

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 14, 2021

Minutes of the Council meeting held virtually on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Present: Councillors: Crane, Handy, Loan, Racicot  
 Clerk-Treasurer Buob (in the Township office)  
 Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot (in the Township office)

Visitors: Karen Kirk – Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy  
 Kelly Johnson, Leadhand arrived at 7:12 p.m. (in the Council Chambers)  
 Erin Laforest, Administrative Assistant  
 Paul LeBoeuf, Janice LeBoeuf, Robert McKessock, Margaret McKessock

Absent: Mayor Vezina

Acting Mayor Handy called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. There was a slight delay following this as Councillor Racicot was having technical difficulties.

1. Moved by A. Crane  
 Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.**

Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 16 c) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

2. Moved by Jerry Loan  
 Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 25, 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Visitors were recognized as being in attendance.

Ms. Karen Kerk, Coordinator for the Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy (TBAFS) was welcomed to the meeting. Ms. Kerk provided Council with an update on the activities of the group over the past year. It was noted that Councillor Rudy Buitenhuis, Gillies Township, is the Municipal Representative on the Executive Committee. A Power Point presentation was presented, outlining the 2021-2022 Priorities, including Social Priorities and the Agri-Food Economic Development Priorities. Ms. Kerk was also promoting their new website [tbayInSeason.ca](http://tbayInSeason.ca). This website promotes local spending on local food with a lot of spinoffs, including the 10% eat local challenge.

Ms. Kerk also noted that they are hoping to get the new edition of the NOSH magazine out for May 2022 and they are looking for support from the local municipalities.

TBAFS is trying to increase Local Food Procurement and Thunder Bay is currently leading the way with 35% of local food being used in long-term care homes.

They are also working on a Potential Farmland Mapping project, due to the higher demand for affordable lands for farming. COVID 19 has sparked a renewed interest in local food production and there is a barrier of land availability. There are increasing inquiries into available farmland, local and from far away. This has provided an opportunity to explore a farmland mapping project, similar in Northeast Community Network. They are hoping to form a partnership between TBAFS and the rural municipalities to apply for external funding.

TBAFS is asking that Municipalities continue to support them, review and incorporate the findings from the Community Emergency Food Response Plan (CEFRP) and contribute to developing the Plan, support the new website, continue prioritizing responsible agri-food development and continue supporting their work.

Ms. Kerk was thanked for her update presentation and for attending the meeting virtually.

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 14, 2021

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the meeting. He provided a Road Department update and discussed roadwork in general. The employees have recently completed a culvert installation and have been adding gravel to a few bald areas. They have also been removing trees off the roads due to the high winds. The first load of calcium will be applied on Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Johnson was hoping to start the gravel resurfacing projects; however, he is waiting, due to the construction currently underway on Highway 595. There are traffic delays on Highway 595 as the culverts are being changed out and the construction company is hauling from Strom Road, which is one of the roads to be resurfaced.

Mr. Johnson informed Council that he has not started on the Shop B project as of yet. Due to the current high costs of lumber and the timing, he would like to recommend that all the prework be done in 2021 and the actual construction be completed in 2022.

The Summer Student positions were discussed. While the Township of O'Connor was approved for two students, only one application was received. As the construction of the garage will not proceed this summer, Mr. Johnson would be satisfied with only one student. The current applicant is very much qualified for the position and Mr. Johnson would be satisfied if Council agreed to just go with the one. As this item was to be discussed further under the Closed portion of the meeting, Council agreed that as there was only one application that we would not move to the closed portion of the meeting later and rather accept the applicant at this time. It was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

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

**CALLIE COOK**

**START DATE WILL BE JULY 5, 2021**

**THE STUDENT WILL BE ASKED TO ATTEND THE JUNE 28, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING.**

Carried

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

The Administration and Roads Voucher summary for June 14, 2021 was reviewed. No questions were asked from Council and it was

4. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2021-11 DATED JUNE 14, 2021 TOTTALLING \$106,963.26 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to May 31, 2021 were reviewed. No questions were asked at this time.

A Decision letter from the Lakehead Rural Planning Board (LRPB) with respect to application 1B/09/21 was reviewed. The application was approved with Council's condition regarding to the location of the entrance agreed upon.

Tenders and Quotations were discussed as follows:

- a) The renewal Quotation for Insurance coverage for the Township of O'Connor for the term June 1, 2021 to June 1, 2022 was reviewed. It was

5. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by A. Crane

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 14, 2021

**THAT THE QUOTE FOR INSURANCE RENEWAL FROM GILLONS INSURANCE BROKERS TO COVER THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR INSURANCE NEEDS EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2021 AT A PREMIUM OF \$38,344 PLUS TAX BE ACCEPTED.**

Carried

- b) A Request for Quotations for Structural Inspections of five large structures within the Township of O'Connor were opened during the meeting by the Clerk-Treasurer. Four quotations were received and the results were as follows:

WPS - \$3,963.00  
 JML Engineering - \$4,180.00  
 KGS Group - \$3,549.20  
 Hatch - \$6,000.00

It was

6. Moved by A. Crane  
 Seconded by Bishop Racicot  
**THAT THE QUOTE OF KGS GROUP 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 \$3,549.20 PLUS HST BE ACCEPTED.**

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Town of Fort Erie regarding Provincial Hospital Funding of Major Capital Equipment. It was

7. Moved by Jerry Loan  
 Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE REQUESTING THAT FURTHER CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO HAVING THE PROVINCE BE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPLACEMENT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ALL MAJOR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT IN HOSPITALS OR ALTERNATIVELY ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNDING LOCAL HOSPITALS COMPLETELY BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

- b) Town of Fort Erie regarding Capital Gains Tax on Primary Residence was filed.

- c) Township of Archipelago regarding Bill 228 - Banning unencapsulated Polystyrene Foam. It was

8. Moved by A. Crane  
 Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF ARCHIPELAGO CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF CANADA (MINISTRIES OF FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT), THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO (MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION & PARKS), THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, THE UNITED STATES (U.S.) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND THE U.S. STATES OF NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, OHIO, INDIANA, MICHIGAN, ILLINOIS, WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA TO WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH EACH OTHER TO ENACT LAWS IN THIS REGARD BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

- d) Township of Archipelago regarding Bill 279 – Environmental Protection Amendment Act (Microplastics Filters for Washing Machines), 2021. It was

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 14, 2021

9. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF ARCHIPELAGO AND THE GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE CALLING ON THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TO PASS PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL 279, TO PROHIBIT SALES OF WASHING MACHINES WITHOUT A FILTER OF MESH SIZE 100 MICRONS OR SMALLER, AND TO CALL ON THE CANADIAN AND U.S. GOVERNMENT TO CREATE APPROPRIATE REGULATORY MEASURES TO THE SAME EFFECT AND THAT UNTIL HOUSEHOLDS CAN ONLY BUY NEW LAUNDRY MACHINES OUTFITTED WITH <100 MICRON FILTERS, THE CITIES INIATIVE AND ITS MEMBERS CALL ON PROVINCIAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE FUNDING AND EDUCATION TO HELP CONSTITUENTS REDUCE MICROFIBER WASTE BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

- e) Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen regarding Drainage Matters and the Canadian National Railway. It was

10. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF HAVELOCK-BELMONT-METHUEN SUPPORTING THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTHWEST MIDDLESEX ON DECEMBER 7, 2020 IN REGARDS TO DRAINAGE MATTERS AND THE CURRENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS LANDS BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

- f) Township of Rideau Lakes regarding Funding for Abandoned Cemeteries. It was

11. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO TO IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE FUNDING SOURCES FOR MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE ONGOING MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION REPAIR OF ABANDONED CEMETERIES IN THEIR CARE BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Northern Ontario School of Medicine – Media Release – NOSM to Become First Stand-alone Medical University in Canada.
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Policy Update – June 1, 2021 – Stay at Home Orders to Expire Tomorrow with COVID-19 Restrictions Still in Place.
  - ii) Policy Update – June 3, 2021 – Blue Box Regulation Released and Province Easing Restrictions on Long-Term Care.
  - iii) Policy Update – June 7, 2021 – Province Moving to Step One of Its Roadmap to Reopen on Friday, June 11, 2021.

Council discussed how the Township of O'Connor should proceed with the Province's Moving Forward Roadmap. It was agreed that the Council meetings will continue to be held virtually for the June and July meetings, with the anticipation that the August meeting may be held in person, in the Community Centre, with the virtual option.

- iv) Policy Update – June 10, 2021 – Province Announces Employment Services Changes and Phase 2 of Natural Gas Expansion Program.
- c) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks i) regarding the Final Blue Box Regulation.

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 14, 2021

- ii) regarding Producer responsibility regulation for Hazardous and Special Products.
- d) Ontario Waste Management Association – re: Recycling in Ontario: Taking a Giant Step Forward.
- e) Solicitor General – response to Council's endorsed resolution requesting an extension on the deadline for submitting Community Safety and Well-Being Plans. The Plans are still due July 1, 2021. Ms. Evans, who is working on the document for the member municipalities of the Lakehead Police Services Board, will be contacted.
- f) Office of the Prime Minister – i) reply to Council's endorsed resolution regarding taxation policy and CERB payments.  
ii) reply to Council's endorsed resolution regarding the opposing restrictions on legally obtained handguns.
- g) Northern Policy Institute regarding the Invitation to Magnetic North to discuss population growth in Northern Ontario.
- h) Shadow Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Lakeland, Alberta – regarding Bill C-21. It was noted that the Township of O'Connor did endorse this same resolution at their April 12, 2021 meeting.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – i) the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) consultation period regarding MECP Regulatory Consultation Guide: Regulations Defining Core Mandate and Improving Governance, Oversight and Accountability of Conservation Authorities. Deadline to submit is June 27, 2021.  
ii) Copy of City of Thunder Bay's resolution with regard to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks consultation guide relating to draft regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act.

Council briefly discussed the concerns of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority and it was

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

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP ADVOCATE TO THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND PARKS THROUGH THE CONSULTATION RELATING TO THE "REGULATORY PROPOSAL CONSULTATION GUIDE: REGULATIONS DEFINING CORE MANDATE AND IMPROVING GOVERNANCE, OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES", THE FOLLOWING:**

**THAT THE PROVINCE PROVIDE ON-GOING ADEQUATE FUNDING TO CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES TO ADMINISTER PROVINCIALY MANDATED NATURAL HAZARD PROGRAMMING; TO COMPLETE THE PROVINCIALY MANDATED STRATEGIES AND PLANS THAT ARE REQUIRED; AND TO ADMINISTER THE MANDATORY PUBLIC ADVISORY BOARDS;**

**THAT CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES BE PERMITTED TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT PUBLIC ADVISORY BOARDS ARE NECESSARY WITHIN THEIR AREA OF JURISDICTION OR ALTERNATIVELY BE GIVEN THE OPTION TO REQUEST AN EXCEPTION FROM THE MINISTER; AND**

**THAT RECREATION BE CATEGORIZED AS A MANDATORY PROGRAM.**

**AND THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE POSTED ON THE ENVIRONMENT REGISTRY OF ONTARIO;**

**AND THAT THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ADVOCATE TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AND THE LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO THE CONCERNS OUTLINED IN THIS RESOLUTION;**

**AND THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE SENT TO HON. JEFF YUREK, MINISTER OF CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS; MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES OF THE LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY; JUDITH MONTEITH-FARRELL, MPP – THUNDER BAY- ATIKOKAN, MICHAEL**

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 14, 2021

**GRAVELLE, MPP – THUNDER BAY – SUPERIOR NORTH; AND CONSERVATION ONTARIO.**

Carried

- b) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding the new Land Use Compatibility Guideline and engagement session to be held June 16, 2021. No one will attend.
- c) Enbridge regarding the Natural Gas Expansion Program. The Expansion project in our area was not selected as one of the eligible projects.
- d) Discussion and comparison of mileage rates. The Clerk-Treasurer provided a comparison as to what the surrounding municipalities are paying for mileage to the staff and Council members. Most are using the current Canada Revenue Agency Automobile allowance rates, which are currently .59 cents per kilometre for the first 5,000 kilometres driven. The current rate paid by the Township of O'Connor is .50 cents. Council discussed this matter and it was

13. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MILEAGE RATE BE SET AT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AUTOMOBILE ALLOWANCE RATES, AS AMENDED EACH YEAR, FOR ALL TOWNSHIP MILEAGE.**

**EFFECTIVE DATE JUNE 14, 2021.**

Carried

- e) Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) response letter regarding the Township of O'Connor's application for an Equipment Operator #1 intern. The project has been determined to be potentially eligible and will proceed for further review and evaluation.

Under Further Old Business, Councillor Crane noted that he was registered to attend, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's Consultation Session on How to Strengthen Accountability for Municipal Council Members on June 10, 2021, however they changed the date to June 17, 2021 at 11 a.m. and now he is not available. No one else from Council was available to attend in his absence.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Cemetery – i) A letter from Caryll Donaldson and Margaret McKessock regarding a cemetery burial in the O'Connor cemetery was discussed. There is a concern from the writers of the letter as to which plot a family member was buried, in the family plot. The Clerk-Treasurer explained the situation at the time of burial.

Mr. McKessock asked if he could also address Council on his conversation with the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) on the situation. Council was in agreement to allow him to speak on this. The BAO does set the guidelines for the succession of family plots. They will have all the details that the Township needs to make any further decisions and potential policies on family plots and who has the right of order. These particular plots were purchased in 1965 and the purchaser has since passed on.

Council agreed to have the Clerk-Treasurer contact the BAO with regard to the situation and will bring back more information for Council to make a final decision.

Mr. McKessock thanked Council and noted that the family appreciates anything they can do.

- ii) Councillor Racicot discussed with Council the option of free cemetery plots for employees and Council members. The Clerk-Treasurer clarified that there is a cost that would have to be submitted to the Care and Maintenance fund for each plot. Council discussed the option further and it was agreed to move forward with this. The Clerk-Treasurer will confirm what will need to be prepared to do so and will bring back the required documents to Council at a future meeting.

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 14, 2021

Ms. McKessock left the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

- b) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding the North West Ontario Aerial Photography Project 2022. The Township of O'Connor did purchase aerial photos of the Township in 2017 through the FireSmart funding. It was agreed to not purchase the 2022 version, as not a lot has changed in the Township in that time.

Councillor Racicot left the meeting.

- c) Mosey & Mosey regarding Employee Group Benefit Plan Renewal Projection for November 1, 2021. For all benefits combined they are projecting the renewal adjustment to be +20%. The proposed renewal report will be provided in late August and the finalized renewal rates will be available by the end of September.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

Under Further New Business, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot informed Council that she will be taking compassionate leave for two or three months to assist immediate family out of town. The Administrative Assistant will be able to work back in the office starting on June 24, 2021 in her absence.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed.

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) meeting – scheduled for June 15, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Vezina is unable to attend due to work and Council was asked if anyone else could attend in his absence. No one will be available. The Clerk-Treasurer will inform the LRMC.
- b) Senior of the Year Award – The certificate has arrived at the Township office and the Clerk-Treasurer asked Council how they would like to proceed with the presentation to the recipient. Council would like to do it in person, so they will wait until the meetings can be held in person to make the presentation.

For Information purposes, Building permit #2021-06 was approved for a Shelter at 358 Highway 590.

As the summer student position was previously discussed, there is no need to move to Closed Portion. It was

14. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE BUDGET MEETING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON JUNE 21, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 9:14 P.M.**

Carried

---

Mayor

---

Clerk-Treasurer