

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – AUGUST 12, 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, August 12, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand  
Paul LeBoeuf, Janice LeBoeuf

Absent: Mayor Vezina, Councillor Loan

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

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

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,  
JULY 8, 2019 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

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

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. Roadwork in general was discussed. Regular maintenance of the roads continues, as well as keeping up with the Highway 590 detour. Three loads of gravel were placed last week. The heavy rain fall has required extra grading on the hills. The Ministry of Transportation has provided some gravel from their pit on Strom Road in exchange for detour delays. There were delays with the structure and the reopening is now scheduled for September 6, 2019.

Mr. Johnson reported that the garbage compactor truck had some electrical issues but they have been fixed. A new hole has been dug at the site and gravel placed in front of it. Council asked Mr. Johnson if he was ever able to dig test holes in the back area of the property to see if there was any gravel. Mr. Johnson noted that the gravel is just outside of the Township's property line. There might be some sand, however there would be a lot of work to do to open a pit.

A draft Service Agreement from LHNorth for a detour for Highway 595 at Whitewood Creek in 2020 was reviewed. The draft agreement has the Township performing the road maintenance and Mr. Johnson would like to ask that LHNorth do the maintenance. He also had some concerns with the terms as noted. Council agreed to have the Clerk-Treasurer and Mr. Johnson review the Agreement and discuss it further with LHNorth and bring it back to the next meeting for approval.

Council asked Mr. Johnson how the grader and the International truck are working. Mr. Johnson noted that they are both working well with no concerns at this time. He also noted that he has not looked into purchasing a new truck for the Road Department as per the budget. He will look around in the fall, when all of the road projects are complete.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher to August 12, 2019 was reviewed and it was

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

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER 2019-10 DATED  
AUGUST 12, 2019 TOTALLING \$166,982.44 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to June 30, 2019 were reviewed.

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By-laws were discussed as follows:

a) A By-law in regard to the Chief Building Official's position was discussed and it was

3. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded W. Handy

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2019-14 BEING A BY-LAW RESPECTING THE CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

b) A by-law with regard to reducing the posted speed limit on Cronk Road was reviewed and it was

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

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2019-15 BEING A BY-LAW FOR DECREASING THE SPEED OF MOTOR VEHICLES FROM THE STATUTORY SPEED LIMITS BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

Lakehead Rural Planning Board decisions for three recent applications, 1B/01/19 – Buob, 1B/12/19 – Gough and 1B/14/19 – Posthumus were reviewed. All applications were approved.

Quotes for an electronic sign, to be placed along Highway 595 in front of the Municipal Office and Community Centre were reviewed. It was

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

**THAT THE QUOTE OF UNITED DIGITALS FOR LED MESSAGE CENTRE SIGNAGE AT A COST OF \$15,781.02 INCLUDING HST AND SHIPPING BE ACCEPTED.**

Carried

This sign is funded through the Main Street Revitalization Fund.

Resolutions for endorsement were reviewed as follows:

- a) City of Stratford regarding the opposition to changes to the 2019 Provincial Budget and Planning Act was filed.
- b) Durham Region regarding Lake Ontario Water Levels and it was

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

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM REGARDING THE LAKE ONTARIO WATER LEVELS BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

- c) Township of McKellar concerning the potential for forced municipal amalgamation under the current provincial government was filed.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – copy of letter to Lakehead District School Board recommending the creation of a Flood Emergency Plan for Whitefish Valley Public School.
- b) Superior North EMS – regarding the Second Quarterly levy for 2019.
- c) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) – Update from the Board – 7/17/2019.
- d) City of Thunder Bay – regarding the 2018 Financial Statements, 2018 Reconciliation and 2019 Partial Payment for the Thunder Bay Court Services.

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- e) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – i) Lakehead Police Services Board (LPSB) – Calls for Service for the Township of O'Connor and Billing Summary Report.  
ii) Thunder Bay Detachment – August 2019 Newsletter. Council would like to see information with regard to aggressive driving and the amber alert included in the next issue of the Cornerstone.
- f) Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) – i) Policy Update – Attorney General Launches Consultation on Municipal Liability and Insurance Costs.  
ii) Seeking Municipal Government Initiatives You Want to Brag About. No information will be forwarded.  
iii) AMO Watchfile – Fire Protection and Prevention Act and Fire Code changes now in effect.  
iv) AMO Watchfile – Policy Update: Special Advisor's Report on Blue Box Transition Released.
- g) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Renewing the Blue Box: Final Report on the blue box mediation process.
- h) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – Agenda for the July 17, 2019 meeting and Minutes from the April 24, 2019 meeting.
- i) Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) – Letter from the Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of OMAFRA – launch of the revitalized Rural Economic Development (RED) program.
- j) Northern Policy Institute – regarding the final installment of Northern Policy Institute's Northern Attraction Series proposes strategies and solutions to attract Newcomers to the North.
- k) Jennifer Novak, Executive Director, Opioid Response Team, Health Canada – reply to Council's endorsed resolution.
- l) Premier of Ontario – reply to Council's endorsed resolution on E-Learning.
- m) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board - July 2019 Newsletter 7/31/19.
- n) Continuous Improvement Fund – Public Space Recycling, A Review of Better Practices.
- o) Thunder Bay District Municipal League – Minutes of the Board meeting held on June 8, 2019.
- p) Jason Garatti, Northern Rock Environmental – Update on O'Connor landfill study. They have all of the survey results imported and will now be starting on the volume and design/operations report.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed the invitation to MPP, Greg Rickford to attend an upcoming Township of O'Connor Council meeting. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that a reply had been received back in June from his Constituency Office. It noted that as the Township of O'Connor falls outside of his Kenora-Rainy River riding this request would be forwarded to his ministerial staff for consideration. At this time we have not heard from this office. Council asked the Clerk-Treasurer to follow up with the request.

Council also requested that the Clerk-Treasurer respond to the residents who requested that the speed limit be lowered on Cronk Road, now that a By-law has been passed to do so.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Attorney General – Invitation to participate in the government's consultations regarding joint and several liability, insurance costs, and the "Liability chill" affecting the delivery of everyday public services. Council noted that due to the lack of time by staff that the Township would not participate in the consultation.
- b) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding the Provincial Policy Statement Review – Draft Policies. No comments will be made at this time.
- c) Ms. Elissa Taisey – Letter of written request regarding possible renovations to her garage to allow for living accommodations. The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that Ms. Taisey was not required to receive Council approval for the renovations. She would have to apply for a building permit and meet the requirements under the Ontario Building Code. This was explained to her earlier in the day after discussions with the Chief Building Official.

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- d) Forum North – Thunder Bay's OH & S Conference, November 5 – 6, 2019. Council discussed the attendance at the conference and agreed that the Township should send someone. It was noted that Ms. Laforest, the Township's Health and Safety Representative, would like to attend. It was also suggested that the Clerk-Treasurer and the Leadhand should attend. It was agreed to wait until the agenda comes out to see what the topics of discussion will be, before determining who will attend. The early bird registration is set for mid-October, so this item will be discussed further at a later meeting.
- e) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines – regarding Rural Economic Development Program set to launch on July 29<sup>th</sup>. The Township does not have any projects to apply for.
- f) Association des francophones du Nord-Ouest de l'ontario regarding Invitation to Franco-Ontarian Day – was filed.
- g) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association regarding Invitation to the annual Northern Hospitality Suite at the AMO Conference. No one from the Township will be attending the Conference.
- h) Rural Heritage Agricultural Society regarding an Invitation to 87th Annual Slate River Plowing Match. Mayor Vezina will be participating in the Celebrity class. Council would like this promoted in the September issue of the Cornerstone.

Under further New Business, Council would like to see at the next Health and Safety Meeting with the Road Department, discussion with regard to cell phone usage while driving. There are currently no issues, however they would like it documented in the reports that it has been discussed. This information will be forwarded to Ms. Laforest, the Health and Safety Representative.

For information purposes, Building permits were approved for a garage at 4 Sitch Road, a garage at 76 Winslow Road and a shed at 172 Highway 590.

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

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD  
ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer