

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – DECEMBER 7, 2020

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

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand

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 as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Mr. Johnson was asked if he wished to address Council on any personal matters and he replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. Mr. Johnson provided an update on the Road Department and discussed roadwork in general. It was noted that the weather has been good, they have been sanding and hauling sand to the municipal yard from their stockpile. KAK Contracting is currently brushing the sides of the Sitch and Earl Roads for approximately three more days. A scrap metal bin has been dropped off at the disposal site and the road employees will be filling it with the scrap from the site prior to winter snowfall.

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream funding and a possible project was discussed. As retrofit projects are eligible projects under this funding, it was suggested that Shop B of the Municipal garage be replaced, as it was identified in our Asset Management Plan as requiring replacement several years ago and without funding was not feasible. This portion of the garage was built in the 1970's by staff at the time. Draft drawings and a rough estimate of possible costs from Mr. Johnson were reviewed by Council. The Township has been allocated \$100,000.00 for this new stream of funding. If the building was to go over this amount it would have to be funded through the Township taxes or other funding sources. It was agreed to move forward with this project for the application, as it is due by December 21, 2020. The deadline for construction completion is December 31, 2022. Further details on the construction can be worked out upon approval of the project by the Ministry of Infrastructure.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher to December 7, 2020 was reviewed and it was

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2020-21 DATED DECEMBER 7, 2020 TOTALLING \$115,021.18 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to November 30, 2020 were reviewed.

By-laws were reviewed as follows:

- a) By-law Number 2020-23 – Being a by-law to authorize the execution of an agreement for the provision of Police Services. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that By-law Number 2020-21 which was passed at the November 23, 2020 Council

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Meeting, for this purpose, had indicated the incorrect old name of the Ministry and has to be repealed and replaced. The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have also asked that the term of the Agreement be included in the By-law. It was

3. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-23 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPROVE THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR, THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE, THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING AND HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AS REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL AND TO REPEAL BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-21 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

- b) A new draft Procedural By-law for the Township of O'Connor was reviewed. This By-law governs the proceedings of Council and Committees. The current By-law was enacted in 2002, with amendments made to it over the years. Council discussed the draft and changes were made. The revised By-law will be brought to Council for final approval at their next meeting.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Region of Peel regarding property tax exemptions for veteran clubs was filed.
- b) Moms Stop the Harm regarding overdose crisis was filed.
- c) City of Hamilton i) regarding a temporary tap on food delivery service charges was filed.  
ii) regarding placing an interim cap on gas plants and greenhouse gas pollution and phase-out all gas fired electricity generation by 2030 was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board – Update from the Board – November 27, 2020.
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Policy Update – November 25, 2020 – AG Special Report of Ontario's Initial COVID-19 Response and Winter Holiday Guidance.  
ii) Policy Update – November 27, 2020 – Some Regions Moving to new COVID-19 Levels and Phase 2 Long-Term Care Community Paramedicine Program.  
iii) Policy Update – November 30, 2020 – Bill 229, Schedule 6 (CA Act) Proposed Amendments.  
iv) Policy Update – December 1, 2020 – Federal Fall Economic Statement.  
v) Policy Update – December 4, 2020 – COVID-19 Vaccine, New Measures, Joint MOU Statement.  
vi) Policy Update – December 7, 2020 – Initial Vaccination Approach, AG Annual Report, Wetland Conservation Program.
- c) Northern Policy Institute – Does Ontario need a Northern Lens?  
The balance of the correspondence was available for review.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) City of Thunder Bay regarding the Advocacy – Bill 229, Schedule 6, Conservation Authorities Act. A copy of the resolution adopted by the City of Thunder Bay with respect to the Provinces changes to the Conservation Authorities Act was read. This Council did pass a resolution with regard to these changes as well, at their November 23, 2020 Council meeting.
- b) Best Safety Training and Consulting Ltd. regarding Joint Health and Safety Training attendance requested for a Fire Department member to attend. As the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department is required to have a Health and Safety Committee and one of their volunteers is interested in taking on the position, Council was asked if they would endorse the registration cost for this member to attend certification training. It was

4. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

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**THAT BRITTANY DUMOULIN, O'CONNOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBER, PARTICIPATE IN THE JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE CERTIFICATION PART 1 TRAINING THROUGH THE ON-LINE SESSION TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY IN 2021. DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED. REGISTRATION: \$450 PLUS HST.**

Carried

Under Further Old Business the Clerk-Treasurer provided an update on the Christmas drive-thru parade scheduled for December 12, 2020.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Ministry of Infrastructure regarding the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Formula-Based Component Agreement effective December 20, 2016. The Township will be receiving \$50,000 through this fund once again in 2021.
- b) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority regarding the 2021 Levy. They have established a 0% municipal levy increase, however the Township of O'Connor's levy will increase by \$200 as the levy is based on the Current Value Assessment and the municipal numbers have changed.
- c) Mr. Len Day requesting support for Phase II Thunder Bay to Atikokan Multi-Use Trail Proposal. Phase II will go from Thunder Bay to the Kakabeka Falls trail and onto Luckens Road. Phase I of the project was discussed at the November 23, 2020 meeting and will run from Kakabeka Falls to Shabaqua. Phase II would join up to Phase I and both will go through a section of the Township of O'Connor. Council discussed the project and it was

- 5. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUPPORTS IN PRINCIPLE MR. LEN DAY'S PROPOSAL TO CREATE A LAND-BASED MULTI-USE TRAIL ROUTE (PHASE II) FROM THUNDER BAY TO KAKABEKA FALLS. THIS TRAIL LOOKS TO EXPAND "THE GREAT TRAIL OF CANADA" (TGT) IN THE THUNDER BAY AREA, BY CONNECTING TO THE EXISTING TGT TRAIL, WHICH TERMINATED AT OLD FORT WILLIAM ON KING ROAD IN THUNDER BAY, TO KAKABEKA FALLS, SHABAQUA, AND EVENTUALLY ATIKOKAN.**

Carried

- d) Merv and Brenda Holowanky expressing their concerns with the Internet Services at their home address as per Council's request for information for the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition joint application for Broadband. This information will be forwarded for the writers of the application.
- e) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) representation on the Waasigan Transmission Line Roundtable. Mayor Vezina has been asked to represent the LRMC member municipalities at the Roundtable and is requesting Council's approval to represent as honourarium may be paid for these meetings. It was

- 6. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT MAYOR VEZINA ATTEND THE WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE ROUNDTABLE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LAKEHEAD RURAL MUNICIPAL COALITION (LRMC).**

Carried

Under Further New Business, it was suggested that a water cooler be installed in the Community Centre as the Council meetings will most likely be held here for some time due to COVID-19. Council agreed that everyone should bring their own water bottles, during the pandemic if they would like water.

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

- a) Thunder Bay District Health Unit – Moving to Orange Level of Provincial Framework. No changes are required in any of the procedures currently in place

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involving the Township at this time.

- b) Superior North Emergency Medical Service – SNEMS regarding the Strategic Draft Plan presentation to City of Thunder Bay Committee of the whole on December 14, 2020.
- c) Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – regarding the 2021 membership. Council discussed the membership and agreed to not become a member in 2021.

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

Councillor Racicot left the meeting at 9:48 p.m.

- 7. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by W. Handy

**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: 9:48 P.M.**

Carried

The Memorandum of Settlement as prepared by the Canadian Union of Public Employees and It's Local 87 following Union Negotiations held on November 19, 2020 was reviewed.

- 8. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**TIME BEING: 10:02 P.M.**

**THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried

The Memorandum of Settlement was signed by the Negotiating committee members and it will be forwarded to the employees for their signatures. The Clerk-Treasurer will then forward it to the Union for the preparation of the new Agreement, which will be brought back to Council for final approval. It was

- 9. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 21, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE IF SITUATION DUE TO COVID-19 REMAINS SAFE.**

**TIME BEING: 10:06 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer