

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JANUARY 14, 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, January 14, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Judith Monteith-Farrell, MPP, Thunder Bay- Atikokan arrived at 7:05 p.m.  
Kelly Johnson, Leadhand arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Absent: Mayor Vezina

Acting Mayor Crane 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 9e) and 17a) as his spouse is an employee of the Township. Councillor Handy declared an interest in item 14d) as she is the President of the Hymers Agricultural Society.

1. Moved by B. J. Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

As the visitors had not arrived, Council continued with the agenda.

The Administration and Roads Voucher #2 for December was reviewed, and it was

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by B. J. Loan

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2 FOR DECEMBER 2018 TALLING \$27,598.00 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

MPP Judith Monteith-Farrell had arrived and was welcomed to the table. Introductions were made and Acting Mayor Crane gave MPP Monteith-Farrell the floor to make her presentation. She thanked Council for the invitation to attend and noted that she would like to ensure that the rural communities in her riding are well serviced. Topics of commitment were discussed, including bringing natural gas and broadband to the communities. Safe roads are also a priority. She noted that she is the critic for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and the Ministry is currently evaluating the moose tag program and they may be opening up more crown land for this program in the future. There is a time of transition with the change in government and the levels of bureaucracy. She informed Council that as a member of the opposition she has contact information for the different departments and she can follow up with them on any of the Township concerns or project applications, etc.

Council asked MPP Monteith-Farrell what the party platform was and why she herself ran for the seat. She commented that she has always been interested and a NDP, however she was too busy in her personal life to commit. With Mr. Rafferty unable to run in this last election she was asked to put her name forward and felt the timing was more appropriate. She outlined some of the parties platform, including more sharing and community based programs with the tax burden shared equally which aligned with her values.

Council noted some of their concerns including high property taxes for our residents and seniors due to the Provincially mandated programs. MPP Monteith-Farrell noted a program in British Columbia for those with a low-income, including seniors, where the Province pays their taxes and when the house is sold the taxes are paid back to the Province from the sale at that time. Perhaps this is something she could look into.

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The Lakehead Police Services Board (LPSB) structure was also discussed. Council informed MPP Monteith-Farrell of the current structure of the Board and noted that just before the change in government the Board was working on changing the number of members allowed on the Board. As a Board of four communities, with only two municipal Council representatives, they would like to have one member from each community on the Board. A Provincial appointee is also supposed to be on the Board but no one has been appointed as yet. Council would like her to review the Police Services Act with regard to the Board Structure and request her support in having this Board structure changed. She noted that she would be happy to look into it. She noted that she can go to the Minister's office and Council can use her to go to the Research Branch and get more in-depth information or analysis on any issue. It was suggested that she contact Ms. Rosalie Evans, the Secretary to the Board, to get all the details of the situation.

Council also brought forward the Provincial Land Tax (PLT) reform with regard to the property taxes in the unorganized Townships and how the Province is still paying for all the mandated services on their behalf. Council would like to see the Provincial government change this system and have everyone be treated equally.

The City of Thunder Bay's proposal to have Highway 102 closed for highway trucks and to have these trucks travel on Highway 11/17 through Kakabeka Falls was discussed. Council expressed their concerns and asked MPP Monteith-Farrell to provide any assistance she could with regard to this issue.

MPP Monteith-Farrell was thanked for attending the Council meeting. She stated that she was happy to come and agreed that we all need to work together in the North. She does not anticipate much funding coming forward in the near future. She stated that she is a hard worker and she and her staff are willing to work with us on any issues. She left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the meeting. A Road Department update and roadwork in general was discussed. The employees have been plowing snow and scratching some icy areas. There has been a bit of drifting this year. They have also been doing maintenance on the equipment. They have been trying to get the rink going after the large dump of snow over the holidays but the snowblower broke and needed fixing. The new white plastic also had some air pockets which they are dealing with and it will need to receive more floods prior to opening.

The Boundary Road Agreement with the Township of Gillies was discussed briefly with Mr. Johnson. Previously the Agreement was only approved for one year until the Main Street hill issue was resolved. The Township of Gillies is not prepared to make the changes needed to the hill and have no plans at this time to reopen the road. They are willing to renew the Agreement for a five-year period with the maintenance remaining the same. Mr. Johnson had no concerns with the Agreement being put in place for five years.

The reduction of the speed limit on Cronk Road was discussed, as per a resident's request in 2018. As a follow up Mr. Johnson provided the costs associated with reducing the speed as well as the difference in maintenance requirements with a speed reduction. For this one particular road the costs would be minimal with only the purchase of four speed limit signs and posts. The road will move from a level six to a level five in the minimum maintenance standards, however the Township provides a higher level of service than the standard requires so there would be no changes in maintenance. Council would like to move forward on this issue by getting feedback from the community and ratepayers on Cronk Road to see what their opinion is on reducing the speed limit as this process was started due to one ratepayer's complaint. Letters will be sent to residents on Cronk Road and a notice will also be put in the Cornerstone. The issue will be discussed further at the February 25<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and ratepayers will be asked to attend the meeting or submit their comments by this date.

The Canada Summer Jobs 2019 program was discussed. The program has changed this year, opening the program to all youth aged 15 to 30, not just students. Council discussed this further with Mr. Johnson and it was agreed not to apply to the program.

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Mr. Johnson was asked to look into the cost of a new truck for the Roads department for budget time due to all the issue this past year with the Truck #9. Council also asked Mr. Johnson his opinion on the rates currently being charged for the equipment rentals, to be discussed further down on the agenda. Mr. Johnson feels they are reasonable as they are currently set, as they were increased last year.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

The January bills to be paid were reviewed and it was

3. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by B. Jerry Loan

**THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR JANUARY 2019 BE PAID. THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE JANUARY 2019 ADMINISTRATION AND ROAD VOUCHER.**

CK#15421	AMCTO (MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL)	\$ 894.96
CK#15422	ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO	\$ 718.68
CK#15423	MFOA (MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL)	\$ 282.50
CK#15424	ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS	\$ 288.15
CK#15425	TBAYTEL (TELEPHONE)	\$ 441.27
CK#15426	AMCTO ZONE 9 (MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL)	\$ 100.00
CK#15427	ALS ENVIRONMENTAL (WATER TESTING)	\$ 49.72
CK#15428	ONTARIO GOOD ROADS ASSOC. (RENEWAL)	\$ 602.12
		<u>\$3,377.40</u>

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to December 31, 2018 were not available.

By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

- a) By-law Number 2019-01 to impose late payment charges was reviewed. The interest rate is set at 1.25% and it was

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2019-01 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 2019-02 to provide for an interim tax levy amount was reviewed. Council will continue to send out one interim tax bills, based on 50% of the previous years taxes with two installments, due at the end of February and April. It was

5. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2019-02 BEING A BY-LAW TO PROVIDE FOR AN INTERIM LEVYING AMOUNT BY PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

- c) By-law Number 2019-03 to authorize the borrowing of monies was reviewed. This By-law provides for an overdraft on the Township bank account, if required, and it was

6. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2019-03 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE BORROWING OF MONIES BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

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- d) By-law Number 2019-04 to authorize the execution of an agreement with the Township of Gillies for joint maintenance of the common boundary roads was discussed. As per discussions with Mr. Johnson earlier in the meeting Council were in agreement to enter the five year agreement and it was
7. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2019-04 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GILLIES FOR THE JOINT MAINTENANCE OF COMMON BOUNDARY ROADS BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- e) A review of the Administration Benefits Policy was discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer reported on the changes proposed due to Bill 148 not being implemented. Overall the changes are clerical and do not impact the overall benefits. Council were in agreement with the changes and the Policy will be brought back to a future meeting for final approval.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- f) The Miscellaneous Fee and Charges were reviewed and discussed. The hall rental rates were discussed. It was agreed to leave all fees the same for 2019.
- g) A draft of the Township of O'Connor's Procedural By-law was discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer has updated the By-law to include the new sections of the Municipal Act for Closed Meetings in this draft, as per Council's request at the December 3, 2018 meeting. The Clerk-Treasurer requested more time to review Bill 68, the Newest Municipal Accountability and Transparency Measures to ensure that all changes are covered in the By-law prior to passing. Council were in agreement to wait on the approval of the by-law at this time.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Town of Kirkland Lake requesting the Premier of Ontario enact its Northern Ontario natural resources revenue sharing program was filed.
- b) Municipality of Mattice-ValCote regarding Paragraph 4 of the Declaration of Office was filed.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Treasurer's Itemized Statement of Expenses for Council and Committee Members.
- b) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – Minutes of the November 22, 2018 meeting.
- c) Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services – regarding the District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) Governance and Accountability Review Final Report.
- d) Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) – Board Minutes November 15, 2018.
- e) OPP – i) Ministry's Public Safety Division (MPB) Financial Services Unit – regarding the 2018 Court Security Prisoner Transportation grant. The Township of O'Connor will receive \$378.  
ii) OPP January Newsletter.
- f) Thunder Bay District Health Unit – regarding Cannabis Retail Outlet Considerations.
- g) Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) – regarding Cannabis Retail stores.
- h) Ministry of Finance – regarding 2019 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF). The government wants to ensure that the vital services people rely on are available to individuals and families for generations to come and their top priority is putting the Province's fiscal house in order. They are reviewing the OMPF and seeking feedback on how to best renew the program. They will provide the 2019 OMPF allocations as soon as possible.
- i) Don Rusnak, MP – regarding the Canada Summer Jobs Program. This was previously discussed and the Township will not be submitting an application.

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- j) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) 2019 AMO Membership renewal. Council agreed to continue with the membership.
- ii) AMO Policy Update – Bill 66 – Municipal Implications Overview
- iii) AMO Policy Update – At Queen's Park: Summary of 2018 Completed Legislation
- iv) AMO Policy Update – Financial Risks for Property Taxpayers and Municipal Budgets.
- k) Stewardship Ontario – regarding Industry funding for Municipal Blue Box Recycling for the third quarter of the 2018 Program Year.
- l) Ontario SPCA – regarding a Court decision – Bogaerts v. the Attorney General of Ontario.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) The O'Connor Fire Department roster. The Clerk-Treasurer verified the members currently on the team and the following members were deleted or added as per the following resolutions.

- 8. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF THE FOLLOWING NAMES FROM THE ACTIVE ROSTER OF THE O'CONNOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND/OR FIRST RESPONSE TEAM:**

- 1. DAVID FROWEN
- 2. JOSH TURK
- 3. BISHOP RACICOT
- 4. KAI IWASE
- 5. JUSTIN GROCHOWSKI

Carried

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

**THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PERSONS AS MEMBERS OF THE O'CONNOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND/OR FIRST RESPONSE TEAM:**

- 1. LINDA RACICOT
- 2. BRENDAN BYERS

Carried

- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) New Councillor training to be held in Thunder Bay on March 6, 2019. Both Councillor Crane and Handy would like to attend and it was

- 10. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE AMO – “AS A MEMBER OF COUNCIL WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW” WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON MARCH 6, 2019.**

**COUNCILLOR WENDY HANDY  
COUNCILLOR ALEX CRANE  
REGISTRATION: \$340.00 + HST**

Carried

- c) OTIS – response with regard to Platform lift invoice for maintenance. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that she spoke with the company and requested a breakdown of the work performed. They stated that they performed the required work to meet TSSA's annual testing requirements as well as the required repairs to the TSSA Compliant. The hourly rate on the invoice was reduced to the old rate as the rate has recently increased as a result of our concerns.

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Under further old business, Council discussed the Tbaytel fiber internet request for information. It was noted that at the last meeting Council asked that this item be discussed at the next Lakehead Municipal Coalition Meeting which will be held on Thursday, January 17th. Council would like to invite a senior manager of Tbaytel to a Council meeting to discuss the matter further.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Lakehead Police Services Board i) Municipality of Neebing – regarding the cost apportionment for the Board. The Municipality of Neebing has agreed to divide the cost of the board on the same ratios that the policing costs compare to one another. The Township of Gillies is 11%, Conmee and O'Connor are 15% with Neebing paying the balance. Council were in agreement with using these ratios.
- ii) Township of Gillies – regarding the Appointment to the Board Concerns. Their Council feel there is a conflict with the newly appointed OPP Officer Representative and the community member representative appointed by the Municipality of Neebing. Council felt this should be discussed further with the Board and they would not make a comment at this time.
- b) Gayle Poohachoff – request for recognition of specific volunteers in the Township. Council discussed the request and agreed that this effort should be recognized and it was

- 11. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR COUNCIL RECOGNIZES TWO INDIVIDUALS AS AN APPRECIATION OF EXTRODINARY VOLUNTEERING EFFORTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR EFFORTS, COUNCIL WILL PURCHASE FOR THEM A \$100.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE AND A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE DINNER TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 9, 2019.**

Carried

- c) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority / Lakehead Conservation Foundation – regarding the 2019 Conservation Dinner & Auction – request for donation and attendance. It was

- 12. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE LAKEHEAD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION 2019 FUNDRAISING DINNER AND AUCTION TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 7, 2019 IN THUNDER BAY.**

**TICKETS: \$60.00 EACH**

**MAYOR VEZINA**

Carried

Councillor Handy left the room.

- d) Hymers Agricultural Society – request for advertising and sponsorship for the 2019 Fall Fair. The advertisement from the 2018 prize book was reviewed. Council agreed that they would like to continue supporting the fair and it was

- 13. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT A HALF PAGE ADVERTISEMENT IN THE HYMERS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY PRIZE LIST BOOK BE PURCHASED AT A COST OF \$80.00.**

Carried

Councillor Handy returned to the meeting.

No new issues were brought forward after the agenda was mailed.

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For information purposes a building permit was approved for an addition at 184 Holomego Road.

It was

14. Moved by Jerry Loan  
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 OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001 AND A PERSONAL MATTER ABOUT AN IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING MUNICIPAL OR LOCAL BOARD EMPLOYEES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)E OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.**

**TIME BEING: 9:40 P.M.**

Carried

Councillor Racicot left the room during the discussion of Labour relations.

The Administration wage rates for the part-time employees were reviewed.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting for the discussion with regard to the personal matter. Property taxes arrears in third year for one property were discussed.

15. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**TIME BEING: 9:56 P.M.**

**THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried

16. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE SALARY AND WAGE SCHEDULE FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR NON-UNION STAFF COMPRISING OF THE DISPOSAL SITE CARETAKER, JANITOR, GROUNDS KEEPER, DOG CONTROL OFFICER, FENCEVIEWER, LIVESTOCK VALUATOR, WEED INSPECTOR AND THE STARTUP/PROBATION RATE WILL RECEIVE AN INCREASE AS FOLLOWS: EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2019 INCREASED BY 2 PERCENT.**

**THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT RECEIVE A TOP UP TO \$ /HOUR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2019.**

Carried

17. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 28, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 9:58 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer