

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JULY 11, 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, July 11, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers and Virtual.

Present: Mayor Vezina
 Councillors: Crane, Handy (virtually), Loan, Racicot,
 Clerk-Treasurer Buob
 Administrative Assistant Laforest
 Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand

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

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 Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mr. Johnson was asked if he wished to address Council on any personal matters and he replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. He provided an update on the Road Department and the roadwork in general. The trucking and application of gravel for the road resurfacing projects for 2022 have all been completed, with calcium being applied soon. The remaining roads are being graded. Shop B is currently being cleaned out and prepared for the retrofit. The employees are trying to salvage as much materials as possible to repurpose or sell the surplus. Following the completion of the current projects, cleanup of several trees that recently fell during the high winds will take place. The new student has started and training is underway. Mr. Johnson has also been spending time with the new Intern and providing as much training as possible. There is still gravel to be hauled to the Disposal Site in front of the new hole prior to opening it for use. Mr. Ehn has been doing a wonderful job with the cleanup of the Disposal Site. The radar speed limit sign on Loghrin Road has not been setup yet. Council agreed to wait until fall to install. Mr. Johnson continues to look for a turbo for Truck #9. Mr. Johnson noted that there is a Ritchie Bros. auction being held from July 12 – 14 from Toronto and Thunder Bay. There is a lawnmower of similar vintage to the Township's and Mr. Johnson would like permission to place a low bid on the item to use for parts for the Township's. Council agreed if it was for a reasonable price, that he could go ahead and place a bid.

The Health and Safety Report for June 14, 2022 was read. No questions were asked.

A reply letter from the Township of Gillies, in regard to Council's request to hold a meeting between the two Council's to discuss the reopening of Main Street was read. The Council of the Township of Gillies is not willing to move forward with the reopening of Main Street hill and has directed their Clerk/Treasurer to provide them with more information with regard to permanently closing the hill.

Council discussed the reply letter from the Township of Gillies. As this is a Boundary Road between the two Township's, one Township alone cannot close the road, even though that portion of the Road is located in the Township of Gillies. Council will temporarily table the matter, however would like to pursue further investigation into the matter.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for July 11, 2022 was reviewed and it was

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JULY 11, 2022

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2022-13 DATED JULY 11, 2022 TOTTALLING \$201,817.22 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Bids for the Township of O'Connor Shop B garage retrofit were opened. Two bids were received. One from Syncor Contracting Limited in the amount of \$284,500 and one from Probuild Construction & Renovations in the amount of \$377,807. As both bids are higher than what was budgeted, the bids will be forwarded to Mr. Gammond, of Approach Design, for review to clarify that they meet the tender and to confirm if a new concrete floor was included in the bid. The Clerk-Treasurer will also investigate financing to cover the overage from the funding available. As the next regular meeting of Council is not until August 8, 2022, a special meeting could be called to accept the bid when all information is available.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) County of Hastings regarding the Expanding of the Amber Alert System to implement a community warning for those persons of special needs or circumstances was filed.
- b) Municipality of Tweed regarding the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program and requesting a review of the administration fee was filed.
- c) County of Frontenac regarding the Community Schools Alliance Action Plan and Social and Economic Impact for Small Communities in Ontario was filed.
- d) Municipality of Brighton regarding the Ontario Amber Alert requesting the creation of a new alert called the Draven Alert was filed.
- e) Municipality of Shuniah supporting the Release of all Federal and Provincial Documents Related to the Former Mohawk Institute Residential School was filed.
- f) City of Owen Sound regarding the Removal of Municipal Councillors Under Prescribed Circumstances was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – Minutes of the May 17, 2022 meeting.
- b) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – i) Board Meeting Summary Report for June 28, 2022.
ii) The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) August 4th Learning Morning. No Council members will participate.
- c) Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) – 2022 Levy Apportionment.
- d) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) – 2021 Audited Financial Statements.
- e) The Royal Canadian Legion – Military Service Recognition Book – Volume 13.
- f) Office of the Prime Minister acknowledging the receipt of Council's endorsed resolution in regard to Private Member's Bill, C-233, an Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Judges Act.
- g) Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) – 2023 Conference Dates, April 16th to 19th.

Councillor Handy left the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that in the correspondence is an email from the NorWest Community Health Centres in regard to moving the Mobile Clinic from the O'Connor Community Centre and other communities, to the new location in Kakabeka Falls. They are anticipating that they will be centralizing their Mobile Primary & Footcare appointments to the Kakabeka Falls clinic sometime in September. Council is concerned with this move and were hoping that the clinics would continue to be held in the surrounding municipalities. Mayor Vezina noted that at the recent public event held at the NorWest Clinic, it was hoped, that with this move, they would be able to do more in home visits for those in need.

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JULY 11, 2022

Under Old Business, Council discussed:

- a) North Western Ontario Recreational Trails Assoc. (NWORTA) – proposed Kakabeka Falls to Shabaqua Trail Route. As a portion of the proposed trail will be using Fleming Road, and as Fleming Road is a Boundary Road between the Townships of Conmee and O'Connor, the Clerk-Treasurer provided an update in regard to the Township of Conmee's decision following the presentation at their Council meeting held in June 2022 from Len Day of NWORTA. No objections came from either Council in regard to the use of Fleming Road and both have reached out to the insurance company to identify any concerns. A reply was received from Westland Insurance, insurance broker for both the Township of Conmee and O'Connor, and the Clerk-Treasurer will reach out to Mr. Day to ensure that the draft Agreement will alleviate any of the insurance company's concerns.

Under Further Old Business, the upcoming vacant seats on Council were discussed. As Council will not be required to replace the members of Council, due to the upcoming municipal election being held in October, Council was asked if they would want to fill one of the vacancies, to ensure that quorum can be met. It was agreed to wait until the vacancies actually occur and further discussion on the matter could then take place.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Administrative Assistant Report regarding the upcoming Blue Box Transition. A verbal report was provided. Ms. Laforest provided Council with the background and update on the new Blue Box Transition which will be taking place in 2024. There are two options for the Township to consider. Both options would not affect the current recycling services to our residents. One option being that the Township remain in control of the governance of the recycling program and be in contract with Circular Materials Ontario (CMO); or Option 2, GFL, the only source provider, could lease the property and assets (ie bins) from the Township of O'Connor and have 100% governance for the program. The Township would have no expense or say, apart from the lease agreement between GFL and the Township, should Council choose Option 2.

Council would like to discuss the proposals with the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) to see how the other municipalities are planning on proceeding.

Administrative Assistant Laforest will be looking into the Township's options further, to provide more detail to Council on the Blue Box Transition.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed:

- a) Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) – Job Opportunity: The League is currently looking for an Executive Director upon the retirement of Beth Stewart, the current Executive Director, who will be leaving following the fall conference.

For information purposes: Building permits were approved as follows: #2022-10 – 241 Connolly Road – garage, #2022-11 – 136 Winslow Road – new home.

4. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIRTUAL.

TIME BEING: 8:24 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer