

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 10, 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on June 10, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand  
Paul Leboeuf

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

1. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by B. J. Loan

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MAY 27, 2019 AND THE BUDGET MEETING HELD ON JUNE 3, 2019 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

The visitors were asked if they wished to address Council and they replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. An update from the Road Department and roadwork in general was discussed. Mr. Johnson informed Council of the floods in the Township on Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Blaikie Road, Diana Road and Harstone Road were all flooded due to the Whitefish River overflow and the significant rainfall in Nolalu. The roads have all been reopened; however, will require additional gravel material to bring them to the proper finished surface. The Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge offered one of their trucks and a driver to assist with the repairs in trade for some grading on the Harstone Road. The Road department has also been working on the equipment and a cemetery plot had to be dug for a full burial this week. They are hoping to get the first load of calcium on the roads this Thursday. Mr. Johnson would like to get started on the gravel projects as soon as possible, now that the budget has been passed; however, some of the roads still have frost boils.

The Health and Safety reports from April 18, 2019 and May 16, 2019 were reviewed.

Mr. Johnson was asked if he has attended the Ritchie Bros. auction site yet, to see if there might be any equipment or trucks that the Township might consider bidding on. Mr. Johnson informed Council that he has not been there, but will stop in this week prior to the auction.

The Employee Dental/Medical benefits were discussed. A request was made to Council with regard to whether or not naturopathic treatments could be covered under the Township's self-insured coverage if it is not covered through the current Sunlife benefits. Council agreed that each employee is entitled to a limited amount of coverage under the self-insured coverage and if a medical treatment is not covered through the benefit package it could be used.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for his reports and was invited to stay for the opening of the quotations further on the agenda.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for June 10, 2019 was reviewed and it was

2. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER 2019-07 DATED JUNE 10, 2019 TALLING \$47,042.58 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to May 31, 2019 were reviewed.

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Policies were discussed as follows:

- a) Ministry of Infrastructure letter reminding municipalities that they must have a finalized Strategic Asset Management Policy in place by July 1, 2019 with further requirements being phased in from 2019 to 2024.

A draft Strategic Asset Management Policy for the Township of O'Connor was read. Council did not have any questions or concerns with the document and it was

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

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HEREBY APPROVE A POLICY FOR STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF FORMALIZING THE TOWNSHIP'S COMMITMENT TO ASSET MANAGEMENT, ALIGNING ITS ASSET MANAGEMENT ACTIONS WITH STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES AND PROVIDING DIRECTION TO GUIDE COUNCIL, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF IN CARRYING OUT ITS BUSINESS STRATEGIES, PLANS AND ACTIVITIES. THIS POLICY WILL SUPPORT LOGICAL AND EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS, EFFORTS TO MANAGE RISKS, ADDRESS PRIORITIES AND MEET SHORT AND LONG-TERM NEEDS WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF POSSIBLE FUNDING. THIS POLICY WILL BE ENTERED INTO THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S POLICY BOOK.**

Carried

The Township of O'Connor's Accounting Policy for Tangible Capital Assets (TCA), as amended, was reviewed showing edits. The policy was amended, as per the recommendation of the auditor, to ensure the assets' estimated useful life in the policy are the same as in the Asset Management Plan. The road surfaces were also reclassified. The current policy will be repealed and the new policy approved at the next meeting.

At the May 27, 2019 Council meeting, request for quotes were opened for a Disposal Site Study for the Township of O'Connor. Four quotes were received. Council asked staff to review the lowest bid to ensure that it met all the requirements and bring them back to this meeting for approval. Staff has reviewed the bid and is recommending to Council that they accept the lowest quote from North Rock Environmental Inc. and it was

- 4. Moved by B. J. Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE QUOTE OF NORTH ROCK ENVIRONMENTAL INC. TO CONDUCT A LANDFILL STUDY AT A COST OF \$9,900.00 + HST BE ACCEPTED.**

Carried

- b) Quotations to retain an Engineering/Consulting firm to conduct a complete Structural Inspection of five large structures within the Township of O'Connor were opened. Three bids were received. It was

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

**THAT THE QUOTE OF WSP CANADA INC. TO CONDUCT A COMPLETE STRUCTURAL INSPECTION OF TWO CONCRETE BOX CULVERTS, TWO LARGE GALVANIZED STEEL CULVERTS AND ONE CORRUGATED STEEL ARCH CULVERT ALL WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AT A COST OF \$2,800 + HST BE ACCEPTED.**

Carried

- c) Quotes for the cutting of the weeds on the sides of the Township of O'Connor roads were also requested for this meeting. One quote was received and it was

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6. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE QUOTE OF A & L AUTO SERVICE TO CUT THE WEEDS ON THE SIDES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ROADS AT A COST OF \$4,000.00 + HST BE ACCEPTED. WORK TO BE COMPLETED BY MID-AUGUST 2019.**

Carried

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending the meeting and he left at 7:35 p.m.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board – Update from the Board – 5/30/2019.
- b) Thunder Bay District Health Unit – regarding Public Health Modernization.
- c) Mosey & Mosey – regarding Employee Group Benefit Plan Renewal Projection for November 1, 2019. The Township of O'Connor benefit expense will be going down.
- d) Ministry of Infrastructure – copy of letter to Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) chair and vice-chair regarding the Province of Ontario and the federal government's Integrated Bilateral Agreement for \$11.8 billion to federal infrastructure funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan for the next 10 years.
- e) Ontario Provincial Police – OPP – June 2019 Newsletter. Council would like to see the information with regard to overdose deaths included in the next issue of the Cornerstone.
- f) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Policy Update – AMO on Bill 108, More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019.  
ii) Digital Government – escribe Webinar: The Return on Investment (ROI) of True Meeting Management for Achieving Your Efficiency Targets. Council were not interested in automating meeting management processes at this time and will not participate in the webinars.  
iii) Policy Update – Bill 108 Received Royal Assent with Several Amendments.
- g) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – i) Office of the Minister – Ontario Appoints Special Advisor on Recycling and Plastic Waste.  
ii) News - Ontario to Tackle Plastic Litter and Waste & Revamp Recycling.
- h) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding More Homes, More Choice – the Provinces action plan to tackle Ontario's housing crisis.
- i) Premier Doug Ford – i) reply to Council's endorsed resolution dealing with Hydro One.  
ii) reply to Council's endorsed resolution dealing with opioid addiction.
- j) Government & Broader Public Sector - Telcom Enterprises – requesting to do an audit. Council will not request an audit at this time.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) The approval of one new member on the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department. It was

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

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

**1. SHANE THORNE**

Carried

- b) The Township of O'Connor draft #2 budget, with the changes made as per the budget meeting held on June 3, 2019, was reviewed. It was noted that the new tax rates as agreed upon at the meeting have been included and the supplemental taxes and tax write-downs have been adjusted to the new rates. Any further variance or changes required prior to the tax rates being approved at the next meeting will be adjusted through the Service Modernization account and the proposed tax rate will remain as agreed to at the June 3, 2019 Budget meeting.

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- c) The Township of O'Connor's Administration Report entitled "Disclosure Regarding Budget Impacts as per Ontario Regulation 284/09". This report confirms and explains that the 2019 budget was developed using cash basis and has excluded amortization expenses and landfill closure and post-closure expenses. It was

8. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT DATED JUNE 10, 2019 ENTITLED  
REQUIRED DISCLOSURE REGARDING BUDGET IMPACTS AS PER  
ONTARIO REGULATION 284/09 BE ADOPTED AS READ.**

Carried

Under further old business, Councillor Crane asked if the resident on Loghrin Road who submitted the letter to Council with regard to their concerns and request to have Loghrin Road chip and sealed will receive a response informing them of Council's decision. The Clerk-Treasurer will send a reply letter.

An issue with regard to beavers on Highway 590 waterways was briefly discussed. There is a lot of water backed up into Councillor Loan's property due to the beavers in Cedar Creek, as well the ditch along Highway 590 by the Township's fire hydrant. It was noted that the Ministry of Transportation cannot do any work in the waterways until June 15, 2019. If the issues are not addressed following that date, Council will follow up with them to see what their plans are.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Dillon Consulting Ltd's email – regarding an invitation to the Waasigan Transmission Line Workshop. Hydro One is in the process of preparing a Terms of Reference for a new double circuit 230 kV transmission line between the Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) in the Municipality of Shuniah and the Mackenzie TS in Atikokan and a new single-circuit 230 kV transmission line between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS in the City of Dryden. Hydro One is inviting the Township of O'Connor to take part in a multi-session workshop to provide input into the development of corridor alternatives. It was

9. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by B. Jerry Loan

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE HYDRO ONE NETWORKS  
INC. PROPOSED WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE – MULTI-SESSION  
WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON JUNE 24 & 25, 2019.**

**REGISTRATION FEE – N/C**

**MAYOR JIM VEZINA**

Carried

- b) Hme Enterprises – Chantal Alkins – regarding Consultation Request – BioPower Sustainable Energy Corp. Council discussed the information provided and at this time do not have any comments.
- c) Councillor Racicot would like to request to have the President of Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA); President of Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML); Honourable Greg Rickford, MPP Kenora – Rainy River – Minister of Northern Development and Mines and Minister of Indigenous Affairs; attend a Township of O'Connor Council meeting to explain to our Council what our elected officials are doing to reduce the downloading costs to municipalities.

Council agreed that they would like to send out an invitation to MPP Rickford to attend an upcoming Council meeting. They would like him to explain how the Progressive Conservative (PC) Party is going to help the smaller municipalities that are struggling. A draft letter will be forwarded to Council for approval prior to being sent.

As the representative on the Thunder Bay District Municipal League, Councillor Loan was asked what the League has been doing in this respect. Councillor Loan noted

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that very little has been discussed in this regard.

Under further new business, Councillor Racicot noted that he was recently informed that former Fire Chief, Bill Dow, passed away at the end of May in British Columbia. Council would like to send their condolences to the family.

It was suggested that when a resident or former resident passes away that a notice be included in the Cornerstone free of charge. It was agreed that for the fear of missing someone, it would only be included if a family member requested and it would be included at no charge.

Mayor Vezina informed Council that he has been invited to be NOMA's representative on the Association of Municipalities (AMO) Task Force in regard to the restructuring of the Health Units and the Public Health Modernization changes that the PC Party has introduced. Currently the working group only consists of employees and employers. AMO is working on behalf of the municipalities and they have taken the government to task and pressed for municipal involvement. NOMA will cover the expenses and Mayor Vezina is willing to waive his honourarium to sit on the Task Force. At this time he is not sure how many others are a part of the Task Force or what is involved. Council was in favour of Mayor Vezina participating.

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

- a) Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) – press release following their June 8, 2019 meeting. The dialogue at the meeting included issues with regard to landfill sites and the Provincial government's strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario. They are supporting the idea that producers should be responsible for end-of-life management. The document mentions that a few municipalities have banned single-use plastic bags by retailers and that public opinion is changing and the use of cloth bags or multi-use bags is increasing.

It was noted that the Federal Government also came out this week noting that by 2021 there will be no more single-use plastic. Council would like to have the use of cloth bags or multi-use plastic bags be promoted in the Cornerstone.

- b) Amberley Gavel Ltd. – regarding 2019 training sessions and preferred options for training. At this time Council are not committing to participating in the training but their opinion on the two questions asked will be submitted.

For information purposes three building permits have been approved since the last meeting; 2019-03 at 121 Garbutt Road for a shed, 2019-04 at 241 Highway 595 for renovations to a garage and 2019-05 at 256 Garbutt Road for a new garage.

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

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD  
ON MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 8:37 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer