

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – DECEMBER 19, 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on December 19, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers and virtual.

Present: Mayor Vezina (virtual)
Councillors: Crane, Racicot, Sobolta, Torkkeli (virtual)
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot
Administrative Assistant Erin Laforest

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas

As Mayor Vezina and Councillor Torkkeli have joined the meeting virtually, Acting Mayor Crane chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

2. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

No visitors not already on the agenda were present.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department Report was read. There have been two first response calls since the last report.

Fire Department issues were discussed. Fire Chief Mattas informed Council that the rates for responding to incidents on Ministry of Transportation (MTO) highways has increased. The hourly rate is now \$543.03 and is paid to each emergency vehicle, to a maximum of three, that respond to a collision.

All Fire Department vehicles have had their safeties done.

The draft By-law to establish and regulate a Volunteer Fire Department was reviewed. Schedule "B" of the By-law, Core Services Provided, was discussed and it was agreed that the services listed were appropriate for the size of our department and the number of trained firefighters that are available. This By-law will be brought to the January 9, 2023 Council meeting to be passed.

Fire Department Policy 5.1, to provide fire protection services in accordance with our needs and circumstances and to establish a program in the municipality which must include components of fire protection was reviewed. It was noted that the Policy refers to the Fire Department's Master Plan. This Plan has not yet been developed and it was decided that the reference to it should be removed from the Policy. Also, the reference made under Fire Chief/Prevention Officer, Performance Objectives, states that they are responsible for the submission of all recoverable cost claims (i.e. MTO) within 60 working days of the incident. The statement will be changed by replacing "Submit" with "Ensure", as it is Administrative Staff that submit the application to the MTO.

Fire Department Policy 5.2, to establish a policy that ensures that the members of the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department and First Response Team and the Auxiliary are recognized for their valuable service and contributions towards the successful operation of the Township's Volunteer Fire Department was reviewed. No changes will be made to the Policy.

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The Fire Department Satisfaction Survey was brought back to Council for further review. It was decided that this item will be deferred to the Council meeting to be held on January 23, 2023.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

The Administration and Roads Voucher to December 19, 2022, was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2022-22 DATED DECEMBER 19, 2022 TOTALLING \$173,485.84 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

By-laws were reviewed as follows:

- a) By-law Number 2022-26, being a By-law to authorize the submission of an application to Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation (OILC) and it was

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-26 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE ONTARIO INFRASTRUCTURE AND LANDS CORPORATION (OILC) FOR A CONSTRUCTION LOAN FOR THE GARAGE SHOP B RETROFIT, BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- b) By-law Number 2022-27, being a By-law to amend By-law 2021-17 being a By-law to establish an Emergency Management Program was reviewed. Administrative Assistant Laforest, the Township's Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) summarized the changes that were made. She also stated that she has revised the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) to update possible hazards. Council reviewed HIRA and it was

5. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-27 BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW 2021-17, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, THE ENVIRONMENT, THE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROPERTY AND TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC STABILITY AND A DISASTER-RESILIENT COMMUNITY, BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

The Tender that was received by Gilbert Electric on the November 28, 2022 Council meeting was brought back to Council in order to accept the separate quote, included in the original quote, to reconnect the back-up generator and it was

6. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE TENDER OF GILBERT ELECTRIC INC. BE ACCEPTED FOR THE RECONNECTION OF THE BACK UP GENERATOR IN THE SHOP B ADDITION OF THE MUNICIPAL GARAGE AT A COST OF \$2,213.18, TAXES AND INSPECTION INCLUDED, BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

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The resolution from Lanark County regarding Violence Against Women/Renfrew Inquest was discussed and was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Ministry of Infrastructure regarding the 2023 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) allocation. The Township's 2023 allocation is \$100,000.00.
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - i) Municipal Waste Update: Province Finalizes AMP Regulation under RRCEA.
 - ii) AMO Policy Update – Bill 39 Passes Third Reading, Greenbelt consultation, Safe Restart Funding for Transit, Next Generation 9-1-1, New Regulations Proposed under the Community Safety and Policing Act, and Ontario Health Teams.
 - iii) AMO Communication regarding Value of AMO Membership and MEPCO Support 2023.
- c) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) regarding Ontario Helping Small and Medium-Sized Businesses Lower Electricity Costs.
- d) Thunder Bay District Health Unit regarding 2023 Notice of Public Health Levy. The Township's 2023 Levy will be \$17,682.00
- e) Greenmantle Forest Inc. regarding Ontario's Recovery Strategy for Black Ash.
- f) City of Thunder Bay letter regarding 2021 Financial Statements, 2021 Reconciliation and 2022 Partial Payment for Thunder Bay Court Services. \$1,428.00 has been received for 2021 distribution of net revenue and \$483.00 has been received as a partial payment for court services representing 75% of the 2022 budget.
- g) Township of Malahide regarding the circulation of correspondence relating to the Federal Cannabis Act Review.
- h) Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) regarding grants available in 2023. Administration will look at any projects that may be eligible for funding.
- i) Ontario Sheep Farmers regarding Livestock Guardian Dogs. It was noted that the Township's by-law and policy for Dogs Running at Large does refer to working dogs.
- j) Resource Recovery Policy Branch (RRPB) regarding updates to the Blue Box Transition Schedule. It was noted that the Township is scheduled to transition in 2024.

The Balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business Council discussed

- a) Motion for the transfer of monies from Reserves. At the December 5, 2022 Council meeting, Council discussed the transfer of monies from reserves to off-set the cost of the Garage Shop B Retrofit and it was

7. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE AMOUNT OF \$27,000.00 BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING RESERVE, \$39,000.00 BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM RESERVE AND \$30,000.00 BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE LEVY STABILIZATION RESERVE TO OFFSET THE COST OF THE RETROFIT OF GARAGE SHOP B.

THAT THE AMOUNT OF \$7,800.00 BE BUDGETED ANNUALLY 2023-2027 TO REPLENISH THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM RESERVE.

THAT THE AMOUNT OF \$6,000.00 BE BUDGETED ANNUALLY 2023-2027 TO REPLENISH THE LEVY STABILIZATION RESERVE, BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Item 15 b) i) and 15 b) ii) on the agenda was moved to be discussed under the closed portion of the meeting and it was

8. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS

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OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239 (2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 8:26 PM

Carried

The resumes received by the Municipality of Neebing for the position of Chief Building Official (casual) were reviewed.

- 9. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by J. Sobolta

TIME BEING: 8:37 PM

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

Under New Business Council discussed

- a) Office of the Fire Marshal regarding upcoming training sessions Essentials of Municipal Fire Protection – A Decision Maker’s Guide and it was

- 10. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE ESSENTIALS OF MUNICIPAL FIRE PROTECTION – A DECISION MAKER’S GUIDE

COUNCILLOR SOBOLTA, COUNCILLOR CRANE, COUNCILLOR TORKKELI, COUNCILLOR RACICOT, MAYOR JIM VEZINA.

REGISTRATION: N/C

Carried

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot will provide the dates of the virtual training.

Under Further New Business Council discussed an article released by TBayTel regarding their launch of 5G for Thunder Bay Powered by Ericsson. It was suggested that Mayor Vezina bring this to the attention of the Lakehead Municipal Rural Coalition (LMRC) for discussion with MPP Kevin Holland.

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

- a) AMO – Office of the President regarding an update on Bill 23 and other Housing Supply Action Plan initiatives.
- b) AM O – Waste Management Group: Update to Ontario’s Producer Responsibility Framework.

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

It was

- 11. Moved by Jim Vezina
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIRTUAL.

TIME BEING: 8:48 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer