

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 12, 2023

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers and virtual.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Racicot, Sobolta, Torkkeli
Clerk-Treasurer Buob
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Brendan Rea

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

Mayor Vezina asked that Item #19 – Closed Session of the agenda be moved forward to follow Item #7. Council was in agreement to do so, to include Mr. Johnson in the discussions.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MAY 23, 2023, NOTES FROM THE TOWNSHIP INSPECTION HELD ON MAY 30, 2023, AND THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MAY 30, 2023, BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

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

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. Roadwork in general was discussed. The Road employees have been grading, hauling and placing gravel as needed on the roads and frost heaves; beaver screens are being placed on culverts where required; there have been two cremation interments recently; they have been working at the disposal site installing a new gate post and preparing for a tire and scrap metal pickup; they also cut the grass for the first cutting at the cemetery and around the community centre and office. Ms. Tyance, Disposal Site Caretaker, is willing to do any future grass cuttings prior to the start of the summer student. The employees have also been cleaning up and power washing all the equipment. Council asked Mr. Johnson the condition of Blaikie Road, due to the frost heaves on the hill, which were observed during the Township Inspection. Both Blaikie Road and Garbutt Road were closed for a period due to their condition. Council was informed that the roads are starting to harden up, but Blaikie Road is still the worst road in the Township. The Road Employees are fixing them as they dry up, but they are still not back to a good condition. Smith Road, due to recent trucking, has now been punched out with frost heaves also.

The sale of Truck #7 was discussed, and it was

3. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT COUNCIL DECLARE TRUCK #7 – 1993 FORD SNOWPLOW TRUCK VIN#1FDZU90ILXPVA01952 SURPLUS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR FLEET.

Carried

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It was noted that the truck did receive a new box in 2012. An advertisement will be created and posted as soon as possible on the Township's website and on Kijiji. A suggested sale price of \$35,000 was agreed upon by Council.

The Township Inspection held on May 30, 2023, was discussed. Mayor Vezina noted that he did speak to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) in regard to the Whitefish River bank erosion and the options that might be available with the restrictions of working in the water. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) will have to be contacted for approval for any work in the river and a permit issued through the LRCA. The LRCA will watch for any funding that becomes available to help offset the costs of any stabilization. It has been confirmed by administration that this work could be covered by Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF), however if we use the monies for this, it will then take away funds for our road projects.

Mr. Rea, left the room.

Item #19 – Closed session on the agenda, was moved forward and it was

4. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 7:21 P.M.

Carried

Road Employee negotiations were discussed and summer student applications were reviewed.

5. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by J. Sobolta

TIME BEING: 8:00 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

Mr. Rea returned to the meeting.

As a result of the discussion held in Closed Session, it was

6. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT COUNCIL ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF KELLY JOHNSON, AS LEADHAND OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ROAD DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE JUNE 9, 2023.

Carried

Mr. Johnson, agreed to accept the position of Road Superintendent and it was

7. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2023-23 BEING A BY-LAW TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH KELLY JOHNSON BE PASSED AND ENTERED INTO THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

8. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by J. Sobolta

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THAT THE FOLLOWING STUDENT BE HIRED FOR THE CANADA SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM FOR THE ROADS DEPARTMENT:

JAYDEN POOHACHOFF

START DATE WILL BE TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2023. THE STUDENT WILL BE ASKED TO ATTEND THE JUNE 26, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING.

Carried

Voucher #2023-11 was reviewed, and it was

9. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2023-11 DATED JUNE 12, 2023 TOTTALLING \$131,020.73 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to May 31, 2023, were reviewed.

By-law and Policies were discussed as follows:

- a) By-law Number 2023-21 to amend By-law Number 2023-17 for the submission of an application to Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation (OILC). The Clerk-Treasurer confirmed the concerns of OILC and the amendments that were required in the recently passed by-law and it was

10. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2023-21 BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW NUMBER 2023-17 TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO ONTARIO INFRASTRUCTURE AND LANDS CORPORATION (OILC) FOR THE LONG-TERM FINANCING OF CERTAIN CAPITAL WORK(S) BE PASSED AND ENTERED INTO THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- b) The Policy for Meal Allowance was reviewed. The Meal rates have not been changed for several years and it was

11. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE POLICY FOR MEAL ALLOWANCE BE AMENDED TO INCREASE THE RATES OF PAYMENT AND TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

**IN NW ONTARIO RECEIPT REQUIRED
BREAKFAST - \$20.00
LUNCH - \$30.00
DINNER - \$45.00
MAXIMUM PER DAY - \$95.00**

Carried

- c) The draft Abuse Policy was not available and will be brought to a future meeting for Council's review.
d) By-law Number 2023-22 – to appoint the Community Representative to the Lakehead Police Service Board was reviewed and it was

12. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2023-22 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT THE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LAKEHEAD POLICE SERVICE BOARD BE PASSED AND ENTERED INTO THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

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e) The draft Policy for Employee and Volunteer Background Checks was reviewed, as per the Township of O'Connor's Insurance company's requirement and it was

13. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT POLICY NUMBER 2.13 FOR EMPLOYEE AND VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND CHECKS BE APPROVED AND ENTERED INTO THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S POLICY BOOK.

Carried

Proposals for Engineering services for the Structural Inspection of five large culverts were opened. Two quotations were received. It was

14. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT THE QUOTE OF JML ENGINEERING TO CONDUCT A COMPLETE STRUCTURAL INSPECTION FOR TWO CONCRETE BOX CULVERTS, TWO LARGE GALVANIZED STEEL CULVERTS, ONE CORRUGATED STEEL ARCH CULVERT AND ONE CORRUGATED STEEL BOX CULVERT IN THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AT A COST OF \$4,280.00 + HST BE ACCEPTED.

Carried

Mr. Johnson left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) City of Pickering and the City of Stratford regarding the Use of Long-Term Care Funding to Support Community Care Services was filed.
- b) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) regarding the Boreal Caribou Protection Order in Ontario concerns was filed.
- c) National Chronic Pain Society regarding maintaining OHIP coverage for chronic pain treatments and continue to provide much-needed care for people of Ontario and it was

15. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT COUNCIL SUPPORT THE NATIONAL CHRONIC PAIN SOCIETY BY REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO MAINTAIN OHIP COVERAGE FOR CHRONIC PAIN TREATMENTS AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED CARE FOR THE PEOPLE OF ONTARIO;

AND THAT A LETTER OF SUPPORT BE FORWARDED TO THE PREMIER, MINISTER OF HEALTH, ASSOCIATION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS AND LOCAL MPPS.

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board regarding the 2022 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements.
- b) Circular Materials Ontario (CMO) regarding the Blue Box Program and the transition to producer responsibility. The Deputy Clerk-Treasurer provided a verbal update on program.

Effective January 1, 2024, the Township of O'Connor will transition to producer responsibility for Blue Box Material. Administration is recommending to Council that the Township Opt-In for the Depot Operations Only Statement of Work, which will see CMO providing the Township with \$531.00 a month compensation and an additional \$22.00 a month for promotion and education. As of January 1, 2024, the Township will no longer be paying GFL Environmental for pickup of the Blue Box Material, which will result in annual savings of over \$16,000.00. Administration is also recommending that the Township lease our roll-off-bins to CMO. Under the Master Service Agreement, the Township will be responsible for manning the depot

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and ensuring that there is minimal contamination, less than 4%. Administration has forwarded the original Master Service Agreement to the Township's insurance company which had the Township responsible for the collection and transportation to GFL Environmental. The insurance company did have concerns with CMO having control of our site, however, it was clarified that they would not. CMO would be responsible for the pickup and transportation only under the new agreement. Council agreed to have a By-law to enter into a Master Service Agreement with CMO brought to the next meeting for approval.

- c) Hydro One – Invitation to Draft Environmental Assessment Open Houses. No one from Council will attend.
- d) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding the Streamlining of Approvals under the Aggregate Resources Act and Supporting Policy.
- e) Association of Municipalities Ontario – i) Bill 97, Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023 Tenant Protection Proposals – submission to MMAH
ii) Provincial Policy Statement Comment period extended and take aways from Land Use Planning and Resources Task Force meeting. Mayor Vezina is on the Task Force, however, was unable to attend the last meeting.
- f) Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery regarding the underground infrastructure locates.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) The Budget Meeting schedule for June 13, 2023, as Council is still awaiting final details for the debenture loan and several other unknown items, it was agreed to cancel and reschedule the budget meeting scheduled for June 13 and it was

- 16. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 13, 2023 BE CANCELLED AND THAT IT BE RESCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023 AT 7 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE O'CONNOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIRTUALLY.

Carried

- b) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) regarding a draft letter to NorWest Community Health Centres regarding an action plan to address the lack of services being provided in our communities. Council did not have any comment in regard to the draft.
- c) Senior and Elected Official Workshop, June 14, 2023 and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE SENIOR AND ELECTED OFFICIAL WORKSHOP TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE.

**MAYOR VEZINA
COUNCILLOR CRANE, RACICOT, SOBOLTA, TORKKELI
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER AND ALT. CEMC RACICOT
CEMC AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT LAFOREST
FIRE CHIEF MATTAS AND DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF BILOSKI.**

Carried

This workshop will be considered the Municipal Emergency Program Committee (MEPC) training for the year.

- d) Essentials of Municipal Fire Protection to be held June 22, 2023 and it was

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18. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE ESSENTIALS OF MUNICIPAL FIRE PROTECTION – A DECISION MAKERS' GUIDE TO BE HELD AT CONMEE MUNICIPAL COMPLEX ON JUNE 22, 2023

**MAYOR VEZINA
COUNCILLOR TORKKELI, RACICOT
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

Carried

- e) The Chief Building Official's (CBO) compensation for the position was discussed. It was agreed to move forward with the same formula as previous CBO's and it was

19. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT MR. MARTIN TEMPELMAN, CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL, RECEIVE 85% OF THE BUILDING PERMIT FEE, PLUS MILEAGE AT THE AUTOMOBILE ALLOWANCE RATE AS PRESCRIBED BY CANADA REVENUE AGENCY, AS COMPENSATION FOR THIS POSITION.

Carried

- f) The By-law Enforcement Officer's compensation for the position was discussed. It was agreed to move forward with the same rate of pay as the previous By-law Enforcement and it was

20. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT MR. JAMIE BALL, BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, RECEIVE \$50.00/HOUR, PLUS MILEAGE AT THE AUTOMOBILE ALLOWANCE RATE AS PRESCRIBED BY CANADA REVENUE AGENCY, AS COMPENSATION FOR THE POSITION.

Carried

- g) Continuation of the virtual option for attendance at Council meetings was discussion. A question was posed in the June issue of the Cornerstone asking residents if they would like to see the option continue. There were no responses made to the office and there have not been any residents attending the meeting virtually recently. There is an expense to providing this option and it was agreed to discontinue the virtual option at this time and if for some reason Council feel that for a certain meeting, or a reason to hold a virtual meeting is required, a Zoom meeting will be considered.
- h) Union Gas Survey results were reviewed by Council. The survey was included in the June issue of the Cornerstone with a deadline of June 12th for submission. A total of 37 responses were received. Question #1 asked the residents "Would you like to see natural gas available in the Township"? Response was Yes - 36, No - 1. Question #2 asked "Would you consider switching over to natural gas if it were available"? Response Yes - 35, No - 2.

As a result of the survey, Council would like to invite Nicole Lehto, Director of Northern Region Operations of Enbridge to the August Council meeting to discuss the option of bringing natural gas into the Township of O'Connor.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) regarding the attendance at Board meetings. The Township has one appointee, Councillor Crane, and one alternate, Councillor Torkkeli, on the Board. For the upcoming meeting to be held on June 17th, in person in Red Rock, the League has invited the alternates to attend as well. The Township will continue to only have one vote on decisions if two members attend. As Councillor Torkkeli would like to attend it was agreed that she attend the June meeting, however only one representative will be paid to attend any future

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Board Meetings, unless previously approved by Council.

- b) Thunder Bay Ventures – Community Futures Development Corporation request for support for their initiative regarding 2023 overall Business Confidence Index level.

It was

21. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUPPORT THUNDER BAY VENTURES COMMUNITY FUTURES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IN ADMINISTERING A SMALL BUSINESS SURVEY BY ALLOWING THEM TO USE THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S LOGO IN THE SURVEY COVER LETTER AND BY SHARING THE SURVEY LINK.

Carried

- c) Housing Service Corporation (HSC) – Supporting & Strengthening Communities: Innovations in Supportive Housing. Councillor Sobolta has been approved at a previous meeting to attend this meeting on June 20, 2023.
d) Westland Insurance Group Ltd. – Helipad Municipal Insurance Renewal for approval.
It was

22. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE QUOTE FOR INSURANCE RENEWAL FROM WESTLAND INSURANCE GROUP LTD TO COVER THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S HELIPAD INSURANCE NEEDS EFFECTIVE JULY 9, 2023 TO JULY 9, 2024 AT A PREMIUM OF \$2,500 PLUS INSURANCE COMPANY FEE AND TAX BE ACCEPTED.

Carried

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

- a) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – regarding the Northwestern Ontario Recreational Trails Association (NWORTA) – Notice of Completion – Project Evaluation Report for comment. Council have no concerns with the trail approval and will not make any comment at this time.

For information purposes, Building Permits were approved as follows:
#2023-04 for a house and #2023-05 for a garage at 370 Highway 595, #2023-06 for a house at 201 Garbutt Road, #2023-07 for a garage at 58 Cardiff Drive.

23. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIRTUAL.

TIME BEING: 9:21 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer