

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JANUARY 27, 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Paul LeBoeuf

Absent: Councillor Handy

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 9d) and 13a) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
JANUARY 13, 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Mr. LeBoeuf was asked if he wished to address Council and he replied no.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report from December 12, 2019 to January 25, 2020 was read. There were four (4) First Response and one (1) fire related call in that time. The meetings attended were also noted. The total 2019 calls for all departments in the area were reviewed. It was noted that the breakdown of the type of calls did not add up correctly on the report, however the total was correct. Fire Chief noted that overall it has been very quiet throughout the area.

It was noted that the two new AED's for the First Response team have arrived. Ms. Coderre will be looking after the locations for them.

Fire Chief Mattas updated Council on the outdoor skating rink. Mr. Backstrom's assistance this year has been a great advantage and Fire Chief Mattas and the volunteers have learnt a lot about the proper process to flood the rink. It was suggested that we look into the cost of a heated pump house where volunteers could flood when necessary, without using the fire equipment for easier access.

The Fire Hall washroom renovations have been completed.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher to be paid was reviewed and it was

2. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2020-02 DATED
JANUARY 27, 2020 TOTALLING \$32,317.77 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Draft Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to December 31, 2020 was reviewed. It was noted that there were still possible Journal Entries to be made and that the Auditors could also make changes. Surplus monies were discussed and transfers to be made into Reserves were discussed and it was

3. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

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FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2019 THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE FOLLOWING RESERVES:

- FIRE DEPARTMENT - \$5,000.00**
- OFFICE EQUIPMENT - \$2,000.00**
- TURNOUT GEAR - \$3,000.00**
- ROAD EQUIPMENT - \$12,500.00**
- DISPOSAL SITE - \$4,332.00**

Carried

By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

a) By-law Number 2020-05 – Being a by-law to regulate and control the Township of O’Connor Highways and it was

- 4. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-05 BEING A BY-LAW TO REGULATE AND CONTROL THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O’CONNOR HIGHWAYS BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

b) By-law Number 2020-06 – Being a By-law authorizing an agreement with Ornge for the operation and maintenance of the Helipad and it was

- 5. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-06 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH ORNGE AS IT SETS OUT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE USE, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE HELIPAD BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

c) By-law Number 2020-07 – Being a by-law to amend the Township of O’Connor’s Emergency Management Program Emergency Plan and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-07 BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND THE TOWNSHIP OF O’CONNOR’S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM EMERGENCY PLAN BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

d) Policy for Employee Service Recognition for final approval and it was

- 7. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O’CONNOR POLICY FOR EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECOGNITION BE APPROVED.

Carried

e) A draft Policy for Volunteer Fire Department Member Recognition was reviewed and it was

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

THAT THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O’CONNOR’S POLICY FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBER RECOGNITION BE APPROVED.

Carried

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f) Health & Safety Policy for final approval was read and it was

9. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY BE APPROVED.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

a) Municipality of Shuniah with regard to supporting Conservation Authorities and it was

10. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF SHUNIAH SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO BE ENDORSED.

Carried

b) City of Quinte West regarding improvement for funding for Conservation Authorities

11. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF QUINTE WEST REQUESTING THAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IMPROVE THEIR FUNDING OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE A MORE STABLE FUNDING BASE THAT WOULD PREVENT ANY DOWNLOADING OF COSTS TO MUNICIPALITIES AND THAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT MAINTAIN AND NOT DIMINISH THE CORE MANDATE OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES BE ENDORSED.

Carried

c) Municipality of Dutton Dunwich regarding supporting the role of Conservation Authorities and it was

12. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF DUTTON DUNWICH SUPPORTING THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES BE ENDORSED.

Carried

d) City of Sarnia – regarding Ontario Power Generation's Deep Geologic Repository Project was filed.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – i) Meeting Minutes November 28, 2019.
ii) Revised Rural Action Plan (RAP) presented to the Ministers at the recent Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference.
iii) Report on OMPF & Downloaded Service Costs. This report was presented to the Ministers at the recent ROMA Conference and addresses the LRMC members concerns with the current OMPF formulas.
iv) Update from January 23, 2020 meeting. Council previously reviewed the draft constitution for the LRMC and did not have any concerns. At the meeting the Township of Gillies did bring forward a couple of their concerns. Council did not have the same concerns and are still satisfied with the draft as previously presented. The report from the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge with regard to the possibility of hiring a third-party consultant to investigate the potential of sharing or amalgamating

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services for the Fire Departments were also readdressed at the meeting. Council previously was not interested in the review but are currently the only member from the Coalition that are not. Council agreed to move forward with getting a cost for the review but are not committing to participate at this time.

- b) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) comments to the Ministry of Transportation Study Notice with regard to the replacement of three structural culverts along Highway 588 and Highway 595. One of these culverts is within the Township of O'Connor and the other two road closures will divert additional traffic through the Township of O'Connor.
- c) Thunder Bay District Health Unit regarding Remuneration and Expense for Council Members to the Local Board. Mayor Vezina is a member of the Board.

Mayor Vezina also reported on the current status of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care changes to the Health Boards. There is concern with regard to the Possible amalgamation of Health Units and being able to meet all the mandated health needs.

- d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Infrastructure and Court Security Funding News.
ii) Government announces consultation on re-composition of OPP Detachment Boards.
iii) AMO Frequency Foundry Digital CRM Pilot for Small Municipalities – Call for Submissions.
- e) AMCTO the Municipal Experts regarding 2020 Pre-Budget Submission – AMCTO Calls for Internship Funding.
- f) Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs regarding the Announcement of Rural Economic Development (RED) program funding. At this time the Township of O'Connor does not have any projects to apply for under this program.
- g) Northern Policy Institute i) "Cough" Chronic Disease Management *Cough*
ii) Come North Planning Conferences – Invitation to attend the conference in Thunder Bay on February 18 to 20, 2020. No one will attend.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Administrative employees' wages increase approval. Discussion was held at the previous meeting and is being brought forward for final approval. It was

- 13. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

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 1ST, 2020 INCREASED BY 2 PERCENT.

THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT RECEIVE A TOP UP OF \$3.00/HOUR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020.

THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT RECEIVE THE COUNCIL PER DIEM RATE WHEN ATTENDING MEETINGS HELD IN THE EVENING OR ON A WEEKEND EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020.

AND THAT THE CLERK-TREASURER, DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT RECEIVE A MINIMUM ONE HOUR PAY FOR AFTER OFFICE HOURS CALLS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020.

Carried

- b) Leanne Coderre update on purchase of AEDs. This item was previously discussed with Fire Chief Mattas.
- c) Discuss was held with regard to whether or not Council should change the December Council meetings from two meetings to one. Following the December 2019 Council meetings, Council agreed to continue with two meetings.

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- d) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) update on the Conference from Councillor Loan who attended on behalf of the Township. Councillor Loan reported that he also attended four meetings with the Ministers and the Lakehead Rural Municipalities Coalition (LRMC). Good discussions were held with regard to the OMPF and the groups Rural Action Plan (RAP). Broadband Highspeed Internet for the municipalities, the land use appeal process and the City of the Thunder Bay's potential By-law for Highway 102 were also discussed. Overall the Conference was worth attending.

Under further Old Business, Council asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had looked more into the electronic agendas and read the report from the Township of Conmee Councillor. Clerk-Treasurer Buob noted that she had read the report and will be meeting with the CAO/Clerk in the near future to discuss how they prepare and distribute their agendas.

Council also made note that they heard that a resident had called 911 for a possible speeder. This should not be a 911 call and it was suggested that this be noted in the monthly newsletter, as there is an expense to the Township for 911 calls.

The Clerk-Treasurer confirmed the discussion items for the potential meeting with both MP Marcus Powlowski and MPP Judith Monteith-Farrell. Invitations for them both to attend will be sent out in the near future.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) – regarding the 2020 Cost Apportionment. The Boards budget went up 1%, however due to the formulas used, the Township of O'Connor's levy to the Board will increase by 6% for a total 2020 levy of \$85,075.
- b) Ministry of Infrastructure regarding the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) – Formula-Based Allocation Notice. The Township of O'Connor will be receiving \$50,000.00 through this fund in 2020.
- c) Oliver Paipoonge Public Library – 2020 Contract for service. It was

14. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE LIBRARY CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR 2020 WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF OLIVER PAIPOONGE LIBRARY BOARD FOR LIBRARY SERVICE BE SIGNED.

Carried

- d) Solicitor General – i) Update on the work currently underway to bring the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 into force in 2021.
ii) Regional Roundtable sessions regarding OPP related regulatory changes under the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 – Thunder Bay – February 10, 2020. It was

15. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES AND BAND COUNCILS REGARDING OPP – RELATED REGULATORY CHANGES UNDER THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND POLICING ACT, 2019. TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON FEBRUARY 10, 2020.

REGISTRATION FEE – N/C

MAYOR VEZINA AND COUNCILLOR LOAN

Carried

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e) Marcus Powlowski, Member of Parliament (MP) for Thunder Bay-Rainy River and Patty Hajdu, Member of Parliament (MP) for Thunder Bay-Superior North – Invitation to attend a Pre-Budget Consultation and Submission Information in Thunder Bay. It was

16. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE LOCAL FEDERAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT’S PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATION, TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON FEBRUARY 1, 2020.

REGISTRATION FEE – N/C

MAYOR VEZINA AND COUNCILLOR RACICOT

Carried

- f) Thunder Bay Federation of Agriculture (TBFA) regarding their advertising package for sponsorship of their upcoming event. Council will not submit an advertisement at this time.
- g) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs seeking input on a proposal to streamline Drainage Act approval processes via webinar. Mr. LeBoeuf provided some background information on the Drainage Act. It was agreed to not participate in the webinar.

Under further new business, Council suggested that if there were still funds available through the Main Street Revitalization fund that perhaps the replacement of outside lighting to LED at the Fire Hall and Garage could be considered.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed were discussed. A letter from Mr. Merv Holowanky and Mrs. Brenda Holowanky with regard to the lack of internet service in O’Connor Township was read. Council are aware of the issues and will be speaking with the MP and MPP at the upcoming meetings with them. A copy of this letter will also be provided to them. A reply letter will be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Holowanky informing them of Councils invitation to the MP and MPP.

17. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O’CONNOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

TIME BEING: 9:28 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer