

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – AUGUST 10, 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, August 10, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Community Centre, to allow for social distancing.

Present: Councillors: Crane, Handy, Loan, Racicot
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Paul LeBoeuf, Janice LeBoeuf

Absent: Mayor Vezina

Acting Mayor Loan 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 A. Crane

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 13, 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Visitors were asked if they wished to address Council and they replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. Mr. Johnson reported to Council that the construction on the Sitch Road project at Beaver Dam Creek has started today. Sitch Road will be closed for approximately two weeks. The grader has been out fixing the ruts from water running down the hills after the recent rain. The groundskeeper has been cutting the grass around the guiderails on the Township roads. Mr. Johnson is also getting prices for paving the approaches to the bridge of Blaikie Road. Council did not have any questions with regard to the roads.

Item 14 c) on the agenda, with regard to the Fire Department requesting the use of an area of the disposal site for training, was discussed with Mr. Johnson. The Fire Department would like to set up a training trailer and future training props/equipment in an area of the site, which would not obstruct users from accessing the site. A map of the area was provided to Council. Mr. Johnson noted that he has spoken with both Fire Chief Mattas and Captain Greg Biloski with regard to their request. Mr. Johnson noted that it wouldn't take too much work to clean up some brush and they may need some gravel in the area that they are considering. The location requested is not in the area of any new proposed holes. The Fire Department would also like to install a gate to keep patrons from entering the area. The purchase of the gravel was discussed. If there are only a couple of loads it will come out of the roads budget, however if they are looking at a large amount it will come from the Fire Department budget or the Auxiliary may be asked to cover the costs. Mr. Johnson was concerned with having to snowplow the area all winter if they were not going to be using it regularly. This will be discussed further with the Fire Department. Council agreed that if this will help with the moral of the team and possibly bring in new members, they were willing to allow the Fire Department to use this area.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for August 10, 2020 was reviewed. Council asked questions with regard to a couple of the payments and it was

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2020-14 DATED AUGUST 10, 2020 TALLING \$107,387.59 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

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The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to July 31, 2020 were reviewed. No questions were asked in this regard.

By-laws and Policies were discussed as follows:

- a) By-law Number 2020-16 – Being a By-law to amend By-law 2016-14, a By-law to permit and regulate the operation of Off-Road Vehicles on Highways under the jurisdiction of the Township of O'Connor. The By-law was discussed at the July 13, 2020 Council meeting and is being amended as per recent changes made on July 1, 2020 to the Highway Traffic Act, related to off-road vehicles. It was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-16 BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW NUMBER 2016-14, A BY-LAW TO PERMIT AND REGULATE THE OPERATION OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLES ON HIGHWAYS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- b) Social Media Policy – Council was provided a copy of the draft policy at the July 13, 2020 meeting and asked to bring their comments forward at this meeting for further discussion. Changes will be made to the policy as per discussions held and it will be brought back to the next meeting for further review. The policy will also be discussed with the Fire Department members.
- c) Discussion with regard to a Policy for Mandatory Use of Mask or Face Covering was held. The Thunder Bay District Health Unit notice and Media Release in this regard was read. A draft Township of O'Connor Policy was read. Council did not have any concerns with the policy as it was presented and it was

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

THAT THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S POLICY FOR THE MANDATORY USE OF MASK OR FACE COVERINGS AS DIRECTED BY THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 BE APPROVED.

Carried

- d) Re-opening the Township of O'Connor – Stage 3 – A Report to Council was read. A draft Pandemic Risk Management and Prevention Policy was read, as well as a draft Pandemic Risk Management and Prevention Policy for the O'Connor Community Centre. A discussion was held with regard to the current procedures in place and whether or not it was necessary to have the two separate policies. It was agreed to move forward with two policies and it was

5. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S POLICY TO ADDRESS PANDEMIC RISK MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION BE APPROVED.

Carried

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S POLICY TO ADDRESS PANDEMIC RISK MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION FOR THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE BE APPROVED.

Carried

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Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) City of Oshawa regarding COVID-19 funding and government assistance to help local municipalities assist local social cultural, service clubs, and children/youth minor sporting originations with relief funding programs. The resolution was filed.
- b) Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the City of Owen Sound acknowledging their support for a Private Members Bill with regard to declaring August 1 of every year as “Emancipation Day” in Canada. Council filed the resolution.
Ms. LeBoeuf asked Council if she may speak on this item. She noted that this is a very important issue and she would like Council to reconsider their decision to support this resolution. Council felt that the way it was worded they would not support it but if she was willing to write something in this regard explaining further what they are trying to do they would consider it at a future meeting.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – i) Minutes of the meeting held virtually on June 2, 2020.
ii) Rural Action Plan (RAP) updated draft to be distributed to the Minister in time for the virtual Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference.
Overall Council were impressed with the RAP as presented but would like to request that the candid comments in the conclusion be reworded. This will be forwarded to the Ms. Evans.
- b) Superior North Emergency Medical Services (SNEMS) – Second Quarter Levy for 2020 – adjusted to take into account WSIB expenditure which continue to impact operation. The additional cost to the Township of O'Connor is \$3,227.00. The COVID-19 Pandemic related costs are being tracked, however they are expecting that the Province will reimburse these costs. Council do not agree with this additional expense being passed on to the Township after the budget has been set. The Clerk-Treasurer also noted that this item was discussed at the last LRMC meeting and the other member municipalities do not agree with this practice either. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the SNEMS expressing the Council's concerns, with copies sent to the LRMC, Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and the local MPP's.
- c) District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) – copy of the 2020 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Briefing Package to be presented to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services during the upcoming AMO conference.
- d) Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs – Congratulation letter regarding the Township of O'Connor's successful application to the Jenny's Heroes Canada Ontario Fire Service Equipment Grant. The Township has received \$12,300 for new radio equipment for the Fire Department.
- e) O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary – March 10, 2020 meeting minutes.
- f) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) AMO Policy Update – July 15, 2020.
ii) AMO – copy of letter submitted to Stewardship Ontario regarding proposed transition plan for the Blue Box program.
iii) AMO Policy Update – July 16, 2020.
iv) AMO President - Thank you for supporting resolution for transition of your Blue Box Program.
v) AMO Conference Update: July 18,2020 - 14 Workshops That You Don't Have to Choose From.
vi) AMO Policy Update – July 20, 2020 - Stage 3 Re-Openings.
vii) AMO Policy Update – July 22, 2020.
viii) AMO Policy Update – July 27, 2020.
ix) AMO Policy Update – July 29, 2020.
x) AMO Policy Update – July 30, 2020.
xi) AMO Policy Update – August 5, 2020.
xii) AMO Policy Update – August 7, 2020.
- g) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – i) Letter from Minister Clark regarding the introduction of the Protecting Tenants and Strengthening Community Housing Act, 2020 (Bill 184).
ii) Letter regarding Regulation No. 332/20 Exemption from Approval (Official Plan Amendments). The exemption will be for approval for all amendments to the Official Plan except those made under section 26 of the act (five/ten year update.)

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- h) Ministry of the Solicitor General – regarding Proclamation of the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020. This Act gives the Ontario government the necessary flexibility to address ongoing risks and effects of COVID-19 outbreak after the Provincial Emergency is lifted.
- i) Ministry of the Attorney General – regarding Bill 197, The COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020 received Royal Assent and amendments to the Provincial Offences Act (POA). These amendments will enable municipalities, in consultation with the judiciary, to make greater use of technology to deliver justice services remotely.
- j) Office of the Premier – News July 27, 2020 – Historic Agreement Delivers up to \$4 Billion to support Municipalities and Transit. This fund will provide one-time assistance to all Ontario municipalities to maintain the critical services people rely on.
- k) Minister of Small Business & Red Tape Reduction – regarding supporting small business.
- l) Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Letter regarding Environmental Assessment modernization. Invitation to participate in a virtual information session.
- m) Northern Policy Institute – i) The Thin Case for Passenger Rail in Northern Ontario.
ii) August COVID-19 Business Survey.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Municipality of Neebing's email regarding the Northern Ontario Innovation Centre (NOIC)'s draft letter of support for the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition's Fibre Project application. Council were in agreement that the Township needs to move forward with the application and it was

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUPPORTS THE LAKEHEAD RURAL MUNICIPAL COALITION (LRMC) BROADBAND PROJECT IN PRINCIPLE AND ARE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY TO THE BROADBAND EXPANSION PROJECT, AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT COUNCIL WILL BE ASKED TO APPROVE THE FUNDING MODEL IN THE FUTURE.

Carried

- b) Strategic Policy Branch – Health Canada, response to Council's endorsed resolution with regard to Bill C-211.
- c) Hydro One Community Relations regarding the Waasigan Transmission Line project. The comment period ends on August 14, 2020. Council did not have any comments to submit at this time.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Lakehead Police Service Board (LPSB) – Minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting were read. Councillor Loan provided an update from the last meeting held on July 15, 2020. Mr. Axel Nowak was appointed to the Board as the 2nd Provincial Appointee. Mr. John Sobolta was not appointed as the Municipal Appointee at this Time, as there had to be agreement from all members and the Township of Gillies did not agree. As the Township of Gillies will no longer be a part of the Board in January, Mr. Sobolta will be officially appointed at that time. He may attend the meetings now but cannot vote.
The revised LPSB 2020 budget was approved at the July 15, 2020 meeting. A copy was reviewed and it is slightly higher than was estimated in the Township budget. The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Calls for Service for the Township of O'Connor from January to June 2020 were reviewed. The number of weighted hours for service is significantly higher in 2020 than it was in 2019.
- b) Ministry of the Solicitor General, Police Service Advisor regarding the Municipal appointment to the LPSB, as was discussed.

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- c) The O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department request for use of an area at the disposal site was previously discussed with Mr. Johnson earlier in the meeting.
 - d) Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA) offering Electronic Waste Collection and Recycling and requesting that the Township enter into an agreement with them for this service. As the current Waste Diversion Act is slated to cease operations on December 30, 2020, Council agree to wait closer to this date before entering into an agreement. It was also noted that EPRA is offering a used battery program as the transition to full producer responsibility was completed on July 1, 2020. As the Township of O'Connor cannot accept batteries under our current Certificate of Approval (C of A), we will not be interested at this time.
 - e) Ontario Power Generation (OPG) – Kaministiquia River System Stakeholder meeting invitation for the Dam Safety Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan meeting. It was
8. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE SKYPE MEETING OF THE ONTARIO POWER GENERATION'S DAM SAFETY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN (EPRP) FOR THE KAMINISTQUIA RIVER SYSTEM TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020.

REGISTRATION FEE – N/C

**MAYOR VEZINA OR ALT. COUNCILLOR HANDY
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB
FIRE CHIEF MATTAS**

Carried

- f) Hymers Agricultural Society request to sell 50/50 tickets in the Township of O'Connor. Council were in agreement to allow the tickets to be sold within the Township and it was
9. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE HYMERS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY BE ALLOWED TO SELL 50/50 DRAW TICKETS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR FOR THEIR UPCOMING FAIR FUNDRAISER. DRAW DATE BEING OCTOBER 10, 2020.

Carried

- g) Ontario Barn Preservation – Advocacy letter to municipalities. This not-for-profit organization was formed with a goal to conserve barns of cultural heritage significance in Ontario. They are asking Councils to consider adjusting policies to support the cultural heritage resources in the community.
- h) Councillor Crane asked that Council consider a form of identification when a member of Council attends different events as a representative of the Township. Options were discussed and it was agreed to have the Clerk-Treasurer get prices for magnetic name tags for the next meeting.

Under further new business, a question was asked as to whether or not the Township is financially responsible for any costs with regard to a recent motor vehicle collision on Highway 590 which took out a hydro pole. Council confirmed that no there would be no costs to the Township.

Councillor Loan informed Council that as the current Township of O'Connor's representative on the Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) he would like to step-down. Currently Mayor Vezina is the alternate representative. The next meeting of the TBDML is in October and Councillor Loan is asking to have a new representative appointed prior to that meeting. This will be discussed further at the next Council meeting.

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

- a) Ministry of the Solicitor General regarding the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation. The Ministry will be retaining an independent consultant with expertise in public safety and security to review the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program.
- b) Ministry of Transportation, Safety Program Development Branch regarding the new regulatory framework implementing school bus stop arm camera programs.

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

It was

- 10. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE IF SITUATION DUE TO COVID-19 REMAINS SAFE.

TIME BEING: 9:03 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer