

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Deputy Fire Chief Monica Budiselic

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 14 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, FEBRUARY 10, 2020 AND THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

No visitors from the Township were in attendance.

Fire Chief Mattas and Deputy Fire Chief Budiselic were welcomed to the table.

The Fire Department report was read. There were two First Response calls since the last report. Fire Chief Mattas attended a Mutual Aid Zone meeting on February 18th. There is currently a review of the Mutual Aid Agreement taking place and Fire Chief Mattas is a part of the group doing the review.

The email from a Fire Department member requesting permission to open a Fire Department Facebook account was discussed with Fire Chief Mattas and Deputy Fire Chief Budiselic. The members would like to show pictures of the team in their gear out in public to promote the fire department involvement in the community. Deputy Fire Chief Budiselic provided sample guidelines from another department for reference. It was noted that the Township's website could also be used to post information, however the younger generation is more likely to be looking at Facebook than going to the website. The concerns and risks of posting pictures on Facebook were discussed. It was noted that once something is posted it is out there and Facebook can also turn into a negative social media source. It was noted that this could be of some value if done right. It was noted that there is a way to post without allowing comments or sharing to others and it could be setup that only one person can post information and pictures. That one person would be responsible for ensuring that only appropriate information and pictures would be posted.

Councillor Handy agreed to draft a policy using the sample provided in this regard and bring back to Council for review. Mayor Vezina and herself would then be willing to take the draft policy to the Department Members to discuss the risks and due diligence and get their input into the policy before being further discussed and or approved by Council.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is hosting a webinar entitled "When Facebook Attacks" and it was agreed that this could provide more insight into this request from the Fire Department and it was

2. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO WEBINAR, ENTITLED "WHEN FACEBOOK ATTACKS" TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020.

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REGISTRATION FEE: \$75.00**COUNCILLOR WENDY HANDY
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

Carried

The Clerk-Treasurer provided Council with an update on the new text messaging system that was recently implemented. The information and request for our residents to sign up was included in the February issue of the Cornerstone and an insert was put in with the Interim tax bills. So far approximately 40 people have signed up for the program. Administration will continue to promote the system as residents come into the office and reminders will also be included in future Cornerstone issues.

The O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Meeting Minutes from January 14, 2020 were read. No questions from Council arose. It was noted that the Auxiliary will be doing a new large item raffle in the near future.

Fire Chief Mattas also noted that the Fire Department has been invited to tour the Superior Propane plant tomorrow, February 25th. Three or four members of the O'Connor team will be attending. As well, there is a SP103 – Wildland Fire Fighting Course to be held next Saturday and seven members will be attending.

Fire Chief Mattas and Deputy Fire Chief Budiselic were thanked for attending and they left the meeting.

The Administration and Roads Voucher to February 24, 2020 was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2020-04 DATED
FEBRUARY 24, 2020 TOTTALLING \$26,542.53 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to January 31, 2020 are still unavailable as the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer awaits the final numbers for 2019 from the auditor.

Lakehead Police Services Board request to the Member Municipalities to pass a By-law for the appointment of the Community Member to the Board. Council has previously passed a resolution to appoint Mr. Sobolta, however the Board is requesting that a By-law be passed. The By-law as presented was reviewed and it was

4. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-09 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT THE
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LAKEHEAD POLICE SERVICES
BOARD BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were reviewed as follows:

- a) Township of Puslinch regarding Bill 132 with respect to the Aggregate Resources Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act was filed.
- b) County of Haliburton regarding Tourism Oriented Destination Signage Fee Increases was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) AMO Response to Public Health and Emergency Health Services Consultation and Cannabis Consultations Underway.
ii) Policy Update – Employment Services Prototype Service Managers: No Municipal Applicants Selected.
- b) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Approved Forest Management Plan Inspection Lakehead Forest 2020-2030 Forest Management Plan

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- c) Premier Doug Ford – reply to Council's endorsed resolution with regard to Conservation Authorities.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old business, Council discussed

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – i) regarding the Secretarial Position and Council's approval required. It was

5. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR APPROVE THE PROPOSAL DATED NOVEMBER 13, 2019 FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF OLIVER PAIPOONGE TO HIRE AN EXTERNAL SECRETARY FOR THE LAKEHEAD RURAL MUNICIPAL COALITION, AT A COST OF \$300/MONTH FOR THE DUTIES DESCRIBED IN THE PROPOSAL;

AND FURTHER, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AGREES THAT THE COST WILL BE SHARED BETWEEN MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES OF THE LAKEHEAD RURAL MUNICIPAL COALITION ON A "PER CAPITA" BASIS, RESULTING IN AN ANNUAL COST OF \$188.00 FOR THIS MUNICIPALITY.

Carried

- ii) Rural Action Plan (RAP) was discussed. The LRMC is looking for comments from the Council's with regard to changes, additions or removals that they might like to see in the next update of the document so that the committee can start to work on the updates prior to the summer months and have it ready for presentation to the Ministers at the AMO Conference in August. Council will review the document and bring back any suggestions to the next meeting.
- b) Sharla Knapton, Executive Assistant to Marcus Powlowski, MP regarding input into the development of the Broadband Fund. Council would like this information forwarded to the LRMC for further discussion and have the Coalition submit comments on our behalf.
- c) Electronic Agenda update – Memo from Clerk-Treasurer Buob was read. The cost estimate to switch from paper agenda and documents to an electronic version was discussed. It was agreed to continue with the paper agendas at this time. The Clerk-Treasurer was thanked for looking into this.

Under New Business, Council discussed

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- a) Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management – regarding the Amethyst Sector Spring Meeting to be held March 31, 2020 in the Township of Conmee. The Deputy Clerk-Treasurer/Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC), Ms. Racicot is invited to attend. Ms. Racicot would like to have Administrative Assistant Laforest attend as well. As the meeting is local and it would be a good opportunity for Ms. Laforest to learn more with regard to the CEMC position. It was

6. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ATTEND THE OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SPRING AMETHYST SECTOR MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE MUNICIPAL COMPLEX MARCH 31, 2020.

**REGISTRATION FEE – N/C
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT LAFOREST**

Carried

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It was noted that the Township office will be closed that day as the Clerk-Treasurer is also on holidays at that time. Notice of the closure will be provided to the residents in advance of the day.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- b) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding proposed regulatory changes under the Aggregate Resources Act and requesting feedback. Council did not have any comments at this time.
- c) Township of Gillies regarding the Gillies 100th Anniversary invitation. This item will be brought back to the April 27th meeting to see who will be available to attend.
- d) Municipality of Neebing invitation to attend Ms. Evan’s retirement social during her last day of work, February 28th. Clerk-Treasurer Buob and Mayor Vezina will try to stop in. As Ms. Evans has assisted all of the neighbouring Townships with her reports and knowledge on several items throughout her time as Solicitor/Clerk for the Municipality of Neebing, Council discussed recognizing the extra support that she provided to Council and staff and it was

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

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O’CONNOR COUNCIL RECOGNIZE ROSALIE EVANS, SOLICITOR-CLERK FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING, IN HER RETIREMENT FOR THE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL OVER HER YEARS IN THIS POSITION. COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT A GIFT CERTIFICATE WORTH \$100.00 AND ONE O’CONNOR HISTORY BOOK.

Carried

No additional items were brought forward.

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

It was

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

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O’CONNOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

TIME BEING: 8:44 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer