

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 25, 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Present: Councillors: Crane, Handy, Loan, Racicot
Clerk-Treasurer Buob
Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Absent: Mayor Vezina

Acting Mayor Handy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 9 e) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. There were no fire or first response calls since the last meeting. It was also noted that the whole district has been quiet with only a couple of chimney fires.

Fire Chief Mattas thanked Council for the Christmas dinner held on February 9th for all the volunteers, Council and staff. He also noted that he was invited and attended Nolalu's appreciation dinner last weekend.

Fire Chief Mattas again expressed his concern with the lack of members attending Tuesday night meetings and training. Different incentives to try to get members to come out were discussed. Deputy Fire Chief Budiselic has training that can be done on line but they still need to attend meetings for hands-on training. High school students, 16 years of age or older may also get volunteer hours for attending. It was suggested that during the Fire Department and First Response food drive coming up in April, perhaps a handout with regard to recruitment could be provided to the residents while speaking with them face to face to help encourage new members to come out.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

There were no bills to be paid at this time.

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to December 31, 2018 with audit adjustments were reviewed. Two reports to Council were read. One, with regard to the transfer of Federal Gas Tax Funding from the Reserve Fund to a deferred revenue account and one explaining the ONE fund and High Interest Saving Account interest earned being moved from the general revenue account to the actual funding accounts. The report also noted that the \$7,500 originally setup as an accounts receivable for the Wildland Community Fire Protection Plan was reversed as the project was not actually completed until January 2019, however the expense was setup as a payable as we did receive the invoice in December, which has now increased the total deficit by this amount for year-end 2018.

By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

- a) By-law Number 2019-06 to adopt the Policy for Council Member Pregnancy and/or Parental Leave and the Policy attached as Schedule "A" to the By-law were reviewed and it was

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2019-06 BEING A BY-LAW TO ADOPT A COUNCIL MEMBER PREGNANCY AND/OR PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

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- b) By-law Number 2019-07 to adopt the Policy for Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation and the Policy attached as Schedule "A" to the By-law were reviewed and it was

3. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2019-07 BEING A BY-LAW TO ADOPT A TREE CANOPY AND NATURAL VEGETATION POLICY BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- c) and d) By-law Number 2019-08 to adopt a Code of Conduct for Council, including an Integrity Commissioner Inquiry Protocol attached as Schedule "B" to the Policy were reviewed and it was

4. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2019-08 BEING A BY-LAW TO ADOPT A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCIL BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- e) By-law Number 2019-09 to adopt a Policy for Council-Staff Relations and the Policy attached as Schedule "A" to the By-law were reviewed and it was

5. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2019-09 BEING A BY-LAW TO ADOPT A COUNCIL-STAFF RELATIONS POLICY BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

Consent application 1B/01/19 for Josefina Buob was reviewed and discussed and it was

6. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE CONSENT APPLICATION 1B/01/19 FOR JOSEFINA BUOB FOR THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS CONCESSION 3, PART LOT 6 PCL 7699, FOR A SEVERANCE OF 5.384 HECTARES BE APPROVED.

Carried

Discussion was held with regard to whether or not Council will go out for Request for Quotes to have a Landfill study completed in 2019. This quote would provide Council with a more accurate cost at budget time to determine whether or not a study will be affordable at this time. Council agreed to have administration move forward with the requests.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – encouraging the Ontario Government to recognize equivalency between the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) through a permanent section 55 regulation or legislative change to the ESA. It was

7. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Jerry Loan

WHEREAS THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING A REVIEW OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA) TO "IMPROVE

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PROTECTIONS FOR SPECIES AT RISK, CONSIDER MODERN AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO ACHIEVE POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR SPECIES AT RISK, AS WELL AS TO LOOK FOR WAYS TO STREAMLINE APPROVALS AND PROVIDE CLARITY TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.”

WHEREAS THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR UNDERSTANDS THAT THE CROWN FOREST SUSTAINABILITY ACT (CFSA) IS AN EQUIVALENT PROCESS TO THE ESA; AND

WHEREAS CHANGES MADE TO THE ESA MUST INCLUDE THE CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HABITAT ON ALL SPECIES AT RISK POLICY; AND

WHEREAS CHANGES MADE TO THE ESA MUST RECOGNIZE THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF ALL SPECIES AT RISK POLICY ON A HEALTHY ECONOMY; AND

WHEREAS SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS MUST BE COMPLETED AND SHARED WITH IMPACTED STAKEHOLDERS AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES PRIOR TO ANY SPECIES AT RISK POLICY BEING IMPLEMENTED; AND

WHEREAS EVEN UNDER A PERMANENT REGULATION OR LEGISLATIVE CHANGE TO THE ESA RECOGNIZING EQUIVALENCY, SPECIES AT RISK POLICY AND PRESCRIPTIONS DELIVERED UNDER THE CFSA MUST CONSIDER THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CUMULATIVE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS; AND

WHEREAS ONTARIO HAS A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO ENSURE A WORKABLE OUTCOME ON SPECIES AT RISK POLICY THAT PROVIDES A LONG-TERM SOLUTION THAT PROTECTS JOBS AND THE ECONOMY; AND

WHEREAS THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR REMAINS CONCERNED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COULD STEP INTO NON-FEDERAL LANDS AND PRESCRIBE HOW FORESTS WILL BE MANAGED THROUGH AN UNWORKABLE SECTION 11 CONSERVATION AGREEMENT OR EMERGENCY PROTECTION ORDER; AND

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR IN AN EFFORT TO SUPPORT THE FOREST INDUSTRY STRONGLY ENCOURAGES THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE EQUIVALENCY BETWEEN THE ESA AND CFSA, THE FOREST SECTOR REQUIRES SPECIES AT RISK POLICY AND PRESCRIPTIONS THAT CONSIDER THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CUMULATIVE, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS.

Carried

- b) Landfill Approval: We Demand the Right – calling on the Government of Ontario to formally entrench the right of municipalities to approve or reject landfill projects in or adjacent to their communities. It was

8. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

WHEREAS MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS IN ONTARIO DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPROVE LANDFILL PROJECTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, BUT HAVE AUTHORITY FOR MAKING DECISIONS ON ALL OTHER TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT;

AND WHEREAS THIS OUT-DATED POLICY ALLOWS PRIVATE LANDFILL OPERATORS TO CONSULT WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, BUT ESSENTIALLY IGNORE THEM;

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AND WHEREAS ONTARIO'S PROPOSED "MADE-IN-ONTARIO ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN" STATES THAT THE PROVINCE WILL GRANT MUNICIPALITIES A "GREATER SAY IN SITING OF LANDFILLS";

AND WHEREAS MUNICIPALITIES ALREADY HAVE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS FOR APPROVING CASINOS AND NUCLEAR WASTE FACILITIES WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES, WHETHER TO HOST CANNABIS RETAIL IN THEIR COMMUNITIES;

AND FURTHER THAT THE PROVINCE HAS RECOGNIZED THAT VALUE OF MUNICIPAL APPROVAL FOR THE SITING OF POWER GENERATION FACILITIES;

AND WHEREAS THE RECENT REPORT FROM ONTARIO'S ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONER HAS FOUND THAT ONTARIO HAS A GARBAGE PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY FROM INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL (ICI) WASTE GENERATED WITHIN THE CITY OF TORONTO, WHERE DIVERSION RATES ARE AS LOW AS 15%;

AND UNLESS SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS ARE MADE TO INCREASE RECYCLING AND DIVERSION RATES, A NEW HOME FOR THIS TORONTO GARBAGE WILL NEED TO BE FOUND, AS LANDFILL SPACE IS FILLING UP QUICKLY;

AND WHEREAS MUNICIPALITIES ACROSS ONTARIO ARE QUIETLY BEING IDENTIFIED AND TARGETED AS POTENTIAL LANDFILL SITES FOR FUTURE TORONTO GARBAGE BY PRIVATE LANDFILL OPERATORS;

AND WHEREAS OTHER COMMUNITIES SHOULD NOT BE FORCED TO TAKE TORONTO WASTE, AS LANDFILLS CAN CONTAMINATE LOCAL WATERSHEDS, AIR QUALITY, DRAMATICALLY INCREASE HEAVY TRUCK TRAFFIC ON COMMUNITY ROADS, AND REDUCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS;

AND WHEREAS MUNICIPALITIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED EXPERTS IN WASTE MANAGEMENT, AS THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS WITHIN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES, AND OFTEN HAVE DECADES' WORTH OF IN-HOUSE EXPERTISE IN MANAGING WASTE, RECYCLING, AND DIVERSION PROGRAMS;

AND WHEREAS MUNICIPALITIES SHOULD HAVE THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO APPROVE OR REJECT THESE PROJECTS, AND ASSESS WHETHER THE POTENTIAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS ARE OF SUFFICIENT VALUE TO OFFSET ANY NEGATIVE IMPACTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR CALLS UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO, AS PART OF ITS "MADE-IN-ONTARIO ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN" TO FORMALLY ENTRENCH THE RIGHT OF MUNICIPALITIES TO APPROVE OR REJECT LANDFILL PROJECTS IN OR ADJACENT TO THEIR COMMUNITIES;

AND THAT IN THE CASE OF A TWO-TIER MUNICIPALITY, THE APPROVAL BE REQUIRED AT BOTH THE UPPER-TIER AND AFFECTED LOWER-TIER MUNICIPALITIES;

AND FURTHER THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ENCOURAGE ALL OTHER MUNICIPALITIES IN ONTARIO TO CONSIDER THIS MOTION CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE PROVINCIAL ACTION;

AND THAT THE MOTION ADOPTED BY COUNCIL BE FORWARDED TO THE DEMAND THE RIGHT COALITION OF ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES.

Carried

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- c) Municipality of Neebing – i) regarding Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) requesting that Zone 9 be divided into two different geographical zones. Councillor Handy recently attend the ROMA conference and provided additional information with regard to the background and reasoning behind this resolution. It was

9. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING REQUESTING THE RURAL ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION (ROMA) DIVIDE ZONE 9 INTO TWO DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL ZONES; ONE FOR NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO AND ONE FOR NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- c) Municipality of Neebing ii) ROMA limiting the number of vote per municipality to one and allow municipal councils to give proxies to representatives of other municipalities attending the conference to vote on their behalves. Councillor Handy also provided additional information with regard to this request and it was

10. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING REQUESTING THE RURAL ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION (ROMA) LIMIT THE NUMBER OF VOTES PER MUNICIPALITY FOR ZONE REPRESENTATIVES AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING TO ONE

AND FURTHER THAT ROMA ALLOW MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, BY RESOLUTION, TO GIVE PROXIES TO REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER MUNICIPALITIES ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE, TO VOTE ON THEIR BEHALVES BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- c) Municipality of Neebing iii) regarding the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program and it was

11. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING REQUESTING THAT THE PROVINCE PROVIDE RELIEF TO ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES WHO ARE BEARING THE COST OF THE CONSERVATION LAND TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND FURTHER SHOULD THE PROVINCE CONTINUE TO STATE THAT IT PROVIDES COMPENSATION THROUGH THE ONTARIO MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP FUND (“OMPF”) THAT IT BE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED ON A SEPARATE LINE ITEM IN ITS REPORT TO MUNICIPALITIES BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Ministry of Finance – i) regarding the 2019 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF). The government will be maintaining the current structure of the OMPF for 2019 as well as Transitional Assistance as per the request of municipalities trying to finalize their budgets for 2019.
 - ii) regarding the Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund – Second Payment. The Township of O'Connor has received their 2nd payment.
- b) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – As a result of the consultation with regard to the Housing Supply Action Plan the provincial government will be bringing forward legislation and policy change that would impact planning province-wide in the coming months.
- c) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade – letter announcing the first steps in supporting Ontario's automotive industry

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- d) Northern Policy Institute i) Is a Northern Ontario Immigration Nominee Program the key to attracting Newcomers to the North?
- ii) Report analyzes decision making in the Northern Ontario Health Care System

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) A draft form "Declaration of Pecuniary Interest, Municipal Conflict of Interest Act" was reviewed. Council, as of March 1, 2019, are required to declare their Pecuniary Interest in writing, as per Bill 68 which amends the Municipal Act, 2001. This form will be made available to Council at each meeting. A partially prefilled form will also be prepared for Councillor Racicot as his reasoning for the majority of his interests are the same each meeting.
- b) The possible Council meeting dates to have Tbaytel attend to discuss the possibility of bringing Broadband into the Township of O'Connor were discussed. They have provided a couple of dates that they would be available. Council agreed to invite them to attend the May 13, 2019 meeting. This date will be confirmed with Mr. Hiiback and he will be added to that agenda.
- c) Hymers Agricultural Society – request for donation. It was noted that at the January 14, 2019 Council meeting the Society's request for a donation was over looked and only the advertising in their prize list book was approved. Council was asked if they wished to make any further donation to the Hymers Agricultural Society and it was agreed that the advertisement would be sufficient this year.
- d) The Township of O'Connor's Draft Zoning By-law dated February 2019 was briefly discussed. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting to allow Council more time to review it.

Under further old business, Council noted that the Council photo taken at the beginning of this term was not yet on the Township's website as was agreed upon when taken. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that it will be soon, at the same time, the new policies will be put on. It was suggested that it also be put in the Cornerstone.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) The Northern Policy Institute regarding the Share an Analyst – Northern Analyst Cooperative Project. There is a membership fee required and Council agreed not to participate.
- b) The possible increase in attendance at the Council meeting scheduled for March 25, 2019 was discussed. Due to discussion with regard to the speed limit on Cronk road there could be more residents in attendance at this meeting. It was agreed that to be prepared for a larger group it would be better to hold this meeting in the O'Connor Community Centre and it was

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

THAT THE LOCATION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019 AT 7 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS BE CHANGED TO THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Carried

Under further new business, Councillor Racicot noted that there is an e-bay website that sells used equipment and trucks and bidding can be done on-line. It was suggested that Mr. Johnson be made aware of this website so that he can keep an eye on any potential deals that might come along for the Township's needs.

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

- a) Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services regarding new legislative requirements related to mandating Community Safety and Well-Being Planning. New Legislative amendments were made to the Police Services Act, 1990 effective January 1, 2019 that require municipalities to prepare and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. Municipalities must work in partnership with police services and various other sectors. Municipalities have two years to adopt this plan. The Clerk-Treasurer will follow up with the Secretary of the Lakehead Police Services Board to see if the Board will be addressing this for member municipalities.

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- b) Municipality of Shuniah – copy of the letter sent to the Minister of Finance with regard to the Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding (OMPF). The letter along with background information and a video explaining the history of how the OMPF was originally setup was discussed. Council agreed that they would like to have this video presented at an upcoming Council meeting to see and discuss together.

The following two items came in after the agenda was printed and it was agreed to receive them as follows:

- c) Town of Oakville regarding Proposed Amendment to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
- d) Canada Post – seeking approval for the installation of new community mailboxes at the intersection of Highway 595 and Whittaker Road. Council did not see any concerns with the proposal, however they would like Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, to confirm the new location is acceptable for road maintenance.

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

- 13. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
ON MARCH 11, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.**

TIME BEING: 9:25 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer