

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JULY 12, 2021

Minutes of the Council meeting held virtually on Monday, July 12, 2021 at 7 p.m.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Erin Laforest, Administrative Assistant
Paul LeBoeuf, Janice LeBoeuf, Stephen Wiebe, Robert McKessock

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
JUNE 28, 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Visitors were welcomed and acknowledged as being in attendance.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the meeting. Roadwork in general was discussed. Mr. Johnson reported that Whittaker Road has been resurfaced and calcium has been applied. Three loads of calcium have been placed on the Township roads to date, however we still need some rain. They are currently working on resurfacing Blaikie Road.

The summer student has started work on July 5, 2021. Mr. Johnson will be taking holidays at the end of the month.

Councillor Crane asked Mr. Johnson if he was aware of the traffic counter on Loghrin Road and was asked if he knew why it was there. Mr. Johnson will follow up on this, as he is not aware of why it is there.

Councillor Racicot discussed the possibility of purchasing a new chassis and transferring the current gear and box onto it rather than purchasing a new truck. Mr. Johnson reminded Council that the gear is all original 1993 and it may not be reasonable to do so because of the age.

Council thanked Mr. Johnson for his report. Mr. Johnson will remain on the meeting for the opening of the quotes later on the agenda.

The Administration and Roads Voucher summary to July 12, 2021 was reviewed. No questions were asked by Council. It was

3. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2021-13 DATED
JULY 12, 2021 TOTALLING \$64,341.71 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

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The Final 2021 budget was reviewed. The Clerk-Treasurer provided an update on the final changes that were made to balance the budget since the last meeting. A by-law will be passed to accept these new rates at tonight's meeting.

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to June 30, 2021 were reviewed by Council. No questions were asked in this regard.

The Administrative Report entitled "Required Disclosure Regarding Budget Impacts as Per Ontario Regulation 284/09 was read. The Clerk-Treasurer summarized the report and it was

4. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT DATED JULY 12, 2021 ENTITLED REQUIRED DISCLOSURE REGARDING BUDGET IMPACTS AS PER ONTARIO REGULATION 284/09 BE ADOPTED AS READ.

Carried

By-laws were discussed as follows:

- a) By-law Number 2021-11 with regard to the 2021 tax ratios for the Township of O'Connor and it was

5. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2021-11 BEING A BY-LAW TO ESTABLISH THE TAX RATIOS FOR THE YEAR 2021 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- b) By-law Number 2021-12 with regard to the 2021 tax rates and penalty for unpaid taxes and it was

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2021-12 BEING A BY-LAW TO ADOPT THE ESTIMATES OF ALL SUMS REQUIRED DURING THE YEAR 2021 FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSES OF THE MUNICIPALITY, AND TO STRIKE THE LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2021 AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF TAX RATES AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR PENALTY AND INTEREST IN DEFAULT OF PAYMENT THEREOF FOR 2021 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

The decision from the Lakehead Rural Planning Board for application 1B/12/21 – Myhal was read. The application has been approved.

Quotations were opened as follows:

- a) Quotes for Roadside Grass/Weed Cutting. Three quotations were received and were quoted as follows:

Jeff Burke, Brule Creek Farms - \$2,950.00

Dan Vanlenthe, Daniel Vanlenthe Mechanical - \$5,250.00 + HST

Andy Buob, A & L Auto Service - \$4,500.00 + HST

It was

7. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

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THAT THE QUOTE OF BRULE CREEK FARMS TO CUT THE WEEDS ON THE SIDES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ROADS AT A COST OF \$2,950 BE ACCEPTED.

WORK TO BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 9, 2021.

Carried

- b) Quotes to retain an Electrical Contractor to supply and install a propane powered backup generator for the Township of O'Connor office. Four quotations were received and were quoted as follows:

Gilbert Electric Inc. - \$14,822.53
 S.A.E. Electric - \$14,000.00 + HST
 Thermal Mechanical Systems - \$16,935.82 + HST
 Allied Electric - \$13,775.00 + HST

As the quotation from Gilbert Electric did not state if HST was included or was to be added, Council requested that the total price be confirmed by the Clerk-Treasurer. As the next meeting is not until August 9th and there is a delay in supplying a generator at this time, Council agreed to pass an acceptance resolution as follows:

8. Moved by Jerry Loan
 Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE QUOTE OF GILBERT ELECTRIC INC. ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR, TO SUPPLY AND INSTALL A PROPANE POWERED ELECTRICAL GENERATOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE BE ACCEPTED UPON CLARIFICATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HST HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE QUOTE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,822.53. IF GILBERT ELECTRIC INC.'S QUOTE DID NOT INCLUDE HST, THEN THE QUOTE OF ALLIED ELECTRIC FOR \$13,775.00 PLUS HST WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Town of Cochrane regarding the inclusion of the Prostate Blood Test (PSA) for men into the Medical Care System and it was

9. Moved by A. Crane
 Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF COCHRANE ADVOCATING THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO MOVE TO HAVE THE PROSTATE BLOOD TEST INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND THAT IT BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR ALL CANADIAN MEN AT NO CHARGE BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- b) Municipality of Chatham-Kent supporting for the Induction of the Coloured All-Stars into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and it was

10. Moved by W. Handy
 Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT SUPPORTING THE INDUCTION OF THE COLOURED ALL-STARS INTO THE CANADIAN BASEBALL HALL OF FAME BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- c) City of Vaughan regarding raising the age of a licensed driver from 16 to 18. This resolution was filed.

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d) City of Kitchener regarding the Rising Cost of Building Materials and it was

11. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF KITCHENER ADVOCATING TO THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO REVIEW ACTIONS THAT COULD BE TAKEN TO HELP MITIGATE OR OFFSET THE IMPACTS RELATED TO THE RISING COST OF BUILDING MATERIALS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Policy Update – June 28, 2021 – Community Paramedicine, Transportation Investments for Small and Rural Communities, and Pathway Immigration Program.
- ii) Policy Update – July 8, 2021 – AMO Long-Term Care Transformation Advocacy, Expanding Addictions Support, and Free Skills Training for Newcomers.
- b) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding updating the environmental assessment requirements for transmission lines.
- c) Solicitor General – Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 and the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 regarding the rescuing of pets left in motor Vehicles. It was noted that a phone number has been recently posted for the Ontario Provincial Police is you see a pet left in a vehicle.
- d) Ontario Land Tribunal – Processes for the New Ontario Land Tribunal.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Police Detachment Board. Further discussion with regard to whether or not the Township of O'Connor will join a joint Police Services Board under the new Police Services Act was had. Each member of Council expressed their concerns both for and against joining when the new Act comes into effect. It was agreed that at this point in time, Council would stand together with the surrounding municipalities. Each OPP Detachment is to submit one submission on how they would like to form a board or multiple boards and they are just asking for the member municipalities suggestions. The Province of Ontario will make the final decision as to how the boards will be formed. If at a later date Council does not feel that they want to be a part of the board, and the option is available, a decision to not be a member can be discussed. It was

12. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

WHEREAS THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO HAS PASSED THE COMPREHENSIVE ONTARIO POLICE SERVICES ACT, 2019 (BILL 68) AND ESTABLISHED THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND POLICING ACT, 2019 (CSPA) WHICH, ONCE IN FORCE, WILL REPEAL THE POLICE SERVICES ACT, 1990 (PSA).

WHEREAS SECTION 67 OF THE CSPA REQUIRED THERE BE AN ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE (OPP) DETACHMENT BOARD, OR MORE THAN ONE OPP DETACHMENT BOARD, FOR EACH DETACHMENT OF THE OPP THAT PROVIDES POLICING IN A MUNICIPALITY OR IN A FIRST NATION COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS THE ONTARIO POLICE SERVICES BOARD ASSOCIATION (OAPSB) ZONE 1 HAS REQUESTED THAT PREMIER DOUG FORD PUT IN PLACE MORE THAN ONE OPP DETACHMENT BOARD FOR THE THUNDER BAY DETACHMENT DUE TO VAST GEOGRAPHY AND DISTANCE BETWEEN COMMUNITIES OF UP TO 300 KM.

WHEREAS THE MINISTRY OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL HAS DEVELOPED AN OPP DETACHMENT BOARD FRAMEWORK ALLOWING MUNICIPALITIES AND FIRST NATIONS TO DETERMINE THE PREFERRED

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COMPOSITION OF THEIR DETACHMENT BOARD(S) BY SUBMITTING ONE PROPOSAL PER OPP DETACHMENT.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR COUNCIL HEREBY SUPPORT THE OAPSB ZONE 1 IN THEIR REQUEST TO HAVE MORE THAN ONE OPP DETACHMENT BOARD PUT IN PLACE FOR THE THUNDER BAY DETACHMENT AREA.

AND FURTHER THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR COUNCIL REQUEST THAT THE MINISTRY OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL SET IN PLACE, MORE THAN ONE OPP DETACHMENT BOARD, WITH ONE STRUCTURED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING, AND THE TOWNSHIPS OF CONMEE, GILLIES AND O'CONNOR DUE TO GEOGRAPHY AND DIFFERENCE IN SERVICES REQUIRED.

AND FURTHER THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR COUNCIL REQUEST AN OPP DETACHMENT BOARD COMPOSITION OF SEVEN MEMBERS, BEING ONE VOTING REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH MUNICIPALITY, TWO VOTING COMMUNITY ADVISORS AND ONE VOTING PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVE.

Carried

- b) O'Connor Cemetery Interment Rights
 - i) Follow up letter from Caryll Donaldson and Margaret McKessock with regard to an interment matter. The letter was read with regard to the Township's options for choice of succession for cemetery plots and to rectify a decision previously made with regard to an interment.
 - ii) Report to Council: Joint Tenancy vs Tenants in Common was read. Ms. Laforest provided clarification on the differences in the two options. Council discussed the matter and Mr. McKessock requested to speak to Council. Council agreed to allow Ms. McKessock to speak on this matter. He noted that he has spoken with the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) again and he was informed that as the interment has already taken place, the spouse of the deceased would have to agree to have the ashes moved. Once the Township has determined the succession rights to the plots, they would like something in writing with hopes to resolve the matter. Mayor Vezina thanked Mr. McKessock for his comments. The Clerk-Treasurer requested additional time to determine which method the Township has used most often in the past and which method would work best in the future. Council agreed to have further discussion on the matter at the August 9, 2021 meeting.
- c) Community School Alliance – A report providing information on what the Alliance does, their goals, their constitution and the membership fees was read. Currently the Township of O'Connor is not a member and it was agreed to not become a member at this time.
- d) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – review of the January 2021 Rural Action Plan (RAP) was held. The LRMC is requesting comment on any changes or concerns that the member municipalities might have for the upcoming version, to be presented to the Ministers at the Association of Municipalities (AMO) Conference to be held in August. Council was pleased with the Plan and the concerns addressed and did not make any recommendations for change.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Ontario Association of Optometrists and the SaveEyeCare campaign. Councillor Crane noted that the cost of eye examinations for seniors and children will no longer be covered by OHIP effective September 1, 2021. Council would like a resolution drafted and brought back to the next meeting and it was

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

THAT THE CLERK-TREASURER DRAFT A RESOLUTION FOR THE NEXT MEETING IN SUPPORT OF THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF OPTOMETRISTS AND THEIR CONCERNS WITH THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT INSUFFICIENTLY FUNDING EYE CARE.

Carried

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

- a) Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) – Media Release July 9, 2021 – Province Moves to Step Three of Reopening on July 16, 2021.

Two applications were received for the casual janitor position and it was determined that Council would go to a closed meeting to discuss the applications. All visitors were informed on how to rejoin the open meeting following the closed portion. It was

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

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.

TIME BEING: 9:03 P.M.

Carried

A review of applications for the casual janitor position were discussed.

- 15. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Jerry Loan

TIME BEING: 9:14 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

Councillor Racicot had technical difficulties and was unable to rejoin the meeting.

- 16. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT SHELLEY THORNE BE HIRED AS THE CASUAL RELIEF FOR THE JANITOR POSITION.

RATE OF PAY WILL BE THE ENTRY WAGE OF \$16.41/HOUR.

Carried

- 17. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O’CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE, IF CONDITIONS WITH COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ALLOW.

TIME BEING: 9:21 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer