

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – DECEMBER 21, 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on December 21, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Community Centre.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Loan, Racicot
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Henry Mattas, Fire Chief
Janice LeBoeuf and Paul LeBoeuf

Absent: Councillor Handy

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 17 a) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

The visitors were asked if they wished to address Council. They did not have any concerns but Ms. LeBoeuf did want to comment that the Christmas parade held at the Community Centre on December 12, 2020 was excellent.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report from November 21 to December 17, 2020 was read. There were no fire or first response calls in this time. The attendance from the department meetings held in this time period were noted. New members are coming out in the last month and a half, which is great, however, in person training is hard due to COVID-19. Council suggested that they look into virtual training. On-line courses have been setup by the Deputy Fire Chief in the past, where the member would do the courses on their own, but this format did not work that well. It was suggested that perhaps members could be provided tablets, purchased with some of the COVID-19 funding, to do some training via a virtual format. Hands on training is still required.

Fire Chief Mattas discussed the driver training at this time. One member has completed the written portion of the D-Z licence but still needs to do the driving test. He did so on his own due to COVID-19 and no courses available.

The outdoor rink was discussed. Fire Department members are willing to flood the rink again this season with Mr. Backstrom's assistance. As the rink shack will not be open this year, the team will need a key for the building to turn on the lights if they will be flooding in the evenings.

Fire Chief Mattas was wished a Merry Christmas and left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher to December 21, 2020 was reviewed and it was

2. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2020-22 DATED DECEMBER 21, 2020 TALLING \$27,497.14 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures, with estimates to December 31 were reviewed.

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By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

a) Safety Mission Statement was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SAFETY MISSION STATEMENT BE ENDORSED.

Carried

b) By-law Number 2020-24, a new Procedural By-law for the Township of O'Connor, was reviewed as per comments and amendments made from the draft by-law presented to Council at the December 7, 2020 meeting. It was

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-24 BEING A PROCEDURAL BY-LAW TO GOVERN THE PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AND TO REPEAL BY-LAW 2002-22 AND ADHERING AMENDMENTS BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

a) Town of Carleton Place regarding prioritizing children and childcare as part of the Governments overall post pandemic recovery plan. It was

5. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF CARLETON PLACE REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO PRIORITIZE CHILDREN AND CHILDCARE AS PART OF ITS OVERALL POST PANDEMIC RECOVERY PLAN BE ENDORSED.

Carried

b) Township of Matachewan acknowledging the appreciation of all grants but requesting the application deadlines for any further grants have a longer turn around time was filed.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) Notice of Public Health Levy. The Board has approved a zero percent increase to the Municipal Levy for 2021 and with the formula that they use there will be no increase for the Township of O'Connor.
- b) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation regarding the 2021 Municipal Levy. The Township of O'Connor's levy will decrease by approximately \$100.00 over 2020.
- c) Ministry of Transportation regarding the release of the provinces plan to build a better transportation system in Northern Ontario. Connecting the North: A Draft Transportation Plan for Northern Ontario.
- d) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding Enforcement of Orders under the Reopening Ontario Act, 2020.
- e) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs regarding the Discussion Paper on a new regulatory proposal to implement recent amendments to the Drainage Act.
- f) Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services releasing the Building a Strong Foundation for Success: Reducing Poverty in Ontario (2020-2025).
- g) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) i) Letter from the President.
ii) Policy Update – December 10, 2020 – COVID-19 Municipal Financial Impacts, Supportive Housing Expansion, COVID-19 Modelling and Emergency Orders Extended, and Fall Legislative Session Adjourned.
iii) Policy Update – December 15, 2020 – Social Services Relief Funding and Vaccine Rollout Planning.

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- iv) Policy Update – December 16, 2020 - Phase 2 Restart Agreement Municipal Funding.
 - v) Policy Update – December 17, 2020 – Long-Term Care Staffing Plan, Conservation Authorities Working Group, Poverty Reduction Strategy, and Mental Health and Addiction Services Funding.
 - vi) Policy Update – December 18, 2020 - Additional COVID-19 Vaccine Sites, ESA Termination and Severance Provisions Extension.
 - vii) Policy Update – December 21, 2020 – Lockdown 2.0: Province-Wide Lockdown Starts December 26, Communities Strategy and Enforcement, New School Protocols, Child Care, and Small Business Grant.
 - h) COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force regarding their Distribution Implementation Plan.
 - i) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs regarding the Rural Economic Development (RED) program. The Township does not have any projects that fit within the scope of this funding program.
- The balance of the correspondence was available for review.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) An update from Erika Kromm, Municipality of Neebing, with regard to the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) Members Broadband application with Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) funding. The ICON program requires that the project be completed in three years. Tbaytel's initial plan was to hang fibre on hydro poles throughout the LRMC municipalities, however this would require approval from Hydro One for the use of over 3,000 poles. Hydro One would not be able to engineer and approve every pole within that time line. Tbaytel has altered their plan to have most of the cable buried. Tbaytel will be reaching out to municipalities in the new year with regard to what is needed.
- b) Agreement for the Provision of Police Services Under Section 10 of the Police Services Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 15, as am. Council passed the By-law to approve this Agreement at the last meeting.

Under further Old Business, the O'Connor Christmas parade and Tour of Lights were discussed. The Drive-Thru parade turned out excellent with 154 vehicles driving through and 106 children receiving gifts and 50 unregistered children receiving candy bags. There were eighteen different displays, including the Fire Department vehicles and the office display. The Tour of Lights had 31 different homes on the tour. Voting for your favorite home ended at 5 p.m. today, but the map will remain on the Township's website for everyone to continue to enjoy throughout the holidays. It was suggested that if there is a tour of lights again next year that there be two different categories for the voting, one for lights and one for animation/inflatables.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) The draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2021-2025 was reviewed. Council did have questions with regard to draft which will be clarified and brought back to another meeting for consideration.
- b) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – i) regarding the Safe Restart Agreement – allocation for 2021. The Township of O'Connor has been allocated an addition \$24,000 to help with 2021 COVID-related operating pressures.
ii) 2020 update on COVID expense to date and suggestions for future purchases were discussed. Pricing and additional information with regard to these items will be brought back to Council at the next meeting. It was suggested that automatic hand sanitizer stations be purchased for the garage and fire hall similar to the office and community centre.
- c) Thunder Bay & Area Food Strategy – 2020 Highlights and request for funding for 2021. Council agreed to make a donation in 2021.
- d) Hydro One – New Community Fund. Council would like to have administration look into whether or not an automatic transfer switch for our current backup generator would qualify.

Under further new business Council discussed whether or not the next meeting should be held virtually due to the Provincial lock-down. As the meeting is scheduled after the lockdown is over it was agreed that this suggestion be looked at again in the new year to see if the situation has changed.

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

- a) Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board – Update from the Board – December 21, 2020.
 - b) Best Safety Training & Consulting – Joint Health and Safety Committee Certification Part 2 – discount if booked by December 31, 2020. It was
6. Moved Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT ERIN LAFOREST, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND BRITTANY DUMOULIN, O'CONNOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBER, PARTICIPATE IN THE JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE CERTIFICATION PART 2 TRAINING THROUGH THE ON-LINE SESSION TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY IN 2021. DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED.

REGISTRATION: \$350 PLUS HST.

Carried

- c) The outdoor rink's access to lights for night skating. Due to COVID-19 the rink shack will not be open to the public this season. As the light switch to turn on the rink lights is inside the building, this raises an issue with regard to night skating. Council would like to suggest that someone be paid to be responsible to have a key and to come each evening to turn on the lights. The additional cost could be associated with COVID funding. The Clerk-Treasurer will follow up and see if she can find someone interested.

For information purposes no building permits have been approved since the last meeting. The Clerk-Treasurer did note that a new permit has been submitted for a garage on Holomego Road.

Councillor Racicot left the meeting.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 8:50 P.M.

Carried

The final Union Agreement for the Road Department employees was presented to Council for approval.

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

TIME BEING: 8:54 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

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

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ACCEPT THE MEMORANDUM OF SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AND THE CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND IT'S LOCAL 87.

Carried

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10. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 11, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE IF SITUATION DUE TO COVID-19 REMAINS SAFE.

TIME BEING: 8:56 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer