the first meeting in October to see who will be attending.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – regarding the creation of the official network of Canada 150 Community Leaders and an invitation to get involved in the 150th anniversary of Confederation. Council will not be submitting a name at this time.

For information purposes two building permits was issued for 889 Highway 590.

13. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 9:52 P.M.

Carried

Council reviewed the applications submitted for Administrative Assistant.

The Memorandum of Settlement with the Canadian Union of Public Employees and it's Local 87-04 was reviewed.

It was

14. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

TIME BEING: 10:15 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

15. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT A SHORT LIST OF CANDIDATE WILL BE INVITED FOR AN INTERVIEW TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016.

Carried

The interviews will be held prior to the regular Council meeting.

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16. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ACCEPT THE MEMORANDUM OF SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AND THE CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND IT'S LOCAL 87.

Carried

The Clerk-Treasurer will notify the union's National Representative and await the final agreements from the union for signing.

17. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 10:19 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer