

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – AUGUST 9, 2021

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, August 9, 2021 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Community Centre and Virtually.

Present: Councillors: Crane, Loan, Racicot
 Clerk-Treasurer Buob
 Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot
 Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
 Paul LeBeouf, Janice LeBeouf
 Erin Laforest, Administrative Assistant joined virtually at 7:06 p.m.
 Robert McKessock joined virtually at 7:34 p.m.

Absent: Mayor Vezina, Councillor Handy

Acting Mayor Racicot called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Moved by B. J. Loan
 Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

2. Moved by A. Crane
 Seconded by B. J. Loan

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the meeting. A Road Department update and roadwork in general was discussed. Mr. Johnson noted that the road employees have been dressing the driveways on the Township roads that were resurfaced this summer. The Summer Student is working out well, doing a lot of painting and clean up. They have been able to keep her busy and she is doing an excellent job. The roads are in good shape, but the hills are a bit choppy and rain is needed. All calcium has been sprayed.

Mr. Johnson also informed Council of a transmission issue with the grader. A part was replaced and a mechanic has been out to look at it. It continues to give the same computer error message. It is possible that the transmission may be gone and it may need to be replaced, which was not budgeted for and is estimated to cost approximately \$40,000.00. Mr. Johnson will continue to look into the issue and options for repairing.

Councillor Crane asked Mr. Johnson if he received any information on why there was a traffic counter on the ends of both Winslow and Loghrin Road and Hwy 590, but he had not heard any more about it.

The resurfacing of Highway 595 began today. They are currently pulverizing the current surface, starting at Highway 590.

The Health and Safety Report for June 30, 2021 was read. No questions were asked.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for July 31, 2021 was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by A. Crane
 Seconded by B. J. Loan

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2021-14 DATED AUGUST 9, 2021 TOTTALLING \$192,140.03 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

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The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to July 31, 2021 were reviewed. No questions were asked from Council.

By-law Number 2021-13 to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement for the garage, shop B replacement project was reviewed. It was

4. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2021-13 BEING A BY-LAW TO ENTER INTO A TRANSFER PAYMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (ICIP): COVID-19 RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE STREAM – LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTAKE BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) i) Township of Alberton and ii) Township of Chapple with regard to the drought conditions in their area. It was

5. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by B. J. Loan

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF ALBERTON AND THE TOWNSHIP OF CHAPPLE REQUESTING THAT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO AND THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS DESIGNATE THE RAINY RIVER DISTRICT AS AN AREA IMPACTED BY DROUGHT; AND DECLARE AN AGRICULTURE STATE OF EMERGENCY WITHIN IT; AND IMPLEMENT RECOVERY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- b) City of Woodstock regarding affordable housing, homelessness and addictions crisis and it was

6. Moved by B. Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF WOODSTOCK CALLING ON THE HONOURABLE DOUG FORD, PREMIER OF ONTARIO TO BRING TOGETHER THE MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, THE MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING, AND THE MINISTRY OF CHILDREN, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO IMMEDIATELY WORK TOGETHER ON BOTH SHORT AND LONG TERM SOLUTIONS, COMPLETE WITH FUNDING, TO TAKE PROPER RESPONSIBILITY AND ACTION TO ADDRESS THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS, AND ADDICTIONS CRISIS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- c) City of Stratford regarding the Phase Out of Ontario's Gas Plants and it was

7. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by B. Jerry Loan

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF STRATFORD STRONGLY APPEALING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO TO IMMEDIATELY TAKE STEPS TO REPLACE GAS POWERED ELECTRICAL GENERATION WITH NON-CARBON BASED SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- d) i) City of Toronto regarding a Report on Bill 177 Stronger Fairer Ontario Act Changes to Provincial Offences Act was filed

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ii) regarding Building the Early Learning and Child Care System Toronto Needs and it was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF TORONTO SUPPORTING THE BUILDING OF A SYSTEM OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE SERVICES THAT ARE HIGH-QUALITY, PUBLIC AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT, AFFORDABLE, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL FAMILIES; AND SUPPORTING THE APRIL 19, 2021 BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT TO INVEST IN BUILDING A CANADA WIDE SYSTEM OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE AND INDIGENOUS EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE; AND COMMUNICATE THE CITY OF TORONTO'S INTEREST IN WORKING COLLABORATELY, WITH A GOAL OF ACHIEVING INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS BY FALL 2021 BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- e) Township of Huron-Kinloss calling on the Government of Canada to terminate its appeal of the 2019 Human Rights Tribunal Ruling was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board – i) Update from the Board – July 13, 2021.
ii) 2021 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Briefing Package for meetings with Ministers at AMO 2021.
- b) Lakehead Police Services Board – i) Minutes of the April 14, 2021 meeting
ii) Thunder Bay Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – Report on OPP calls in O'Connor from April to June 2021.
- c) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) – 2020 Audited Financial Statements.
- d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Online Training – Indigenous Community Awareness Training. Council discussed possible attendance and it was

9. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by B. Jerry Loan

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO (AMO) AND THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF INDIGENOUS FRIENDSHIP CENTRES (OFIFC) INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY AWARENESS TRAINING TO BE SELF-PACED LEARNING AND LIVE VIRTUAL SESSION TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2021.

THAT ONE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF MEMBER ATTEND, IF AVAILABLE.

REGISTRATION: \$300.00

Carried

- ii) Policy Update – July 20, 2021 – Northern Wildfire Evacuations and Ontario Connects.
- e) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the Main Street Recovery Act: Proclamation of Amendments to the Municipal Act and City of Toronto Act.
- f) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) – Inspection of Approved Aerial Herbicide Project. The Lakehead Forest will be sprayed with herbicide to control competing vegetation, starting on or about July 8, 2021.
- g) Ministry of Northern Development and Mines – News Release – Ontario Helping Small Businesses Establish Online Presence.
- h) Northern Policy Institute – Evaluating the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot Project.

Correspondence from previous virtually meetings will be filed.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

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- a) Municipality of Shuniah regarding a copy of the Thunder Bay Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Draft Board Framework Proposal dated July 21, 2021. The draft proposal for the Thunder Bay Detachment has been submitted to the Solicitor General and copies of letters were sent to the five Chiefs of the First Nations in the Thunder Bay Detachment.
 - b) Municipality of Neebing regarding the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) Broadband funding application. To date, Mr. Coull, from NWO Innovation Centre, has not received a response from either the federal or provincial government on our current joint funding application. There have been significant changes made to the funding program that may impact the application.
 - c) Save Eye Care resolution regarding concerns of the Ontario Association of Optometrists was discussed and it was
10. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by B. Jerry Loan

WHEREAS ROUTINE EYE CARE IS CRITICAL IN EARLY DETECTION OF EYE DISEASE; 80% OF LEARNING IS DONE THROUGH VISION AND CHILDREN DEPEND ON HEALTHY EYES TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL AND HEALTH OF YOUR EYES IS CRITICAL TO YOUR OVERALL HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE; THE LACK OF FUNDING MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO INVEST IN MODERN TECHNOLOGY WHICH MEANS EARLIER DETECTION; AND

WHEREAS OPTOMETRISTS FOLLOW THE FEE GUIDE PUBLISHED BY THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF OPTOMETRISTS AND ARE ALIGNED WITH THOSE FEES CHARGED IN OTHER PROVINCES; AND THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY INCREASED THE OHIP-COVERED PATIENTS BY \$5.50 IN 32 YEARS; AND

WHEREAS PROVINCIAL LAW PREVENTS ANYONE FROM PAYING FOR ANY OHIP-INSURED SERVICE, EVEN IF YOU HAVE YOUR OWN INSURANCE; AND

WHEREAS FAMILIES' MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO COVER THESE COSTS ON THEIR OWN RESULTING IN THE LACK OF EYE CARE; AND

WHEREAS THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO FORMALLY NEGOTIATE WITH OPTOMETRISTS AND THE COST OF PROVIDING AN EYE EXAM IS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN WHAT IS BEING FUNDED;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ADVOCATE TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO PRIORITIZE EYE HEALTHCARE BY FORMALLY NEGOTIATING WITH OPTOMETRISTS AND CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN THEIR FUNDING AND INFLATION;

FURTHERMORE, THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO HONOURABLE DOUG FORD PREMIER OF ONTARIO, HONOURABLE CHRISTINE ELLIOT, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE, LOCAL MPPS, ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO, AND LRMC MUNICIPALITIES.

Carried

- d) Caryll Donaldson and Margaret McKessock letter with regard to the family plots in the O'Connor Cemetery matter. The letter expressed their disappointment in no decision being made at this time as to which method the Township will be implementing with regard to interment rights. The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that they have been working on the matter, but do not want to rush into a decision without time to properly consider the options. Staff are working as quickly as they can under the current employee circumstances and work load. Council agreed to allow the staff to continue to properly consider the Township's options and a reply letter will be sent to the family providing them with a timeline for a decision.
- e) Budget update. The Clerk-Treasurer provided Council with an update on the

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finalized budget and informed them of a couple of corrections made to line items, however, all tax rates remained as approved by Council.

Under New business, Council discussed

- a) Ministry of the Solicitor General regarding the 2021 Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act Requirements (EMCPA) regarding holding an Annual Emergency Exercise and Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) Training. Last year, under the extraordinary circumstances, Ministries and Municipalities were temporarily exempt from conducting their annual exercise, however, in 2021 municipalities will once again be required to hold their annual exercise. At a previous meeting it was noted that if one was required, it would be held in late fall. A date will be further discussed with full Council.
- b) Ministry of Infrastructure regarding the Second Intake of funding under the Green Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The Clerk-Treasurer will look into this further to see if there are any possible projects that the Township would be eligible for.
- c) Peter Julian, M.P. (New Westminster-Burnaby) regarding climate change and expressing concerns with regard to Canada's climate emergency and his concerns to address these changes.

Under Further New Business, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot thanked Council for the flowers and allowing her to take the personal leave. She will be returning to work on August 16, 2021.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Michele Mark, Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) email in response to Mr. McKessock's concerns and requesting an update as to the status of setting and documenting a policy surrounding interment rights, along with any negotiations/offers with the family was read. The Clerk-Treasurer has been in contact with Ms. Mark in response to her email, by both email and telephone conversation.

For information purposes two Building Permits were approved. A new residence at 51 Connolly Road and a new residence at 57 Connolly Road. The Clerk-Treasurer also informed Council that at the end of the day another permit was approved for a new residence at 818 Highway 595.

11. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by B. Jerry Loan

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE, IF CONDITIONS WITH COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ALLOW.

TIME BEING: 8:03 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer