

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – DECEMBER 17, 2018

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, December 17, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

1. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018 AND THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. There were no calls between November 22, 2018 and December 16, 2018. A joint Fire Department training session on cold weather was held on December 4, 2018 in the O'Connor Community Centre with 27 participants. It was noted that the next joint meeting will not be held until February due to the holidays.

The age of the Township's fire trucks were briefly discussed. While they are in excellent working condition, the year of the vehicle is an issue with regard to the Ministry regulations. This will be looked into further at budget time.

Fire Chief Mattas reported that the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) rates for highway calls will be increasing. The Ministry will pay up to \$477/hour/unit for up to three vehicles for the first hour and then ½ of that rate for any time after that.

Fire Chief Mattas also noted that he received a notice from the MTO with regard to the Highway 590 closure at Cedar Creek in 2019.

He also reported that he has purchased the sheet of plastic for the rink and has started to flood the surface. The warm weather has put a delay into the schedule, however he is still trying to get it ready for the holidays. The plastic has already helped to keep the water in during the warmer weather.

Three members will be removed from the roster for 2019 as they have not attended calls or meetings for some time.

Christmas wishes were exchanged and Fire Chief Mattas left the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher #1 for December was reviewed and it was

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #1 FOR DECEMBER 2018 TALLING \$66,904.93 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to November 30, 2018 were reviewed. The Clerk-Treasurer also provided a report explaining some of the budget estimates and comparisons for year-end review.

A by-law to appoint a Planning Advisory Committee for the Township was discussed. Council agreed to have Council of the whole sit on this committee and it was

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3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2018-19 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT A PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR FOR THE YEARS 2019, 2020, 2021 AND 2022 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Thunder Bay District Health Unit – regarding the Notice of Public Health Levy for 2019. The levy for the Township of O'Connor will increase by 2.74% as compared to 2018 levy.
 - b) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board – Update from the Board - 12/6/2018 newsletter.
 - c) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) – i) 2019 Municipal Levy. The Township of O'Connor's levy will increase by 2.31%, while the province-wide municipal levy increase is 2.1%.
ii) 2018 Year-End Assessment Report. The report provides a comparison of the total assessment for the 2016 base years, as well as a comparison of the assessment changes for 2018 and 2019 property tax year by property class. 93.1% of the Township of O'Connor's property assessment is in the Residential Property Class.
iii) Congratulations letter addressed to Mayor Vezina and a report "About MPAC and Ontario's Assessment System" were reviewed.
 - d) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – i) Letter from Minister regarding the Housing Supply Action Plan and inviting Council to participate in the upcoming consultations sessions.
ii) Letter from the Minister regarding Municipal Reporting Burden. A team has been struck in the Ministry to lead the reduction of the municipal reporting burden across government. They will confirm the information requested is not duplicative, and that the reporting requirements for small municipalities are appropriate.
 - e) Minister of Finance – regarding the Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund (OCLIF) distribution. The first installment of the fund will be made in early January and a second payment will be made following the deadline for municipalities to opt-out under the Cannabis Licence Act, which is January 22, 2019.
 - f) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Policy Update – Cannabis shortage will limit number of stores. Only twenty-five stores in all of Ontario will be awarded in the initial phase of private recreational cannabis retail starting April 1, 2019.
ii) A letter with regard to the Value of AMO Membership 2019-2020 was read. The Township of O'Connor is a member of AMO and will continue being a member in the new year.
iii) Information for Councils – Developing a Municipal Cannabis Policy Statement. Council discussed briefly whether or not to opt-out as per Ontario Regulation 468/18. If a municipality opts-out they will not have access to the municipal portion of the Province's share of the federal share of its cannabis excise tax. If a municipality does not opt out by January 22, 2019, they opt in to recreational cannabis retail sale by default. Council agreed that they will not opt out and opt in by the default.
 - g) Warren (Smokey) Thomas – Wanting a Responsible Plan for Cannabis.
 - h) AMCTO – AMCTO Advocacy Update – Municipal Reporting Burden. A working group has been setup with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing. AMCTO will be a part of the group.
 - i) Northern Policy Institute – i) Northern Policy Institute commentary suggests solutions to food insecurity in Ontario's northern regions.
ii) Northern Policy Institute seeking ten students to work across the North this summer.
iii) Congratulation letter and offer to meet with Council to provide information about the projects and resources. Council agreed not to meet the Northern Policy Institute at this time.
 - j) List of Provincial Ministers for reference was distributed.
- The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) A former complaint with regard to the speed limit on Cronk Road. Council agreed to have the Leadhand look into this further to determine the total costs associated with

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lowering the speed limit on Cronk Road, as well as how lowering the speed limit will affect the Minimum Maintenance Standards and report back to Council. Once this information is brought back to Council, Council will also request input from the residents.

- b) An email was read from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing with regard to the Township's Official Plan review. The Ministry staff are recommending to the Minister that the Section 3.1.1 with regard to Secondary Dwelling Units be amended and they provided the recommended wording. Council were in agreement with this change. The email also noted that they are in the process of preparing a decision on the O'Connor Official Plan, with recommendations of 10-15 modifications to the Minister to ensure the Draft Official Plan is consistent with the Provincial interests.
- c) The Boundary Road Agreement with the Township of Gillies was discussed. The current agreement was for one year and is due to expire. The one year term was put in place due to the temporary closure of the Main Street hill. As the Township of Gillies currently has no plans of opening the road in the near future, it was agreed that the agreement could be put in place for a longer period, and it was suggested five years. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact the Township of Gillies to see if they would be satisfied with the current agreement for a longer term or if they would like to discuss modifications.
- d) Update on Platform Lift Compliance Order from Technical Safety Standards Association (TSSA). The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the work has been completed on the lift and TSSA has been notified that all orders have been met. The Clerk-Treasurer also presented Council with the invoice associated with these repairs. Council would like to see a breakdown of the work completed.
- e) The Clerk-Treasurer provided Council with an update with regard to Fibre Internet. At the last meeting it was suggested that the Township pursue having Fibre Internet brought into the Township and it was said that it was already here. Administration looked into this further and confirmed that it is in fact not. The Clerk-Treasurer reported this to Council and noted that an email has been sent to Tbaytel asking them if they would consider bringing it into the Township if funding was made available. It was agreed to also bring this item to the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition meeting for further discussion.
- f) A discussion with regard to whether or not to opt-in or opt-out of hosting a retail cannabis outlet was previously discussed under item f) in correspondence.

Under further Old Business, Council asked if the Township has looked into having Naloxone in the first aid kits and on board with the First Response Team. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that she has spoken with Leanne Coderre, the First Response Co-ordinator and she is looking into it. They have not been put into the Township's kits as of yet.

The Thunder Bay District Municipal League Conference (TBDML) was also discussed. Councillor Crane found the conference very interesting and informative. Council agreed that it was a good conference with interesting topics. It was also good to networking with the other members of Councils. It was noted that the Board will be discussing whether or not to bring back a second meeting per year in the future. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that she had spoken with the Secretary Treasurer of the Board with regard to the price of the spouses dinner as it was very high. She noted that this item will be discussed at an upcoming Board meeting.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Lakehead Police Services Board – i) Councillor Loan – update from meeting held December 13, 2018 and Report for October and November 2018 was read. Calls for service in this time period were 18, including two suspicious fires which are still under investigation. Councillor Loan also noted that Mr. Garret Beitz could be the new Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officer reporting to the Board. At the last Council meeting, Council appointed Councillor Loan to the Board for the next term however the Township is required to appoint all the members so it was

- 4, Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT COUNCIL AGREE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR JERRY LOAN, MAYOR KEVIN HOLLAND FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE, AND

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**MR. JOSEPH BEITZ, FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING, AS THE
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LAKEHEAD POLICE SERVICES
BOARD FOR THE TERM OF COUNCIL FROM 2019 TO 2022.**

Carried

- b) The Appointment of the Committee of Adjustments was discussed and the two current resident members on the committee submitted their applications and will once again be appointed to the committee. Mayor Vezina will also remain on the committee for the next term. It was

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

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2018-20 BEING A BY-LAW TO CONSTITUTE AND
APPOINT A COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF
O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

- c) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding the Financial Health of the Township of O'Connor. The Financial Indicator Review and the Municipal Financial Profiles documents were reviewed.
- d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) workshop for new members of Council was discussed. It will be held in Thunder Bay on March 6, 2019. This item will be brought back to the next Council meeting when Councillor Handy is in attendance to see if she would be interested in attending. Councillor Crane would be interested. A resolution will be passed for the attendance at the next meeting.
- e) Fairtax – offer to assist the municipality with a government funding applications for the Green Municipal Fund. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that she participated in a webinar which explained their services. There is no charge if the application is unsuccessful however there is a performance service fee based on a tiered percentage on the funding application amount. It was agreed not to use their service at this time.
- f) The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) membership was discussed. It was agreed to not become a member at this time.

Under further new business, the Clerk-Treasurer reported that Ms. Laforest, Administrative Assistance, has recently completed her first Municipal Administration Program (MAP) unit and she did very well. She will be enrolling in the next unit in the new year. Congratulations will be forwarded on to her.

Mayor Vezina noted that he will be away for a few weeks in January due to work.

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

- a) TBT Engineering Limited – Notice of Detour Route Update for Highway 590 closure at Cedar Creek during the summer of 2019. The route will now use Cronk road and Highway 595. This notice will be included in the Township's newsletter also.
- b) Don McLeod and Louise Ewen regarding a petition to save the Thunder Bay Ontario Power Generation Plant. They are trying to gain support from the communities by signatures on a petition. At this time Council will not endorse the petition but agreed that it could be put up in the Township office if anyone was interested in signing.
- c) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) – InTouch – December 2018 newsletter was read.

6. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
ON JANUARY 14, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.
TIME BEING: 9:20 P.M.**

Carried