

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 13, 2023

Minutes of the Council meeting held on February 13, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers and virtual.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
John Nagy, Chronicle Journal

Absent: Councillor Racicot

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

2. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

MPP, Kevin Holland, originally scheduled to attend the meeting sent his regrets, as he was attending a funeral out of town. Staff will arrange a new date for his attendance.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. A Road Department update and roadwork in general was discussed. The employees are continuing performing winter maintenance on the roads, bearing the roads and pushing back snowbanks. Frost heaves are starting to appear on the roads. They are also doing some building cleanup and working on the skating rink to try to have it ready for the grand opening on February 19th. The warm weather recently has melted the ice and deteriorated the surface.

Mr. Johnson also informed Council of a recent leak in the new roof of the garage. He did inform the contractor and will keep an eye on the situation.

He has started working on his 2023 budget. It was noted that a decision on which of the plow trucks will be sold and when will have to be made. The licence stickers will have to be renewed in February. The Township could try to sell the truck privately first and if not successful could put it in an upcoming Ritchie Bros. Auction.

Council was informed that the Ministry of Transportation staff have agreed to attend the March 13, 2023 Council meeting to address Council's concerns. They would like to know in advance of Council concerns so that they can prepare. Council would like to discuss the level of service on Highway 595, the winter maintenance, corridor maintenance and contact information that the Township can share with the public when the traveling public have complaints, as currently they are coming into the Township office.

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

The Administration and Roads Voucher was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 13, 2023

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2023-03 DATED FEBRUARY 13, 2023 TOTTALLING \$71,817.59 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Draft Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to December 31, 2022 were reviewed. The final document will be presented following the Municipal 2022 audit. Funding monies that were either over spent or under spent for the yearend will be transferred in or out of the deferred revenue account. The interest earned on the Disposal Site Reserve will be transferred into the reserve. No other transfers in or out of the reserves will be made at this time. It was

4. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by A. Crane

FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022 THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE FOLLOWING RESERVE/S.

DISPOSAL SITE: \$1,150.00

Carried

5. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE DEFERRED REVENUE ACCOUNTS TO OFFSET AMOUNTS SPENT ABOVE BUDGET

CANADA COMMUNITY BUILDING FUND - \$219.49

ORNGE - \$390.63

COVID-19 RESILIENCE FUNDING - \$4,575.24

Carried

6. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by J. Sobolta

FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022 THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DEFERRED REVENUE ACCOUNT

OCIF - \$6,803.60

Carried

At this time the Township is in a deficit situation due to the delay in receiving a loan for the municipal garage. Staff are working with the Ontario Infrastructure program on securing a loan.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) County of Huron regarding Call to Action: Review of the Cannabis Act was filed.
b) Town of Petrolia regarding school board elections and it was

7. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF PETROLIA REQUESTING THAT SCHOOL BOARDS BECOME RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTION OF THEIR OWN TRUSTEE ELECTIONS OR AT A MINIMUM MUNICIPALITIES BE COMPENSATED BY THE SCHOOL BOARDS FOR OVERSEEING SUCH TRUSTEE ELECTIONS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- c) City of Thunder Bay regarding Bill 42 – Gender Affirming Healthcare Act was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 13, 2023

- a) Treasury Board Secretariat regarding the Ontario's Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan (PEMSAP).
- b) Municipality of Neebing regarding the Black Ash Recovery Strategy. A copy of letter sent to the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks.
- c) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) regarding NOMA at ROMA 2023 Conference Media Release.
- d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Policy Update – January 24, 2023
ii) Policy Update – February 9, 2023.
- e) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) – 2023 ROMA Conference Draws Record Number of Rural Municipal Leaders.
- f) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – Disaster Mitigation and Adaption Fund now accepting applications.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Essentials of Municipal Fire Protection – A Decision Maker's Guide – seminar being held in Township of Conmee March 16, 2023. Confirmation of who will attend in person or participate virtually on a different date were discussed. It was agreed that all of Council and Clerk-Treasurer Buob will attend in person.
- b) AMCTO Zone 9 2023 Spring Meeting to be held in Thunder Bay on May 9 & 10, 2023. Attendance was discussed. It was agreed that administrative staff will all attend and the office will be closed during this time. It was

- 8. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE AMCTO ZONE 9 SPRING MEETING TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON MAY 9TH AND 10TH, 2023.

**CLERK-TREASURER BUOB
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT LAFOREST**

REGISTRATION: \$100.00

Carried

- c) Township of O'Connor Committee of Adjustments appointment were discussed. Two applications were received for two positions. Mayor Vezina will sit on the Committee along with Lou Richard and Martin Tempelman. It was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2023-09 BEING A BY-LAW TO CONSTITUTE AND APPOINT A COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED INTO THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- d) Northwestern Ontario Recreational Trails Association (NWORTA). Council discussed the request for permission to temporarily use a couple of the Township of O'Connor roads for the Trans Canada Trail network, as per the deputation from the President of the NWORTA, Len Day, at the January 23, 2023 meeting. Concern was expressed in regard to where people would park while using the trail, as well as the safety concerns with motorized vehicles and walkers on the same roads. It was suggested that an open house be held with the residents, especially those who will be directly impacted by the trail in their neighbourhood, as well as send letters to the residents located on the roads that would be used for the trail. Mr. Day did mention in his deputation that he would like to hold some open houses regarding the trail. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to contact Mr. Day to see if he would be willing to hold an open house in the near future, here in O'Connor, prior to them making a decision, to hear of any concerns from the residents. Information could also be made available in the Township's newsletter and website.

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 13, 2023

e) Municipal Council/Joint Training Session to be held with Darrell Matson, Rosalie Evans and Ron Bourret was discussed. As a result of the previous correspondence with all municipalities involved with the training the common dates of availability were Thursday, February 23 evening session or Friday, February 24, morning session. It was

10. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNCIL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT; COUNCIL MEMBERS' COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATIONS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY UNDER ONTARIO LEGISLATION TO BE HELD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE ON FEBRUARY 23 OR FEBRUARY 24, 2023.

REGISTRATION: COST DEPENDING ON PARTICIPATION – APPROXIMATELY \$300.00/ATTENDEE.

**MAYOR VEZINA
COUNCILLOR CRANE, SOBOLTA, TORKKELI**
Carried

- f) The Clerk-Treasurer provided an update on the Grand Opening of the Outdoor Rink to be held on Sunday, February 19, 2023 from 1 – 4 p.m. MPP, Kevin Holland, and an Ontario Trillium Foundation spokesperson will be in attendance. Speeches will begin at 1:15 p.m. Mayor Vezina will also be asked to speak. The press have been invited and the O'Connor Community Club will be supplying hot drinks and snacks.
- g) The Clerk-Treasurer provided an update of O'Connor Christmas Dinner menu and cost. Invitations have been sent out. RSVP's are due to office by February 23rd.

Under Further Old Business, Councillor Crane, once again asked if the Township had heard from Tbaytel regarding the internet service. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that we have been in contact with Mr. Trevor LaFreniere from Tbaytel and he is waiting on some information in regard to the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalitions (LRMC) funding application and he is willing to come out to an upcoming meeting as soon as he has more information to provide to Council.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Oliver Paipoonge Library regarding the 2023 Contract for service with Oliver Paipoonge Public Library. By signing the contract, the residents of O'Connor have access to both the Murillo and Rosslyn branch of the Oliver Paipoonge Library. It was

11. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE LIBRARY CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR 2023 WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF OLIVER PAIPOONGE LIBRARY BOARD FOR LIBRARY SERVICES BE SIGNED.

Carried

- b) Thunder Bay District Veterinary Services Committee Annual Meeting – March 2, 2023. It was

12. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT VETERINARY SERVICES COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE THUNDER BAY CO-OP FARM SUPPLIES ON MARCH 2, 2023.

REGISTRATION FEE – N/C

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 13, 2023

**COUNCILLOR SOBOLTA
COUNCILLOR TORKKELI**

Carried

- c) Ontario Farmland Trust regarding the 2023 Ontario Farmland Forum to be held in Guelph, Ontario March 23, 2023. No one will attend.
- d) Dog Control Officer – resignation. Ms. Joyce Posthumus has informed the Clerk-Treasurer that she will be resigning from the shared position of Dog Control Officer. Ms. Margaret Foster is still in the position so no replacement will be pursued at this time. It was
13. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

**THAT COUNCIL ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JOYCE POSTHUMUS, AS
DOG CONTROL OFFICER, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 13, 2023.**

Carried

Under Further New Business, Councillor Sobolta informed Council that he would like to do some research and explore the feasibility of having a retirement home in our area. Council liked the idea, however it would have to be privately owned and not run by the Township. The Township of Conmee had previously looked into building one, run by the Township, but no one at the meeting knew the status of their plans. Council agreed that it was worth exploring further.

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

- a) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – i) First Call for Nominations for Offices of President and Executive Vice-President. No names were put forward at this time.
ii) NOMA Federal and Provincial Pre-Budget Submission.

18. For information purposes Building permit #2023-01 was approved for a garage at 46 Broome Road.

It was

14. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO
BE HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS AND VIRTUAL.**

TIME BEING: 9:05 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer