

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – DECEMBER 5, 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, December 5, 2022, at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers and virtual.

Present: Mayor Vezina (virtual)
Councillors: Crane, Racicot, Sobolta, Torkkeli
Clerk-Treasurer Buob
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Stephan Wiebe

As Mayor Vezina was joining the meeting virtually, Acting Mayor Crane chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: None

2. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

The visitors were asked if they wished to address Council and they replied, no. Mr. Wiebe was introduced to new Council.

Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table. A Road Department updated and roadwork in general was discussed. The road employees have been snowplowing, sanding and pushing back snow drifts. They have also been helping the contractors working on the Shop B addition, by digging around the footings, so that they can get the wall sheeting on. The roof was completed on December 1st, and insulation has been placed in the ceiling of the entire garage. The overhead door will not be installed until the new year. The electrical is now roughed in. The Hydro Inspector does want the stack raised above the roof, so this will be an additional cost. On December 8th the power will be off in the garage for a couple of hours. The Inspector has approved the reconnection of the generator. The interior of the new Shop B will be completed in 2023.

Mr. Johnson will be reviewing the 2022 budget numbers to date. The backhoe's injection pump is needing repairs. Mr. Johnson will be getting it rebuilt and has a mechanic coming to pull it out tonight and replace it when it is ready. The road employees will be hauling more sand to the yard.

The Ritchie Bros. Auction is currently on. Council asked Mr. Johnson if he had checked to see if there were any garbage trucks available and Mr. Johnson replied that there are not.

Council asked Mr. Johnson about the possibility of changing the meter on the garage to have one meter for the garage and fire hall, as we are working on the electrical. It was agreed that it is too late to do this now.

Mr. Johnson reported that he reached out to Hydro One once again regarding the beaver chewed trees on Flint Road. They did not have any record of his previous request. The Forestry Department apologized and will be looking into it as soon as possible.

The Building Report was read. The Municipal Garage was discussed. The Building Life Expectancy will be extended in the Asset Management Plan due to the new addition

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of Shop B and the new roof installed over the entire building. The Annex Building, the Community Centre, the Municipal Office and the Rink Shack were also included in the report. The back section of the Annex Building is currently projected to be removed in 2023, as recommended in the study completed in 2013. There are some minor repairs required to the exterior of the Community Centre. A new accessible ramp, and an accessible door on the back of the building, will be completed in 2023. There are no major issues with the Municipal Office. The Rink Shack has had an addition built on for storage this year, with additional heaters and several of the floor joists being replaced in the main area this year. This project was completed this week. As well, the rink itself has a new 5" concrete surface which has replaced the old asphalt surface. Mr. Johnson will start to now prepare to get an ice surface on the rink.

It was agreed to move Item #12, Tenders and Quotes, up on the agenda to discuss with Mr. Johnson. The quotes were opened at the November 28, 2022, meeting and upon further review it was discovered that the one quote price included tax and the other did not, which then changed the lowest bidder. It was

3. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT MOTION #6 OF THE NOVEMBER 28, 2022 MEETING BE RESCINDED AND THE TENDER OF GILBERT ELECTRIC INC. BE ACCEPTED FOR AN ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR TO SUPPLY AND INSTALL NEW ELECTRICAL WIRING IN THE NEWLY BUILT SHOP B ADDITION FOR THE MUNICIPAL GARAGE AT A COST OF \$13,382.15 TAXES AND INSPECTION INCLUDED.

Carried

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher to December 5, 2022, was reviewed and it was

4. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2022-21 DATED DECEMBER 5, 2022 TOTTALLING \$62,305.32 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditure and the Balance Sheet to November 30, 2022, was reviewed. The Clerk-Treasurer provided an explanation for the current variances for Council.

Under By-laws and Policies, the following items were discussed.

- a) The Safety Mission Statement was reviewed. Council agreed to keep it the same and it was

5. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

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

Carried

- b) i) Report to Council regarding Financing for Municipal Garage – Shop B Retrofit. The Clerk-Treasurer reported to Council on the financing options for the project. At the November 15, 2022, Council meeting, Council passed a By-law to enter into long-term financing with Infrastructure Ontario. After speaking further with Infrastructure Ontario, and not knowing the final dollar value required at this time, it was agreed to not go directly to long-term financing and rather apply for a Construction Loan. The use of the Township's Reserves for a portion of the costs were also discussed. It was agreed to use the Municipal Building Reserve and borrow from Infrastructure Reserve and possibly the Levy Stabilization Reserve. Administration will look further into what other option might be available, and a

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resolution will be passed at the next meeting to transfer the funds.

ii) By-law Number 2022-25 – Being a By-law to Rescind By-law Number 2022-22 – Being a By-law for long-term borrowing with Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation (“OILC”). Council agreed to not submit a long-term borrowing loan at this time and it was

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-25 BEING A BY-LAW TO RESCIND BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-22 FOR LONG-TERM BORROWING WITH ONTARIO INFRASTRUCTURE AND LANDS CORPORATION (OILC), BE PASSED AND ENTERED INTO THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Infrastructure Ontario is currently reviewing the draft Agreement for a construction loan, which will be brought to Council for final approval.

Correspondence was read as follows

- a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – Policy Update November 30, 2022 – Province Responds to AMO Calls for Municipal Funding.
- b) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) – regarding the 2023 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference Briefing Package.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) – Clarification regarding the Royal Assent of Bill 23. The LRCA has confirmed that they will still be able to do plan reviews for its member municipalities. They will, however, not be able to provide non-mandatory reviews and commenting service for development applications. They will also continue to provide permitting services, except for new provisions concerning Minister’s Zoning Orders and Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator Orders. The staff of the LRCA are committed to continuing to provide programs and services that the member municipalities rely on them to provide.
- b) Appointment to the Committee of Adjustment advertisement. Council was informed that the advertisement for the positions on the Committee were not included in the December issue of the Cornerstone. It was agreed to include it in the January issue and do the appointment at the first meeting in January.
- c) Appointment to the Lakehead Police Services Board (LPSB) – The Township of Conmee and the Municipality of Neebing have appointed a member to the Board. The Township of Conmee’s representative will be Councillor David Halvorson and the Municipality of Neebing’s will be Councillor Brian Wright. As the meetings are open to the public and Board member municipalities may also attend, and as Councillor Sobolta was previously on the Board as the Community representative, it was agreed to have Councillor Sobolta continue to attend the meetings to ensure that the Township of O’Connor is aware of what is happening regarding the Board and the policing in the area. It was

7. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT COUNCILLOR SOBOLTA BE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE LAKEHEAD POLICE SERVICE BOARD AS A REPRESENTATIVE WITH NON-VOTING RIGHTS.

Carried

- d) Chief Building Official (CBO) position and the retirement of Mr. Yanishewski at the end of the year was discussed. The Municipality of Neebing has received two applications for the position and their Councillor, Gordon Cuthbertson, former CBO, is going over the applications. He will provide a report to the Councils of the Township of Conmee, Township of O’Connor and the Municipality of Neebing, as we all

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currently use Mr. Yanishewski for the service.

Under New Business, Council discussed:

- a) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – i) 2023 Conference and Annual General Meeting to be held in Thunder Bay from April 26 to 28, 2023. Early Bird Registration opens December 5th. As the Early Bird registration runs until March 13, 2022, it was agreed to bring this back to a later meeting to confirm who will be available to attend.
- ii) 2022 NOMA Letter of Support expanding Veterinarian Medicine to Lakehead University and a resolution regarding the Federal Electoral Boundaries. Council discussed the shortages of large animal Veterinarians in the area and agreed that a letter of support would be sent. It was

- 8. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUPPORTS THE JOINT PROPOSAL BY THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH AND LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY TO ADDRESS THE URGENT NEED FOR VETERINARY SERVICES IN NORTHERN AND RURAL ONTARIO THROUGH THE PROPOSED COLLABORATIVE DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE (DVM) IN RURAL AND NORTHERN COMMUNITY PRACTICE PROGRAM;

AND THAT COUNCIL REQUESTS THAT THE CLERK-TREASURER SEND A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY.

Carried

- b) David Rasi, Field Officer, Amethyst Sector regarding the Next Generation 911 and the opportunity for municipalities who directly operate a 9-1-1 communication centre being eligible to apply for funding. It was agreed that as the City of Thunder Bay operates the 9-1-1 for our Township, that we would not be eligible for the funding.
- c) Ministry of the Solicitor General – regarding the Memorandum – Extending Timelines for Access to \$208M NG9-1-1 Transition Funding. Stakeholder application process sessions will be held. The deadline for applications has been extended to January 10, 2023.
- d) The Township of O'Connor Christmas Party was discussed. It was suggested that we try to hold a party here at the Community Centre on a Saturday in February. Administration will try to find a caterer who would be willing to come here to do it and get some pricing and options for food. This will be brought back to the January Council meeting for further discussion.

For information purposes two building permits were approved. Permit #2022-16 – 818 Highway 595, for an addition to an existing building for a mudroom and porch and Permit #2022-17 – 77 Whittaker Road, for a storage addition to an existing building.

It was

- 9. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIRTUAL.

TIME BEING: 9:03 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer