

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Community Centre and virtually.

Present: Mayor Vezina (virtually)  
Councillors: Handy, Loan, Racicot  
Councillor Crane (virtually)  
Clerk-Treasurer Buob  
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot

Visitors: Administrative Assistant Laforest arrived (virtually) at 7:17 p.m.

As Mayor Vezina was attending the meeting virtually, he asked that Councillor Handy, as Acting Mayor, chair the meeting.

Acting Mayor Handy called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.**

Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 16 a) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

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

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

No Visitors were present to request to speak to Council.

Fire Chief Mattas was unavailable to attend the meeting.

The Fire Department report for January 20 to February 24, 2022 was read. There was one Fire related call and one First Response call since the last report. The attendance of members at training meetings, as well as calls, was included.

The 2021 Monthly Fire and First Response call stats were reviewed. The O'Connor team received fifteen calls in 2021.

The slide deck information from the Ministry of the Solicitor General's in regard to the proposed Firefighter Certification Regulation was read. This information was presented to the participants attending the Technical Briefing led by the Office of the Fire Marshal. Mayor Vezina provided additional information in regard to the webinar he, as well as the Clerk-Treasurer and Administrative Assistant attended, held on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Fire Chief Mattas attended the repeated session held on February 18, 2022. Mayor Vezina informed Council that the members only have to be certified for the services that the O'Connor Fire Team provide. They are allowing grandfathering for those who have had the training in the past, with members having the opportunity to apply to be certified without taking the course by 2026. What information will be required to prove the knowledge and to certify those members is still unknown. Comments on the proposed regulation were to be submitted by February 28, 2022. Mayor Vezina noted that Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) was making comment. There is concern that the timelines provided for members to be certified is much too tight.

Upon Ms. Laforest's arrival, she was asked if she wished to address Council on any personal matters and she replied no.

Each municipal Council will have to determine exactly what services the Township's Fire Department will provide and then members will have to be trained to that level.

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The Township of O'Connor's current Fire Department Policy was reviewed. Council will table any changes to the policy until after the proposed regulation is passed, and then will clearly identify what services the Township will provide.

Council would like Administration to clarify if there is a liability to the Township if a member were to go above and beyond, and perform a service or rescue if they are not trained to do so, or are they covered under the good Samaritan Act.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for February 28, 2022 was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2022-04 DATED FEBRUARY 28, 2022 TOTTALLING \$48,387.18 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures will not be available until after the year-end audit is completed.

By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

- a) By-law Number 2022-06 – being a By-law authorizing the execution of an Ontario Transfer Payment with the Province. This is the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) funding agreement for five years of funding, which was previously discussed at the last meeting. Council have agreed to hold the first year of the funding and use two years of allocation for the resurfacing of Loghrin Road with a chip seal treatment in 2023. The balance of the additional years funding will be used for road resurfacing. It was

4. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-06 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ONTARIO TRANSFER PAYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF ONTARIO AS REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, MINES, NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY AND THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

- b) By-law Number 2022-07 – being a By-law to authorize the purchase of an Asset Management Program for the Township. The Canada Community-Building funding will be used to purchase this program. Annual maintenance fees will be included municipal budget each year. It was

5. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-07 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PURCHASE CONTRACT BETWEEN PSD CITYWIDE INC. AND THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

- c) The Mandatory COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination – Community Centre Policy was discussed. As the Provincial government will move to the next step in the Roadmap Exit plan as of March 1, 2022, proof of vaccination for indoor sports and recreational facilities will no longer be required. Individual facilities may voluntarily implement proof of vaccination requirements if they wish. Council was asked if they wished to follow the Province of Ontario's exit plan or continue to follow the current Township policy. Council discussed the local situation and agreed to follow the Province's plan and it was

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6. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE MANDATORY COVID-19 PROOF OF VACCINATION POLICY – COMMUNITY CENTRE BE RESCINDED IN ITS ENTIRETY AS PER PROVINCIAL GUIDELINES WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT CAN BE REENACTED AS NEEDED.**

Carried.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) – regarding the Urban and Rural Indigenous Housing Strategy. The Board is requesting support to impress on the Ministries the need for financial assistance in this matter. It was

7. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD IN REGARD TO HOMELESS ENUMERATION REPORT 2021 BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

- b) Stand with Asians Coalition request to proclaim May 10, 2022, as the “Day of Action Against Anti-Asian Racism” was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – i) Minutes of the January 13, 2022 meeting.  
ii) Student Transportation Service of Thunder Bay regarding Automated Stop Arm Cameras. Correspondence from deputation made to the members at the LRMC meeting held on February 15, 2022 was read. Councillor Handy attended the LRMC meeting and provided additional information in regard to the presentation. While this is a great idea, there is concern on who should pay for them. The province is designating the stop arm camera programs as a municipal responsibility and permitting municipalities who choose to implement the program to be able to use evidence from the camera systems in court without requiring a witness to introduce the evidence. As school buses travel through multiple municipalities this would be difficult to administer. As the evidence found on the cameras would be used to lay charges under the Highway Traffic Act, it is believed that the funding should come from the Provincial and Federal governments.
- b) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) regarding the Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services under Section 21.1.2. of the Conservation Authorities Act – Inventory of Programs and Services prior to February 28, 2022 was read. In the Transition Plan, LRCA staff are required to consult with each member municipality between March 2022 and May 2023 and have an Agreement executed prior to October 2023, in preparation for the 2024 budget. The LRCA's Programs and Services have to be categorized into three categories, Mandatory Programs and Service, Non-Mandatory Programs and Services at the request of a Municipality and Non-Mandatory Programs and Services. A spreadsheet of the LRCA's Inventory of Programs and Services was reviewed. Further information into the next phase of the Transition Plan will follow at a later date.
- c) Hydro One Community Relations regarding the Waasigan Transmission Line Project Update. Mayor Vezina has been attending the meetings in this regard.  
The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Hydro One Community Investment reply email in regard to the status of the Township of O'Connor's request for funding. The Township's initiative was not selected for this round of funding.

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- b) Ministry of Northern Development Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNR) regarding a replacement Intern. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that upon clarification from the Intern Coordinator for the program, the Township can pull from the first posting of the position and we do not have to repost and do interviews if we would like. Council agreed to approach the previous applicant to see if he might still be interested and offer him the position. If he is not interested, the position will be posted.
- c) Ontario Investing in Inclusive and Accessible Communities funding
  - i) A Report regarding the funding was read. Administration has prepared an application for the maximum amount of this funding, \$60,000, to purchase and install an accessible playground with some outdoor exercise equipment for the community centre yard. One quote has been received and a second requested. As the quote received is much higher than funding request, additional funding opportunities will be looked into. The O'Connor Community Club has in the past held some fundraising events and has secured \$3,900 and would be willing to do additional fundraisers if the application is successful. The size of the structure selected can also be sized down if required. There are several options available.
  - ii) The quote from Blueimp was reviewed, providing Council with details and pictures of the equipment quoted on, for reference.
  - iii) Information from the Township's Insurance company, Westland Insurance Group, in regard to the installation of playground equipment on Municipal property was read. They are recommending that all equipment be installed by a licensed technician with knowledge of CSA standards and should be inspected by a certified playground inspector. Information on Risk Management considerations for playgrounds was also provided and read.

Council agreed to move forward with the submission of the application for funding by the deadline of March 3, 2022.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) – Annual Conference March 24 and 25, 2022 in Thunder Bay.

Councillor Racicot noted that he would like to attend the conference and left the room.

The conference will once again be held in person. Attendance was discussed and it was

- 8. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON MARCH 24 AND 25, 2022.**

**MAYOR VEZINA  
COUNCILLOR CRANE, RACICOT  
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT LAFOREST**

**REGISTRATION: TO BE DETERMINED.**  
Carried

The Township office will be closed on these days to allow staff to attend.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- b) Superior North EMS regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter payment and the final 2021 Levy information was reviewed. The final billing is \$2,008 more than originally budgeted. This will affect the final deficit for the Township's 2021 budget.
- c) Thunder Bay District Veterinary Services Committee – Annual Meeting will be held in person on March 17, 2022. It was

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- 9. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT VETERINARY SERVICES COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE ROSSLYN COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MARCH 17, 2022.**

**REGISTRATION FEE: N/C**

**COUNCILLOR CRANE**

Carried

- d) Ontario Farmland Trust regarding the 2022 Ontario Farmland Forum to be held virtually on March 24, 2022. No one will attend as there is a conflict with the Thunder Bay District Municipal League Conference.

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

- a) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) Board Meeting Summary Report for February 23, 2022. Mayor Vezina, as a Board member, was unable to attend this meeting and did not have any further information in this regard.
- b) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) regarding the Plan Review Program MOU – Schedule 1: Fee Schedule Update effective February 23, 2022. These fees are for the LRCA’s services and not an increase in the municipal levy.

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

It was

- 10. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE O’CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE AND VIRTUALLY ON MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 8:20 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk-Treasurer