

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – APRIL 25, 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on April 25, 2022 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers and virtual.

Present: Mayor Vezina  
Councillors: Crane, Handy (virtual), Loan, Racicot  
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot  
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas, Captain Greg Biloski

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

1. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.**

Carried

Mayor Vezina asked that Item 15 e) be moved forward on the agenda for discussion with Fire Chief Mattas as it is related to the Firefighter Certification. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

It was noted that the minutes of the Statutory Public Meeting for the Zoning By-law meeting had a spelling error and it was

2. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE ROAD DEPARTMENT BUDGET MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022, THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022 AND THE STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE ZONING BY-LAW HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS AMENDED.**

Carried

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the meeting. The Fire Department report from March 24, 2022 to April 21, 2022 was read. There were two fire related calls since the last report, one being a house fire on Smith Road.

The house fire on Smith Road was discussed and Council has requested that a report be written up with regard to the call.

Under fire department issues, Fire Chief Mattas commented that the Deputy Fire Chief, because of work related commitments, has not been able to attend any meetings since last November. Council would like Chief Mattas to consider appointing another member of the department, that he feels would be suitable, as the Deputy Fire Chief.

Item 15 e) was brought forward on the agenda. A letter from the Ministry of the Solicitor General regarding an update on the work that they have been doing on firefighter certification under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 was reviewed.

Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and left the meeting with Captain Biloski at 7:48 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher summary for March 28, 2022 was reviewed. No questions were asked and it was

3. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2022-08 DATED APRIL 25, 2022 TOTALLING \$48,460.55 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried.

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The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to March 31, 2022 were reviewed.

By-laws were discussed as follows:

a) By-law Number 2022-11 – Being a by-law to enter into an agreement with the Minister of Employment and Social Development for two summer students was read and it was

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-11 BEING A BY-LAW TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA, AS PRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS “CANADA”) AND THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O’CONNOR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CANADA SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried.

Applications for the Summer Student positions will be requested for the first week of June.

b) i) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority comments to the Zoning By-law were discussed. Council had no issue with the recommended changes.  
ii) Revisions submitted by Fotenn Planning + Design to the draft Zoning By-law were discussed. Council had no issue with the revisions.  
iii) By-law Number 2022-12, being a by-law to adopt the Zoning By-law for the Township of O’Connor was read and it was

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

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-12 BEING THE TOWNSHIP OF O’CONNOR’S ZONING BY-LAW TO REGULATE THE USE OF LAND AND THE ERECTION, LOCATION AND USE OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF O’CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried.

Consent application 1B/09/22 and 1B/10/22, each for a 2 hectare severance on Concession 3, Lot 9, were reviewed. It was

6 Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

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**THAT THE CONSENT APPLICATIONS 1B/09/22 AND 1B/10/22 FOR KATHRYN ONYSCHUK AND SANDRA WHITE FOR THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS CONCESSION 3, PT N ½ LOT 9 RP 55R1920 PART 3 PT PART 7 PCL 18340 FOR TWO SEVERANCES OF 2 HECTARES EACH BE APPROVED.**

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

a) Town of Halton Hills regarding Build it Right the First time was filed  
b) Township of Mulmur regarding More Homes for Everyone Act was filed  
c) Township of Lake of Bays regarding Floating Accommodations was filed  
d) Nature Canada’s Ocean Protection Team requesting to pass a resolution regarding National Marine Protected Areas was filed.

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Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) invitation to public review of third accessibility standard.
- b) District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board update from the board dated April 20, 2022.
- c) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs regarding the Minister's order limited the commingling of birds from different locations in Ontario.
- d) Minister of the Solicitor General regarding Emergency Preparedness Week 2022. Information will be put in the upcoming issue of the Cornerstone.

Under Old Business, Council discussed:

- a) Council discussed, at the request of Councillor Handy, her replacement on the Lakehead Rural Planning Board (LRPB) and it was

7. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT COUNCILLOR CRANE BE APPOINTED TO SIT ON THE LAKEHEAD RURAL PLANNING BOARD FOR THE BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL TERM 2022, AS PER COUNCILLOR HANDY STEPPING DOWN FROM THE POSITION.**

Carried.

- b) Council discussed, at the request of Councillor Handy, her replacement on the Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) and it was

8. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT COUNCILLOR CRANE BE APPOINTED TO SIT ON THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE FOR THE BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL TERM 2022, AS PER COUNCILLOR HANDY STEPPING DOWN FROM THE POSITION AND MAYOR JIM VEZINA BE APPOINTED AS AN ALTERNATE.**

Carried.

- c) Presentation by the Province regarding Highspeed Internet. Councillor Crane and Racicot both sat in on the townhall meeting that was held virtually. Both expressed concern that they do not have the providers at this time.
- d) Ministry of Infrastructure regarding the Government of Canada and Ontario investing to bring high-speed internet to rural and First Nation Communities was read.
- e) Minister of the Solicitor General regarding Ontario Regulation 343/22: Firefighter Certification. This item was discussed with the Fire Chief earlier in the meeting.
- f) Upcoming Ritchie Bros Auction regarding Leadhand Kelly Johnson requesting that he attend the auction in person to inspect potential trucks for purchase. Council agreed that Mr. Johnson should attend and arrangements will be made.
- g) Wildfire Community Preparedness Day was discussed. The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry have been invited to put on a FireSmart demonstration. Administration has also planned to have various other information and displays at the event to promote recycling, fire department volunteer recruitment, and for the upcoming municipal election.
- h) A summer event for Council, Staff and Volunteers was discussed. The event will be a Volunteer Appreciation Day and it was

9. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2022 IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

Carried.

Under New Business, Council discussed:

- a) Retirement of the Chief Building Official (CBO). Mr. Ken Yanishewski has indicated that he will be retiring as the CBO as of December 31, 2022. Council would like

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administration to look into who other surrounding Municipalities are planning to use as Mr. Yanishewski is also the CBO for the Township of Conmee and the Municipality of Neening.

- b) Appointment of the Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) and Alternates for the Township of O'Connor. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot is currently the CEMC for the Township and has asked Erin Laforest, Administrative Assistant, if she would be willing to become the new CEMC. Ms. Laforest has completed the required courses offered by the Office to the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) and has indicated she is willing to take over the position. Ms. Racicot has indicated that she would like to step down from this position and is willing to be listed as an Alternative CEMC and it was

10. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by Wendy Handy

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS BE APPOINTED AS THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S DESIGNATED COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS (CEMC) AS REQUIRED BY THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL PROTECTION ACT.**

**CEMC – ERIN LAFOREST  
ALTERNATE CEMC – HENRY MATTAS, MORRIS DOUGLAS,  
MONICA BUDISELIC, LINDA RACICOT**

Carried.

- c) Councillor Jerry Loan updated Council on the Lakehead Police Service Board meeting that was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022. Councillor Loan also provided Council with the Lakehead Police Services Board Report that provides information on calls for service for the Township of O'Connor from January to March 2022. Councillor Loan also indicated that he will be submitting a letter of resignation to the Board on July 13, 2022.
- d) The report to Council, prepared by Ms. Erin Laforest, Administration Assistant, regarding the development of a Strategic Plan was read. Council would like this issue brought back to the May 24, 2022 Council meeting to discuss further with Ms. Laforest.
- e) Letter from Judson Howie LLP regarding a special offer for Municipalities for the 2022-26 Council term was read.
- f) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) regarding the upcoming AMO Conference in August. No one from Council will be attending.

Under Further New Business Councillor Crane inquired about the thank you that was discussed at a prior Council meeting to Hydro One for their efforts during the snowstorm and the power outages that occurred in the Township. A thank you letter will be sent to Hydro One and a thank you will also be included in the May issue of the Cornerstone.

Mayor Vezina updated Council on the new program called the Northern Energy Advantage (NEAP), announced by Province, which will reduce electricity costs for the region's industrial sector.

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

- a) Letter from the Ministry of the Environment regarding Phase 2 Regulations to improve the governance, oversight, transparency and accountability of Conservation Authority operations.
- b) Letter from the Solicitor General regarding the updated standards of care for outdoor dogs were filed as an amendment to Ontario Regulation 444/19 (Standard of Care and Administrative Requirements).
- c) Letter received from the Multi-Municipal Wind Turbine Working Group regarding the passing of their resolution setting out setback recommendations was read.

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

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11. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIRTUAL.**

**TIME BEING: 9:13 PM**

Carried

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Mayor

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Deputy Clerk-Treasurer