

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – APRIL 11, 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Council Chambers and virtually.

Present: Mayor Vezina  
 Councillors: Crane, Handy, Loan, Racicot  
 Clerk-Treasurer Buob  
 Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot  
 Visitors: Leadhand, Kelly Johnson  
 Erin Laforest, Administrative Assistant (virtually)

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Mayor Vezina requested that Item 19. be moved forward on the agenda, following item #7 c), to allow Mr. Johnson to participate in the closed portion of the meeting. It was agreed to move this item and it was

1. Moved by Jerry Loan  
 Seconded by Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.**  
 Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
 Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**  
 Carried

Visitors were asked if they wished to address Council on any personal items and they replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. Roadwork in general was discussed. It was noted that the road employees have been dealing with the continued snow fall for the last three weeks, with more wet weather in the forecast. The frost continues to come out of the roads and warning bump signs have been posted.

Approach Design has provided the draft drawings for the garage Shop B project for review and comment. Mr. Johnson will be contacting Mr. Gammond to discuss the drawings further. Council did not have any comments at this time.

The Health and Safety Report for both Public Works and Administrative for the February 22, 2022 meeting was read. Council had no questions or concerns.

Item #19, being the Closed session to review the Intern position applications was moved forward on the agenda and it was

3. Moved by A. Crane  
 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: 7:20 P.M.**

Carried

Applications for the Equipment Operator #1 Intern position were reviewed. Thirteen applications were received.

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- 4. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**TIME BEING: 8:01 P.M.**

**THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried

Council agreed to interview five of the applicants and it was

- 5. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR INTERVIEWS FOR THE INTERN POSITION - MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022.**

**THE INTERVIEWS WILL START AT 6 P.M. AND WILL BE HELD IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

Carried

- 6. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEMBERS FORM THE INTERVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERSHIP POSITION.**

**MAYOR VEZINA, COUNCILLOR CRANE, COUNCILLOR HANDY, ALT. COUNCILLOR LOAN**

Carried

The Administration and Roads Voucher #2022-07 to April 11, 2022 was reviewed and it was

- 7. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2022-07 DATED APRIL 11, 2022 TOTTALLING \$73,483.26 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Final Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to December 31, 2021 were provided to Council.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Councillor Racicot also left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

A By-law to enter into an agreement for the replacement Intern through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) was reviewed and it was

- 8. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-10 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND CORPORATION AND THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR TO HIRE A REPLACEMENT INTERN TO FILL THE POSITION OF EQUIPMENT OPERATOR #1 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN TO THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

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Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Town of Fort Erie declaring a Climate Change Emergency and establishing a Climate Change Plan was filed
- b) Municipality of Clarington regarding Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review Project and requesting the Provincial Government issue a cease-and-desist order on all updates to Natural Heritage System designations in official plans and zoning by-laws was filed.
- c) City of Cambridge regarding a request to impose a moratorium on all new gravel applications, including expansions to existing licensed sites was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Ministry of the Solicitor General regarding the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) requirements. In regard to the Emergency Management Programs, the Township of O'Connor is compliant for 2021.
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – 2022 Conference Launch.
- c) Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry – regarding the Forest Biomass Action Plan – Environmental Registry of Ontario Decision Notice.
- d) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) – i) regarding Community Housing Renewal Strategy.  
ii) regarding More Homes for Everyone Plan.  
iii) regarding an Update on status of the Emergency Orders in regard to COVID in Ontario.
- e) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) News Release – Ontario Invests \$19 M to Help Tackle Housing Crisis.
- f) Municipal Finance Officers Association of Ontario (MFOA) – Province Releases Bill 109, More Homes for Everyone Act.
- g) Science North Announces Launch of \$3M Capital Campaign for the Go Deeper Project at Dynamic Earth.
- h) Ministry of Infrastructure regarding the Blackout period for Government of Ontario communication activities due to 2022 Ontario general election. Beginning May 4, 2022 there will be a blackout on all Government of Ontario communication activities until after the upcoming election.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Alternative Voting Methods for the upcoming 2022 Municipal Election. The Clerk-Treasurer previously provided information with regard to on-line voting and as the cost to do so was significant, Council requested that the Clerk-Treasurer look into the vote-by-mail option. The Clerk-Treasurer reported on the expenses of this method and noted that the cost to use this method was also significant. At the recent Clerks Forum that the Administrative Assistant attended, discussion with regard to by-elections during the COVID pandemic were discussed. A couple of larger municipalities continued to use the paper ballot method and offered a drive-thru option for voting. Additional expenses could occur for additional personal protective equipment and measures, such as barriers, single use items, etc. and additional staff may be required, however this would still be significantly cheaper than the alternative methods. It was agreed that Council will not pass a By-law to use an alternate method of voting for the 2022 Municipal election.
- b) Update regarding the new requirement for electronic logging devices for commercial motor vehicles coming into effect on January 1, 2023, as was discussed at the March 28<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. It was confirmed that the Township of O'Connor trucks do not fall under this new regulation.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Superior North Emergency Medical Service regarding the 2022 Levy Information. The Township of O'Connor's levy will be increasing by approximately \$7,000 from the original levy presented in 2021, however, prior to yearend, the final installment invoice amount was increased by an additional \$2000 to balance their 2021 budget. This then resulted in a deficit of this amount to the Township's 2021 budget which will also be brought into the Township's 2022 budget.
- b) Rural 60 Plus – request for letter of support for Seniors Community Program Grant. The group would like to bring courses, lunches, dinners, bus tours, well-being

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sessions, etc. to their centre and are submitting an application for funding. As several of the members of this group are Township's residents, it was

9. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUPPORTS IN PRINCIPLE THE RURAL 60 PLUS' APPLICATION TO THE SENIORS COMMUNITY PROGRAM GRANT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS AND EVENTS FOR LOCAL SENIORS THROUGH THEIR CENTRE.**

Carried

- c) Ministry of Infrastructure - Invitation to attend virtual information session with regard to High-Speed Internet. It was

10. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S PARTICIPATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE'S VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION REGARDING THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO BRING ACCESS TO HIGH-SPEED INTERNET TO ALL COMMUNITIES IN ONTARIO TO BE HELD ON APRIL 14, 2022.**

**COUNCILLOR CRANE, COUNCILLOR RACICOT**

Carried

- d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official – Online Training. No one will attend.  
e) Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism – i) Champion of Diversity Award. No nominations will be made at this time.  
ii) James Barleman Indigenous Youth Creative Writing Award. No nominations will be made at this time.  
f) Operation Smile – Invitation to Proclaim June 19th, 2022 the Longest Day of SMILES was filed.  
g) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) – Zone 10 Meeting – Briefing on Opportunities for Rural Ontario in a Post-Covid World. Council was invited to participate in the meeting. At this time no one committed to attending.  
h) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) – regarding Empowerment Workshops. No one will attend.

Under further New Business Council requested that a formal thank you be sent to Hydro One for the response they provided to the area during the recent snowstorm. Additional crews were called in from out of town to address the many outages due to the heavy snow knocking down trees and taking our power lines.

Councillor Loan noted that he will be attending a Lakehead Police Services Board meeting this week and will report back to Council at the next meeting.

Councillor Handy informed Council that due to personal reasons, she will be selling her home and will not be able to finish her term on Council. No official date has been set as to when she will be leaving, she is at this time just providing notice.

Councillor Handy holds a seat on the Thunder Bay District Municipal League and the Lakehead Rural Planning Board and a member of Council will have to be appointed to fill her seat. It was also noted that she will have to be removed from the signing authority for the Township.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer and Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) Racicot informed Council that Greg Bartlett, Field Officer for the Amethyst Sector, from the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management, reached out to see how our Township made out during the recent storm. The Township did have the generator running and the O'Connor Community Centre open for those who might have needed it for warmth, however there was no way of communicating this as the phone and cell

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service was not working. Council would like administration to reach out to Tbaytel to see why they don't have automatic generators on their cell towers. As well as, reach out to our local M.P.P.'s to inform them of the situation.

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

As the Closed portion of the meeting was moved forward on the agenda and was previously discussed, it was

- 11. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE COUNIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

**TIME BEING: 9:04 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer