

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – DECEMBER 16, 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, December 16, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Present: Councillors: Crane, Handy, Loan, Racicot
Clerk-Treasurer Buob
Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Absent: Mayor Vezina

Acting Mayor Racicot called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

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

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
DECEMBER 2, 2019 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. The report noted that there had been two First Response calls since the last report, however Fire Chief Mattas reported that one more call had come in since the report was printed.

The report also noted that two members attended a Rural Firefighting course put on by the Zone and the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management. One member of our team also attended the Auto X course put on by the Zone and hosted by Oliver Paipoonge Fire Department in Kakabeka Falls.

Fire Chief Mattas reported that there is a new District Coordinator for the Fire Departments. Greg Hankio will be replacing Fire Chief John Hay in this position.

The Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) Shared Services report with regard to Fire and Emergency Services Department was reviewed and discussed. The Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge is proposing the LRMC members hire a consultant to investigate the potential of sharing or amalgamating services. Council asked Fire Chief Mattas for his opinion on this matter. Fire Chief Mattas provided some history of previous discussions with regard to shared services. He noted a report, prepared by the Office of the Fire Marshal in 2013, on the Review of Fire Protection Services in the Townships of Gillies, O'Connor and Conmee. A meeting was held with the three municipalities following the report in June of 2013 and nothing resulted. Some other attempts with regard to shared training included different departments hosting the same training on different nights of the week so that if a member of one department could not attend their own training night, they could attend one of the other teams on their night. This also did not work out. It was noted that in an emergency the LRMC Fire Departments are all part of Mutual Aid and if assistance was needed from another department in an emergency they currently can ask.

At this time Council do not support the hiring of a consultant to investigate the potential for sharing or amalgamating services. This decision will be relayed at the next LRMC meeting.

Fire Chief Mattas provided a copy of the attendance record of the Fire and First Response members for both training and calls for Council's information. It was agreed that we do have to finalize the letter to the members who are not active but are still on the roster as has been previously discussed. It was noted that most calls are First Response calls with only one fire related call in 2019 to date.

The purchase of AEDs was once again discussed. The Fire Department Auxiliary is planning on purchasing two. Council would like to see them purchased as soon as possible.

Fire Chief Mattas updated Council on the status of the outdoor rink. A meeting was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 with volunteers who are willing to help out with

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the rink this season. Fire Chief Mattas was very impressed with the turnout and looks forward to a successful year. They will continue to use the tanker for flooding as in previous years. The first flood was done on Saturday, December 14, 2019 and will hopefully be ready for skating for the holidays. He noted that the Township of Conmee has drilled a well this season to flood their rink and suggested that this also be done here next summer. A heated building would also be required to keep the hoses from freezing. It was suggested that perhaps the current rink shack could be added on to with a storage area for the equipment. This will be looked at further during budget discussions.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher was reviewed, and it was

2. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2019-18 DATED
DECEMBER 16, 2019 TALLING \$28,878.01 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to November 30, 2019 were reviewed. It was noted that a portion of the variance in the programs section was due to the bridge construction project being cancelled.

A draft Health and Safety Policy was presented. As the document was only received at the meeting this evening Council will review it further and bring their comments back to the next meeting for further discussion.

Correspondence was discussed as follows:

- a) City of Thunder Bay Development & Emergency Services Department regarding Superior North Emergency Medical Services Strategic Plan. The provincial government recently stepped back from its plan to realign Emergency Medical Services and as a result the review and update of the Superior North EMS 2013-2017 Strategic Plan will now proceed.
- b) Township of Conmee – regarding the Zoning By-law Amendment File No. 2019-02. The application has been approved.
- c) Judith Monteith-Farrell, MPP Thunder Bay - Atikokan – reply to Council's recent endorsed resolutions to which she was forwarded copies.
- d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) i) Local Improvement Charge/Home Energy Retrofit Program for Ontario.
ii) Queen's Park Update dated December 16, 2019. This document included information with regard to Cannabis, End of the Fall Legislative Session, Bill 138, Plan to Build Ontario Together Act, 2019, Bill 136, Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 and Bill 124, Protecting a Sustainable Public Sector for Future Generations Act, 2019 all received Royal Assent.
- e) Ontario Provincial Police Municipal Policing Bureau – News Bulletin December 2019.
- f) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries – regarding changes to Public Library Act.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – meeting agenda with the Ministry of Transportation. Topics for this meeting were previously put forward by Council and were included on the agenda. Council would also like to discuss the winter maintenance on Highway 590. It was

3. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT MAYOR VEZINA OR COUNCILLOR RACICOT ATTEND THE MEETING
WITH THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE LRMC IN THUNDER
BAY ON DECEMBER 17, 2019.**

Carried

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The Clerk-Treasurer provided an update on the application for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Green Stream Intake funding application. A request for quote was sent out for assistance with the application. Two quotes were received. The successful bidder will assist with the decision of the replacement structure and the estimated costing of the project for application purposes only.

Under further old business, Councillor Crane noted that he has spoken with one of the Councillor from the Township of Conmee with regard to the use of tablets and was told that they like the system. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that she will speak with the CAO/Clerk in the new year in this regard.

Council asked once again if a van has been rented for the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) conference to be held in Fort Frances in April 2020. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that she has not. Councillor Racicot will start to look into this.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Update on the outdoor skating rink. Fire Chief Mattas provided Council with an update earlier in the meeting with regard to flooding. The Clerk-Treasurer provided Council with more information with regard to the meeting held on Tuesday, December 10th and the group of volunteers who attended. It was a very positive meeting and we are hoping to have the rink ready for skating over the holidays.
- b) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – regarding the draft Strategy for Ontario's Forest Sector.
- c) Sara Epp – University of Guelph – request for a letter of support by Tuesday, December 17th regarding the agriculture within Thunder Bay. Council decided to not provided a letter of support at this time.
- d) The Casual Disposal Site Caretaker position was discussed. No applications were received for this position. The Clerk-Treasurer will continue to look for someone.

Under further New Business, the Clerk-Treasurer informed Council of Fire Chief Mattas' upcoming milestone birthday. It was agreed that birthday wishes be put in the Cornerstone newsletter and it was

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

THAT A GIFT CERTIFICATE BE PURCHASED FOR FIRE CHIEF MATTAS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100.00. Carried

Councillor Loan informed Council that as a result of Mr. Joe Beitz' retirement from the Lakehead Police Service Board, Mr. John Sobolta has put his name forward and will be appointed at the next Board meeting to be held in January.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed

- a) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) – i) Subject 2020 Municipal Levy – Municipal Payment for Services Update & 2020 Invoice Estimate
ii) 2019 Year-End Assessment Report
- b) Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services regarding assessment of Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- c) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding proposed administrative authority.
- d) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding the draft Forest Sector Strategy – Invitation to Engagement Sessions.

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

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS.
TIME BEING: 8:53 P.M. Carried