

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 27, 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, June 27, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Council Chambers and virtually.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Mattas  
 Margaret Foster, Dog Control Officer  
 Colton Crysler, Summer Student  
 Greg Biloski, Fire Department Captain arrived at 7:44 p.m.

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Moved by W. Handy  
 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 19 a) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

2. Moved by A. Crane  
 Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Ms. Foster was asked if she wished to address Council on any personal matters, other than what she was on the agenda for, and she replied no.

Colton Crysler, Summer Student, was welcomed to the table. Introductions were made. Each Council member provided a personal welcome and expressed the need to work hard, safely, and enjoy the summer. Information in regard to the details and responsibilities of the job and training were briefly discussed. The job will start on July 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. at the Township garage. Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, will be his direct Supervisor. Colton was asked if he had any questions. His questions were answered and he was thanked for attending the meeting. He left the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Margaret Foster, Dog Control Officer, was welcomed to the table. Ms. Foster would like to ask Council for support in pursuing a dedicated day or days, for the Township of O'Connor and all rural Municipalities, for spay and neutering of dogs at the Thunder Bay District Humane Society. Currently, rescue dogs have a dedicated day. Due to the lengthy time that dog owners are currently waiting to get their dogs spayed or neutered and the higher costs of using a veterinary clinic for the spay or neuter, having a dedicated day would help to alleviate some of the running at large of dog issues and unwanted dog pregnancies in the communities. The cost to spay or neuter at the Humane Society, compared to a veterinary office, is much cheaper. Ms. Foster would like to suggest that all rural Municipal Council's get together and request that the Thunder Bay District Humane Society have a dedicated day for the rural Municipalities.

Council discussed the issue and suggested that perhaps the rural Municipal Dog Control Officers and By-law Enforcement Officers could meet together and present more detail as to what exactly they would like from the Councils, in pursuit of the matter. It was suggested that Ms. Foster meet with Clerk-Treasurer Buob to prepare a document for further discussion with the surrounding rural Municipalities. Ms. Foster was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report for May 21 to June 23, 2022 was read. There were two First Response calls and one Fire call in that time period.

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Under Fire Department issues, Fire Chief Mattas noted that three members recently completed the Fire Fighter #1 course and have signed up for the Fire Fighter #2 course to be held in late August and September, 2022. Two members have also signed up for the Instructor Course in October, 2022. All of these courses are being held in the Oliver Paipoonge Training Centre. This training will meet the new and upcoming National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Regulations.

Fire Con 2022 is being held in Thunder Bay, September 8 to 10, 2022. This conference has not been held for the last two years due to COVID-19. At this time, no members have expressed an interest in attending. Fire Chief Mattas may attend the Opening Ceremonies and the Trade Show.

The Fire Department Auxiliary Minutes from the May 10, 2022 meeting were read. In the Minutes, there was discussion with regard to the purchase of a backup generator for the Fire Hall. Council requested more information in this regard as there is currently backup power in the Fire Hall. Captain Biloski clarified some of the concerns with regard to the current system, one being the location of the generator. As the current generator is located and locked up in the Township garage, Fire Department members would have to contact the Road Department staff to start it up if needed, as they do not have access to the garage. The Auxiliary was looking at a stand-alone, automatic start-up generator to ensure that all of the equipment will continue to charge in the event of a power outage. This would ensure that the power doors will open in an emergency without having to manually maneuver the opening and eliminate the risk of things freezing in a long winter power outage. The members were considering a propane powered generator that could be connected to the current propane supply for the heating system. Council noted that there are currently no funds available in the 2022 budget for this purchase. If funding for such a purchase becomes available, an application could be submitted. In the meantime, it was suggested that a Generator Policy be created to ensure proper communications between departments when required. It was also noted that as not all plugs and switches are energized by the generator backup power system, and that the plugs and switches that are connected should be marked so that all members and staff are aware of which ones will work while using the backup generator.

Fire Chief Mattas and Captain Biloski were both thanked for attending and left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher #2022-12 dated June 27, 2022 was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2022-12 DATED JUNE 27, 2022 TOTTALLING \$107,561.76 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to May 31, 2022 were reviewed.

The 2022 Budget was once again reviewed for final approval. The Clerk-Treasurer explained changes that were made to the budget following the last budget meeting held. Actual purchase prices were included for some items that were previously estimated. Adjustments were made and final numbers were agreed upon. A By-law will be passed to allow for Final Tax Bills to be sent out in July 2022.

By-laws and Policies were discussed as follows:

- a) By-law Number 2022-14 to set the 2022 Tax Ratios was reviewed and it was

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-14 BEING A BY-LAW TO ESTABLISH THE TAX RATIOS FOR THE YEAR 2022 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

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b) By-law Number 2022-15 to adopt the budget and set the tax rates was read and it was

5. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-15 BEING A BY-LAW TO ADOPT THE ESTIMATES OF ALL SUMS REQUIRED DURING THE YEAR 2022 FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSES OF THE MUNICIPALITY, AND TO STRIKE THE LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2022 AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF TAX RATES AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR PENALTY AND INTEREST IN DEFAULT OF PAYMENT THEREOF FOR 2022 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

c) Policy 4.5 for Submission of Tenders and Quotations was reviewed and discussed. No changes to the Policy will be made at this time.

Lakehead Rural Planning Board – Consent Applications #1B/20/22 and #1B/21/22 were reviewed and it was

6. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE CONSENT APPLICATIONS 1B/20/22 AND 1B/21/22 FOR JOHN AND LAURA SOBOLTA FOR THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS CONCESSION 1, PT N1/2 LOT 7 PCL 1242 FOR TWO SEVERANCES, ONE FOR 4.12 HECTARES AND ONE FOR 4.072 HECTARES EACH BE APPROVED.**

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board – Update from the Board June 15, 2022.
- b) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – regarding the 2021 LRCA Annual Report.
- c) Health Canada, Strategic Policy Branch reply to Council's endorsed resolution regarding Mental Health and Addictions.
- d) Municipal Engineers Association regarding the retention of Professional Engineers at Ontario Municipalities.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed:

- a) The Municipal Garage Shop B renovations project update and the project administration options. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the Request for Tenders has been sent out and a site visit is scheduled for June 30, 2022 at 10 a.m. The Bids will be due on July 11<sup>th</sup> by 2 p.m. and opened later that evening at the Council meeting. The Road Department staff will be demolishing Shop B. The hired contractor will remove the tin off the rest of the garage, prior to installation of the new roof. The current bid request is for the shell of the building, and does not include the electrical or mechanical requirements.

The Contract Administration for the project was discussed. It was agreed that, if required, the Chief Building Official would be asked if he would be in agreement to work on an hourly basis to deal with any issues rather than a set contract price.

Under Further Old Business, Council asked when the speed sign was going to be installed on Loghrin Road. The Clerk-Treasurer will follow up with Mr. Johnson next week on this.

Under New Business, Council discussed:

- a) Erika Kromm, Secretary of the Lakehead Police Services Board regarding the Municipal seats on the Board. As Mayor Holland, Chair of the Board, was successful in the Provincial election, he will be stepping down. Councillor Loan will also be

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leaving the Board at the end of July. This will leave the Board short two members with no municipal representative. As the Board meeting scheduled in July may have to be moved to August, there will be no formal request from the Board until after the meeting. Ms. Kromm would like the Councils to think about who they would want to nominate for the Board.

Council discussed the matter and agreed that the Municipality of Neebing should have a representative, as both Conmee and O'Connor did provide the previous Representatives. If Conmee would like to appoint someone as well, Council did not have any objections in not having a Representative at this time.

- b) IESO – invitation to participate in the IESO's next Long-Term RFP Community Engagement virtual discussion – July 14, 2022. No one will participate at this time.
- c) Bank signing authority for the Township was discussed. As both Councillor Loan and Handy currently have signing authority and both will be leaving Council prior to the end of the term, Council was asked if they would like to change the signing authority at this time. It was agreed to wait until they are officially off of Council before the changes are made. Councillor Crane will be added when the time comes.

Under Further New Business, it was suggested that high visibility bug off jackets be purchased for the Summer Student and Road Employees, as the bugs are so bad this year. This information will be forwarded to Mr. Johnson to look into.

Councillor Crane informed Council that he attended the Thunder Bay Community Pastures Grazing Project BBQ held on June 25<sup>th</sup> on behalf of the Township. There was a good turnout at the BBQ and the Thunder Bay Community Pastures provided very good information on the project.

Councillor Loan thanked Council for the recognition plaque for his years of service on Council, as well as the birthday plaque he recently received.

The meeting then moved to Closed and Councillor Racicot left the meeting.

- 7. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS A PERSONAL MATTER ABOUT AN IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING MUNICIPAL OR LOCAL BOARD EMPLOYEES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(E) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.  
TIME BEING: 9:42 P.M.**

Carried

A personal matter was discussed during the closed session.

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

**TIME BEING: 9:47 P.M.  
THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried

- 9. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIRTUAL.  
TIME BEING: 9:48 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer