

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 22, 2020

Minutes of the meeting held virtually on Monday, June 22, 2020 at 7 p.m. from the Municipal office and Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand (in the Council Chambers)
Paul and Janice LeBoeuf

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

1. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Paul and Janice LeBoeuf were recognized as being in attendance virtually.

The Fire Department report was read. There was one fire related call and one first response call since the last report. The Fire Department will be starting up their training again, following COVID-19 guidelines. The Fire Department will be submitting an application to the Jenny's Heroes funding program for the purchase of radios for the department. It was noted that only three members attended the fire call on a weekend. Council expressed their concern with the need to have more members join the Fire Department and it was noted that, as volunteers, members are not always available.

The Administration and Roads Voucher summary for June 22, 2020 was reviewed. No questions arose and it was

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2020-12 DATED JUNE 22, 2020 TALLING \$50,906.83 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

Tenders were then discussed. Mayor Vezina then turned the meeting over to the Clerk-Treasurer. The Township has requested Tenders for the construction of the culvert replacement project on Sitch Road at Beaver Dam Creek. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that she received four tenders and they all met the deadline of 4:00 p.m. today, June 22, 2020. They were all also in sealed envelopes, as requested. The bids were opened with Mr. Johnson, Leadhand and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot witnessing the openings. The quotes were as follows: Bay City Contractors - \$96,995.00 plus HST, PNI Contracting Ltd. - \$97,000.00 plus HST, LH North Ltd - \$87,000.00 plus HST and BJ Halow & Son Constructors Ltd. - \$104,670.00 plus HST. Mr. Johnson reviewed the quotes to ensure the work requested was properly quoted and it was

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

THAT THE TENDER OF LH NORTH LTD. BE ACCEPTED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ON SITCH ROAD AT BEAVER DAM CREEK UNDER THE INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM – RURAL AND NORTHERN STREAM AT A COST OF \$87,500.00 PLUS HST.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) regarding Blue Box transition to full producer responsibility. AMO has provided a draft resolution, and the rationale

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behind it, for Council's consideration. It was also noted that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks recently proposed not making it mandatory for producers to pick up from populations less than 5,000, public spaces and park post-transition. It was

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

WHERE THE AMOUNT OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS LEAKING INTO OUR LAKES, RIVERS, WATERWAYS IS A GROWING AREA OF PUBLIC CONCERN;

WHEREAS REDUCING THE WASTE WE GENERATE AND REINCORPORATING VALUABLE RESOURCES FROM OUR WASTE STREAM INTO NEW GOODS CAN REDUCE GHG'S SIGNIFICANTLY;

WHEREAS THE TRANSITION TO FULL PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PACKAGING, PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS IS CRITICAL TO REDUCING WASTE, IMPROVING RECYCLING AND DRIVING BETTER ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES;

WHEREAS THE MOVE TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY IS A GLOBAL MOVEMENT, AND THAT THE TRANSITION OF BLUE BOX PROGRAMS WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD THIS OUTCOME;

WHEREAS THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR IS SUPPORTIVE OF A TIMELY, SEAMLESS, AND SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION OF BLUE BOX PROGRAMS TO FULL FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY BY PRODUCERS OF PACKAGING, PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS;

WHEREAS THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR IS CONCERNED ABOUT A RECENT PROPOSAL BY THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND PARKS THAT COULD JEOPARDIZE OVER 135 SMALL RURAL, REMOTE, AND NORTHERN COMMUNITY BLUE BOX PROGRAMS ACROSS THE PROVINCE AS WELL AS SERVICING TO SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC SPACES;

AND WHEREAS THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO HAS REQUESTED MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS WITH BLUE BOX PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE AN INDICATION OF THE BEST DATE TO TRANSITION OUR BLUE BOX PROGRAM TO FULL PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR STRONGLY ADVOCATED FOR LANGUAGE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REGULATION THAT ENSURES MUNICIPALITIES UNDER 5,000 CONTINUE TO RECEIVE BLUE BOX SERVICING AS WAS AGREED AS PART OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S BLUE BOX MEDIATION AS WELL AS SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC SPACES.

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR WOULD LIKE TO TRANSITION THEIR BLUE BOX PROGRAM TO FULL PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY JANUARY 1, 2023.

AND THAT THIS DECISION IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING RATIONALE: THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THE RESIDENTS OF OUR TOWNSHIP WITH A BLUE BOX PROGRAM, AND TO ENSURE THE COST OF BLUE BOX RECYCLING DOES NOT FALL ON THE RATEPAYERS, DURING THE PROPOSED THREE-YEAR PROVINCIAL TRANSITION.

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AND THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PROVIDING COLLECTION SERVICES TO PRODUCERS SHOULD WE BE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT MUTUALLY AGREEABLE COMMERCIAL TERMS.

AND FURTHER THAT ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RESOLUTION CAN BE DIRECTED TO LORNA BUOB, CLERK-TREASURER AT 807-476-1451 OR TWPOCONN@TBAYTEL.NET.

AND FURTHER THAT THE RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO AND THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND PARKS.

Carried

- b) Grey County requesting that the Provincial government implement broadband in the unserved and under-served areas of Grey County and it was
5. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM GREY COUNTY REQUESTING THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT BROADBAND IN THE UNSERVED AND UNDER-SERVED AREAS OF GREY COUNTY BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- c) Town of Bracebridge requesting the Federal and Provincial governments to establish a municipal financial assistance program to offset the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was filed.
- d) Town of Orangeville regarding Police Services and Diversity training program was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Tbnnews watch announcement that the Province has invested \$2.3 million to expand internet access across the north. In the press release it does mention rural areas surrounding the City of Thunder Bay including the Municipalities of Shuniah, Oliver Paipoonge and Neebing. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to clarify what is being done for these municipalities and clarify whether or not the Township of O'Connor is included and just not mentioned by the press. Council would like a letter sent to the MPP asking for support for the rural municipalities with regard to high-speed internet.
- b) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) regarding Recent Protest Activities. The letter to their members reiterated that racism and racial discrimination have no place in the policing. They want to confirm that the OPP stands only for values and equal respect for all.
- c) Solicitor General – update with regard to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Invoices. Due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, billings were not sent out for the April and May billing cycles. The government will be providing municipalities with an extended 90-day payment timeline to make these payments, from the date the delayed invoice is issued.
- d) Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) regarding AMO – OPP Detachments Board Discussion Paper. The TBDSSAB has passed a resolution indicating that the Board is not in agreement with the TBDSSAB becoming a Police Services Board.
- e) Mosey & Mosey regarding Employee Group Benefit Plan Renewal Projection for November 1, 2020. They are projecting a significant increase in the annual premium. The Clerk-Treasurer will follow up with Mosey & Mosey on the Township's coverage.
- f) Ontario Energy Board (OEB) regarding the Government of Ontario's recent announcement regarding the Time-of-Use pricing from June 1 until October 31, 2020.
- g) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge and the Township of Conmee – News Release, dated June 11, 2020 regarding a potential merger. At the process moves forward, the public will be kept informed through the Municipalities' websites and newsletters. There will be opportunity for feedback from the residents and ratepayers, through a consultation process that will include public meetings.
- h) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) letter regarding ending the temporary suspension of the Planning Act timelines as of June 22, 2020.

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- i) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) COVID-19 Update June 9, 2020 – Child Care and Patio Extensions.
- ii) COVID-19 Update – June 15, 2020 – Stage 2 Re-openings, Masks, and Pandemic Pay.
- iii) COVID-19 Update – June 16, 2020 – Readiness Toolkit, Resumption of Land Use Planning Timelines, and Masks (Clarification).
- iv) AMO Board Update: COVID-19, Three Months and Counting.
- v) AMO Virtual 2020 Conference Registration.
- vi) AMO Policy Update – Stage 2, Emergency Declaration Extension and Water Bottling Consultation.
- j) Municipality of Chatham-Kent – i) Copy of letter to the Provincial government regarding Long-Term Care (LTC) and Retirement Homes (RH) and allowing volunteers into the LTC and RH for human interaction with the residents.
- ii) Copy of letter to the Provincial government regarding current and long-standing issues being faced by the LTC sector.
- k) Northern Policy Institute – i) NPI Gets People to Come (or Stay) North.
- l) Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) regarding the opportunity to comment on the Implementing Adaptive Phased Management 2020 to 2024 five-year Strategic Plan being extended to July 3, 2020.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Councillor Loan provided an update on Council's concern from the June 8, 2020 meeting with regard to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) contract information. Councillor Loan noted that he has spoken with Mayor Kevin Holland, Township of Conmee, and Chair of the Lakehead Police Services Board (LPSB) and there is nothing to concern ourselves with at this time. In the future when the OPP do restructure the Boards, the LPSB will not be under a Section 10 Agreement. No final decision has been made yet with regard to how the Province will be restructuring the Board. Mayor Holland is also the Zone 1 Representative and will keep Councillor Loan updated on any decisions.
- b) Draft #3 of the Township of O'Connor 2020 budget was discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer provided notes to changes made since draft #2 and a copy of the Township of O'Connor's reserve balances. The actual numbers to date were included in the draft, including the amounts of the recently opened tenders and quotes from the June 8, 2020 Council meeting and the insurance breakdown. The draft as presented, included a 0% increase in the Township levy from 2019 and a transfer of revenue from the Levy Stabilization Reserve, equal to the difference between the decrease in the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) and the increase in Provincially mandated programs. There was still a deficit of \$23,512.88. The Clerk-Treasurer also presented Council with the possible additional revenue amounts with different levy percentage increases. A 1% tax increase provides an additional \$7,519.09, 1.5% equal to \$11,278.64 and a 2.2%, the rate of inflation, a \$16,542.00.

Council thoroughly discussed the options to balance the budget and it was agreed to move forward with a 1.5% tax levy increase and pull the additional balance required from the Levy Stabilization Reserve. The Clerk-Treasurer will prepare the By-law with the new tax rates for approval at the July 13, 2020 meeting. Councillor Loan has requested that a recorded vote be taken at the next meeting with regard to this decision.

- c) Discussion with regard to how the next Council meeting, to be held on July 13, 2020, will be held in regard to the COVID-19 situation. As the Province has opened up public gatherings to ten, with social distancing, and no new outbreaks have arisen in the Thunder Bay District Health Unit jurisdiction, Council agreed to move the next meeting to the O'Connor Community Centre. If participants would like face masks they will be made available at the door. Provincial regulations, time and current local situation will determine when Council will move back into the Council Chambers for their meetings.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Ministry of Infrastructure reply letter regarding the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program application. The Township's project for the multi stormwater culvert replacement and stormwater drainage was not nominated for federal review and approval.

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For information purposes building permits were approved as follows: 32 Chambers road – addition, 256 Garbutt Road – Modular home, 154 Blaikie Road – shed, 31 Pool Road – Greenhouse, 23 Whittaker Road – demolition permit for deck.

It was

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

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD IN PERSON ON JULY 13, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. FROM THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE IF SITUATION REMAINS SAFE.

TIME BEING: 9:10 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer