

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JANUARY 10, 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, January 10, 2022 held virtually from the Township Municipal Office at 7 p.m.

Present: Mayor Vezina  
 Councillors: Crane, Handy, Loan, Racicot  
 Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot (Municipal Office)  
 Administration Assistant Laforest (Municipal Office)  
 Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Leadhand Kelly Johnson

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m. due to technical difficulties with the internet connection at the Municipal Office.

1. Moved by Jerry Loan  
 Seconded by A. Crane

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

Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

2. Moved by Jerry Loan  
 Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. A Road Department update and roadwork in general was discussed.

The By-law for Miscellaneous Fees and Charges was reviewed. It was agreed that there will be an increase of \$5.00 in the hourly rate for all road equipment for contract work. An amending by-law will be brought to the next meeting of Council.

An e-mail from Canada Summer Jobs calling for submission of applications for summer students was read. It was decided that two (2) applications will be submitted for the Roads Department for this summer.

The Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) Fund was discussed. As the funding is being offered to offset the impacts that resource development can have on local municipal infrastructure, the Township would be able to apply for funding for bridges, culverts and roads. Chip sealing Loghrin Road was discussed and Mr. Johnson stated that he has been inquiring about the cost per kilometre. The funding is providing the Township with \$60,675.60 per year for five years and it can be banked for larger projects. Each municipality must register by January 29, 2022 to let them know what we will be using the funding for. Mr. Johnson will look into pricing for the chip seal of Loghrin Road to determine if it can be done this year or if we will need to bank the funding for 2022 and expend it in 2023 when we receive the second payment. Once pricing is confirmed we will register and let NORDS know what our project is.

The Health and Safety report dated December 21, 2021 was read. Council had no comment or questions.

Item Number 19 on the agenda, Closed Portion, was moved forward on the agenda for discussion with Mr. Johnson and it was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
 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**

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**OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239 (2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.****TIME BEING: 7:56 PM**

Carried

Application for the position of Road Employee Equipment Operator #1 were discussed. Three resumes were received.

Wages for non-union staff were discussed.

4. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded Jerry Loan

**TIME BEING 8:19 PM. THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried

5. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT A SPECIAL MEETING BE SET FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2022 IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7:00 P.M. TO INTERVIEW FOR THE POSITION OF EQUIPMENT OPERATOR #1. INTERVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL COMPRISE MAYOR VEZINA, COUNCILLOR CRANE, COUNCILLOR RACICOT.**

Carried

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Wages for non-union part-time staff was discussed. Council would like the current pay schedule made available at the next meeting for further discussion.

6. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2022-01 DATED JANUARY 10, 2022 TOTALLING \$76,788.71 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

- a) By-law Number 2022-01 being a by-law to impose late payment charges for non-payment of taxes or any installment by the due date and it was

7. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-01 BEING A BY-LAW TO IMPOSE LATE PAYMENT FOR THE NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES OR ANY INSTALLMENT BY THE DUE DATE BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

- b) By-law Number 2022-02 being a By-law to provide for an interim levying amount and it was

8. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-02 BEING A BY-LAW TO PROVIDE FOR AN INTERIM LEVYING AMOUNT BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

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c) By-law Number 2022-03 being a By-law to authorize the borrowing of monies and it was

9. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-03 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE BORROWING OF MONIES BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

d) By-law Number 2019-05 to establish rates for the disposal of refuse at the O'Connor Landfill Site was reviewed. No changes will be made to the fee schedule at this time. Council did discuss the possibility of implementing a fee for a request to open the site. It was decided that no fee will be charged, however, if this becomes an issue then it will be looked at again.

e) The Draft Zoning By-law was reviewed. Council was provided with the 2018 Draft By-law prior to the meeting for review along with the Minutes of the April 8, 2018 Special Meeting that was held to discuss revisions to the draft By-law. Council were asked if they had any issues or concerns. Recommended changes were discussed and Administration will forward the recommended changes to Fotenn, the firm that drafted the 2018 final draft of the Zoning By-Law for further review and discussion.

A resolution for endorsement from the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury regarding Quebec's Bill 21 was read and it was

10. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF BRADFORD WEST GWILLIMBURY REGARDING THEIR MOTION AGAINST QUEBEC'S BILL 21 WHICH UNFAIRLY DISCRIMINATES AGAINST PUBLIC-SECTOR WORKERS BY DIRECTLY INFRINGING ON THEIR FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION RIGHTS AS ENSHRINED INTO LAW BY THE CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) The 2021 Treasurer's Itemized Statement of Remuneration and Expenses for Council Members.
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
  - i) Value of AMO Membership and Municipal Employer Pension Centre Ontario (MEPCO) support in 2022. The cost of Membership to AMO will be \$760.49 for 2022.
  - ii) AMO Policy Update, New Year Calls to Actions and other issues of municipal concern.
- c) Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding Ontario's Housing Crisis and Planning System and update on Bill 13, the Support People and Businesses Act.
- d) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority breakdown of the remuneration and expenses paid for Jim Vezina, Township of O'Connor's representative as per Provincial legislation for 2021.
- e) Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding the Minister's Annual Report on Drinking Water 2021 and the 2020-2021 Chief Drinking Water Inspector Annual Report.
- f) 2022 Blue Box Steward Funding Obligation and Municipal Funding Allocation Model. The Township will receive \$7,463.00 in 2022 to offset the cost of its recycling program.

The balance of the correspondence will be made available on request.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

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Under old business the Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy request for \$250.00 in annual seed funding support and it was

11. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR MAKE A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250.00 TO THE THUNDER BAY FOOD STRATEGY TOWARDS THEIR CORE OPERATIONS.**

Carried

Under new business, Council discussed

- a) E-mail from Douglas Morris regarding rapid test kits for the Township of O'Connor residents. Mr. Morris' concern is that the rapid test kits are not readily available to rural residents, in particular, rural seniors. Mr. Morris would like to see the Township be provided with rapid test kits and distribute them to O'Connor residents. As testing kits are in high demand Council felt that the possibility of securing test kits would be unlikely. Council would like a letter sent to Mr. Morris explaining the Township's position and suggest that this may be an item for our local Member of Provincial Parliament and Member of Parliament.
- b) Report to Council prepared by Administrative Assistant Laforest regarding the Municipal Climate Resiliency Grant (MCRG) which will provide funding for municipalities towards effective, practical solutions that will mitigate flood and wildfire risk. Ms. Laforest suggested applying for funding to install a water storage tank on Smith Road with a drilled well to provide water as this area is designated as a high risk area in the Township's Community Wildland Fire Protection Plan. Council were in agreement and an application will be submitted.
- c) An email from the Ministry of Citizenship regarding Ontario Volunteer Service Awards was read. Council discussed possible individuals that they could nominate. Council would like a list developed by Administrative Staff of possible candidates for future reference.
- d) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) regarding the "It Takes a Forest Campaign". They are looking for suitable billboard sites within the region. Council was not interested in participating in the campaign.
- e) Email from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding streamlining environmental permissions for microbreweries and nanobreweries through self-registration and exemptions. They are looking for public comment on the proposal. Council will not be submitting comment.
- f) Letter from the Ministry of Transportation regarding an amendment to the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) to improve safety for motorists on highways by reducing the potential for collisions between passenger vehicles and snowplows. As the amendment pertains to highways with a posted speed of 100 km/hr Council felt that it was not relevant in our area.

Issues brought forward and letters received after the agenda was mailed were read and discussed as follows

- a) Municipality of Oliver-Paipoonge Public Library regarding the 2022 contract for service and it was

12. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE LIBRARY CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR 2022 WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF OLIVER PAIPOONGE LIBRARY BOARD FOR LIBRARY SERVICES BE SIGNED.**

Carried.

- b) Email from Hydro One Community Relations regarding invitation to accept delegate meetings at the Virtual Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference that is being held on Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Councillor Crane and Councillor Handy have been registered to attend the ROMA Conference and a delegate meeting will be requested to discuss questions and concerns, including Hydro One's brushing policies under Hydro right of ways.

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- c) Email from the Continuous Improvement Fund regarding the 1<sup>st</sup> CIF Municipal Disbursement as the program slowly winds up its operations. The Township's first payment was \$27.34.
- d) Letter from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the Omicron Variant of COVID-19, Testing and Isolation Guidelines, and Emergency Work Deployment Order, Ontario Regulation 157/20 was read.

13. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 10:27 PM**

Carried

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Mayor

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Deputy Clerk-Treasurer