

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 13, 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers and virtually.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand,
Stephen Wiebe
Erin Laforest (virtually), Mr. Len Day (virtually)

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

1. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

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 TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022 AND THE BUDGET MEETING HELD ON JUNE 8, 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mr. Len Day of the Northwestern Ontario Recreational Trails Association (NWORTA), who was in attendance virtually was welcomed. Introductions were made. Mr. Day had asked to be on the agenda to talk about the proposed Kakabeka Falls to Shabaqua Trail Route that will go through the Township of O'Connor. The trail is intended to be a non-motorized recreational trail and will be open three season to begin with, as some of the trail system is part of the Thunder Bay Adventure Trails which is open to snowmobiles during winter. Mr. Day is looking for permission from both the Township of O'Connor and the Township of Conmee to use Fleming Road, the boundary road between the two Townships, as part of the trail system. He indicated that he is scheduled to speak with the Conmee Council at their meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 28th. Mayor Vezina asked Council if they had any issues with the use of Fleming road and they replied no. Council informed Mr. Day that as the road is a boundary road, no decision can be made until they know what position Conmee's Council will take. Council was okay with Mr. Day informing the Conmee Council that the Township of O'Connor is in favour of the use of Fleming Road.

Mr. Day was thanked for attending tonight's meeting and signed off virtually at 7:22pm.

Mr. Kelly Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. Roadwork in general was discussed. The road crew is currently in the process of doing repairs on the backhoe. Truck #9 also has an issue with the turbo and is need of repairs and is currently out of service. The road crew will be out grading roadways in the upcoming days and the new intern, Mr. John Caren, has started work.

The Shop B retrofit project was discussed. Quotes have been received from Mr. Ken Yanishewski, Chief Building Official (CBO) and Mr. Jeremiah Gammond, Approach Design, for the supervision of the retrofit project. The quote by Mr. Gammond also included a price for the bid procurement and it was

3. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE QUOTE OF APPROACH DESIGN BE ACCEPTED FOR BID PROCUREMENT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S SHOP B DEMOLITION, CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ADDITION AND REPLACEMENT OF ROOF AT A COST OF \$1,250.00 PLUS HST BE ACCEPTED.

Carried

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Council agreed that more information will be required as to what is involved with the contract administration before they can make a decision as to what quote will be chosen.

Mr. Stephen Wiebe was in the office on May 12, 2022 to express his concern in regard to the safety of Prouty Road in the Township of Gilles and inquired as to whether or not the O'Connor Council would consider reopening Main Street.

A report from Clerk-Treasurer Buob regarding Main Street hill road closure and concerns regarding the use of Prouty Road was discussed. Mrs. Buob's report gave a brief summary of the history that led up to the closure of Main Street and provided Council with any relevant correspondence that has been sent and received. Council asked Mr. Wiebe if he would like to add any comment. Mr. Stephen Wiebe expressed his concern with the increase in traffic on Sitch Road, due to the popularity of Green Acres Variety, and the use of Prouty Road, in Gillies Township. Mr. Wiebe has concerns as the road is narrow and winding and he feels that Main Street would be safer route for traffic going into Hymers. He has requested that Main Street be reopened as he feels that it is a safer alternative.

Council agreed that Main Street should be reopened, and as it is a boundary road, Council would like a letter sent to the Township of Gillies requesting further discussion in this regard and expressing the safety concerns in relation to the use of Prouty Road and also informing them that Council would like to see Main Street reopened. Council would also like it to include that the Township of O'Connor has never agreed to permanently close the road.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending the meeting and left at 8:12 pm.

The Administration and Roads Voucher #2022-09 to June 13, 2022 was reviewed and it was

4. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2022-11 DATED JUNE 13, 2022 TOTTALLING \$93,795.79 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to April 30, 2022 were reviewed.

A By-law to authorize the borrowing of monies was reviewed and it was

5. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-13 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE BORROWING OF MONIES BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Town of Aurora regarding Private Member's Bill C-233 "Kiera's Law" was read and it was

6. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Wendy Handy

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF AURORA CALLING UPON THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TO SUPPORT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ANJU DHILLON'S PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL C-233, THAT WILL RAISE THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND COERCIVE CONTROL FOR FEDERALLY APPOINTED JUDGES BE ENDORSED.

Carried

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b) Municipality of Chatham-Kent regarding retirement home funding and it was

7. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT REGARDING THE RETIREMENT HOME FUNDING AND REQUESTING THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT ENABLE INDIVIDUALS IN THE COMMUNITY THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COVER ACCOMMODATION COSTS AND PERSONAL CARE SERVICE COSTS AT RETIREMENT HOME LEVEL AND TO RECOGNIZE RETIREMENT HOMES AS AN ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE PARTNER AND IMPLEMENT AN EQUITABLE SERVICE FUNDING PROGRAM TO SAFELY CARE FOR RESIDENTS WHO REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANCE WHILE AWAITING A LONG TERM CARE BED BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- c) Town of the Blue Mountains regarding the inclusion of mailing addresses of voters on voter's lists be provided to candidates was filed.
d) The District Municipality of Muskoka regarding the requirements of an Annual Emergency Exercise Exemption that have activated their Emergency Response Plan and it was

8. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA REQUESTING THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO AMEND ONTARIO REGULATION 380/04 UNDER THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL PROTECTION ACT TO PROVIDE AN EXEMPTION TO THE ANNUAL EXERCISE REQUIREMENT FOR MUNICIPALITIES THAT HAVE ACTIVATED THEIR EMERGENCY CONTROL GROUP AND/OR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- e) Town of Fort Erie i) regarding bidding wars on apartment rentals was filed.
ii) regarding Federal Government's Plans to Tax Vacant Foreign Owned Properties was filed.
f) District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board regarding the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI), the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) and the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) Advocacy and their request to the Federal Government to increase the fair share of the Federal funding for housing programs to Ontario and it was

9. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD, CALLING UPON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE THE FAIR SHARE OF THE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HOUSING PROGRAMS TO ONTARIO BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) 2021 Audited Financial Statements.
b) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) minutes of the April 19, 2022 meeting.
c) Prime Minister's office reply to Council's endorsed resolution regarding mental health support.
d) Mosey & Mosey Benefit Plan Consultants regarding Employee Group Benefit Plan Renewal Projection for November 1, 2022.
e) AMCTO, the Municipal Experts regarding Local Government Priorities for the 2022 Provincial Election, May 30, 2022.

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- f) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) regarding Notification of Community Studies Presentation and Webinar Series – Proposed Nuclear Waste Management Ontario (NWMO) Deep Geological Repository (DGR) Proposed Project.
- g) We the Nuclear Free North regarding information cards delivered along Nuclear Waste Transportation Route.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed;

- a) A request for information was handed out to Council with regard to Strategic Planning for the Township of O'Connor. Council was asked to have the information available for the next meeting that will be held on Monday, June 27th for further discussion.

Under further old business Councillor Crane commented that he would like to see the radar/speed sign placed on Loghrin Road in order to count traffic and to record the speed of the traffic using the road. Leadhand Johnson will be asked to have the sign placed on the road.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Summer Student Applications. One application has been received and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING STUDENT BE HIRED FOR THE CANADA SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM FOR THE ROADS DEPARTMENT: COLTON CRYSLER START DATE WILL BE JULY 4, 2022. THE STUDENT WILL BE ASKED TO ATTEND THE JUNE 27, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING.

Carried

As the Township has applied for two students, if another student does come forward, Council will consider their application at the June 27th meeting.

- b) Jonathon Hari has submitted an email stating that he is resigning as the Casual Disposal Site Caretaker and it was

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

THAT COUNCIL ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JON HARI, AS CASUAL DISPOSAL SITE CARETAKER EFFECTIVE JUNE 13, 2022.

Carried

- c) Rural 60 Plus requesting to sell raffle tickets in the Township of O'Connor and it was

- 12. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RURAL 60 PLUS BE GIVEN PERMISSION TO SELL RAFFLE TICKETS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR FOR THEIR UPCOMING QUILT DRAW.

Carried

- d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 2022 Conference – Programming that Matters to You which will be held between August 14th to the 17th. No one from Council will be attending.
- e) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs regarding the Thunder Bay Community Pasture Invitation to attend an Open House on June 25th. Mayor Vezina and Councillor Crane expressed an interest in attending.
- f) NorWest Community Health Centres
 - i) General Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 28th. No one from Council will be attending.
 - ii) Invitation to Participate in a Focus Group that is scheduled to take place via Zoom on Thursday, June 23rd. Council will not be participating.

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- g) Letter from the Shadow Minister for Rural Economic Development, Shannon Stubbs, M.P. requesting feedback on issues impacting economic development as a rural community.

Under further new business Council Crane commented that the grass at the cemetery needs to be cut. Staff are aware and will get it cut as soon as possible.

For information purposes Building Permits were approved as follows: #2022-07 – 57 Connolly Road – new deck, #2022-08 – 10 Luckens Road – Barn, #2022-09 – 20 Luckens Road – Shed/Garage.

- 13. Moved by Jerry Ioan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIRTUAL.

TIME BEING: 9:04 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer