

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 28, 2021

Minutes of the Council meeting held virtually on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Present: Mayor Vezina
 Councillors: Crane, Loan, Racicot
 Clerk-Treasurer Buob
 Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot
 Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas
 Callie Cook, Summer Student
 Erin Laforest, Administrative Assistant
 Absent: Councillor Handy

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Moved by A. Crane
 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 J. Loan
 Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021 AND THE BUDGET MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.
 Carried

Visitors were recognized as being in attendance.

Callie Cook was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made. She was congratulated on her summer employment and Council provided employment information and tips, including don't be afraid to ask questions if you are unsure. They also stressed that safety is the number one priority. Ms. Cook then provided her education background, goals and previous work experience. Council then wished her well for her summer employment and she left the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the meeting. There have been two calls since the last report. One house fire, which was fully engulfed upon their arrival, with seven members attending and one Mutual Aid call for a lightning fire which also resulted in the loss of a home in Conmee Township. Six members attended from our department. Overall, it has been quiet in the district.

Fire Chief Mattas noted that the Department is hoping to get back to training. They are working on getting this started. Some members have been coming to the Fire Hall individually. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that Brittany Dumoulin has come to the office and picked up the Fire Department's Chromebooks and the last few training manuals and workbooks. She will be keeping track of and distributing them to the members.

The retirement of fire apparatus information with regard to the age of the equipment and the Fire Underwriters Survey information was discussed. If the apparatus meets the recommended annual service and acceptance level tests and has been deemed in excellent mechanical condition, the equipment is still acceptable, despite the age. The pumper continues to meet the required testing levels as per NFPA 1911, Chapter 5 c). The Township's pumper is still in excellent shape, even though it is at the 20-year age. The purchase of a new or used truck is still something that will have to be considered in the next few years.

Fire Chief Mattas also noted that he has made a few inquiries with regard to purchasing a new or used truck, as per Council's request, however with COVID-19 no one can

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promise delivery or price. With the lack of staff in the office the companies also don't have the time to come up with an actual price if only inquiries. Fire Chief Mattas noted that the word is out that we are looking for a truck and if a good deal comes along, he will bring it to Council's attention.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher summary to June 28, 2021 was reviewed. No questions were asked and it was

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2021-12 DATED JUNE 28, 2021 TOTALLING \$64,360.24 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

Consent application 1B/12/21 for a 5 Hectare severance on Concession 1, Lot 12, was reviewed. It was

4. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE CONSENT APPLICATION 1B/12/21 FOR NADIA MYHAL FOR THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS CONCESSION 1, PT LOT 12 PCL 2120 DFWF FOR A SEVERANCE OF 5 HECTARES BE APPROVED.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) County of Perth regarding Domestic COVID-19 Vaccine Production and Capacity. It was

5. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by J. Loan

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE COUNTY OF PERTH RECOMMENDING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF A COVID-19 VACCINE AND ENCOURAGING ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO ENGAGE AND SUPPORT DOMESTIC VACCINE CAPACITY BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- b) Peter Julian, MP, New Westminster-Burnaby regarding seeking endorsement for Motion M-84 Anti-Hate Crimes and Incidents & Private Member's Bill C-313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act and it was

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by J. Loan

ON BEHALF OF THE 663 RESIDENTS, THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ENDORSE MP PETER JULIAN'S PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTION, MOTION M-84 ANTI HATE CRIMES AND INCIDENTS AND HIS PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL, BILL-C 313 BANNING SYMBOLS OF HATE ACT.

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – i) Minutes of May 18, 2021 meeting.
ii) Next Meeting Monday, July 19, 2021 to discuss Rural Action Plan (RAP). Council was asked to review the most recent plan and bring back any comments or concerns to the next Council meeting, for Mayor Vezina to bring forward to the July 19th, LRMC meeting.

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- iii) Community School Alliance – Membership and virtual Annual Meeting. The Township of O'Connor is currently not a member of the alliance. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to get more information on the alliance and bring it back to the next meeting to consider whether or not to become a member.
- b) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) –
 - i) Update from the Board – June 14, 2021.
 - ii) CHPI Emergency Pandemic Fund. The purpose of this fund is to support the province's goal to end chronic homelessness by 2025, and to establish creative and innovative approaches to homelessness that align with the TBDSSAB's Housing and Homelessness Plan. The fund aims to provide financial support to organizations that are experiencing increased or new costs in supporting the homeless or preventing homelessness due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- c) Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) – Media Release - Province Moves to Step Two of Reopening on June 30.
- d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Policy Update June 18, 2021 – Provincial Cabinet Shuffle.
 - ii) Policy Update June 24, 2021 – Moving to Step Two of COVID-19 Reopening on June 30 and Adding Mental Health Support to OPP Communication Centres.
- e) Attorney General regarding an update on modernization initiatives and court recovery in Ontario's Provincial Offence Act (POA) courts.
- f) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) regarding Inspection of 2021-2022 Annual Work Schedules.
- g) Northern Policy Institute – Launches Regional Survey on Attitudes Towards Newcomers. Council was encouraged to fill out the survey.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – i) report from the Police Detachment Board meeting held on June 24, 2021 with the Municipalities of Shuniah, Neebing and the Townships of Conmee, Gillies and O'Connor, with regard to the structure of a future local Police Services Board, prepared by Ms. Laforest, was read. The majority of the group were in favour of Shuniah continuing to have their own board and the rest to be a part of one board. The board structure that the group is proposing for the four municipalities is to have seven members, one from each community, one provincial representative and two community representatives. Councillor Loan provided additional information with regard to his follow up meetings with the OPP Detachment, Sergeant Dave Moscall, and with Joanna Reading from the Solicitor General's office, addressing Council's concerns. Councillor Loan explained that the Township of O'Connor will still receive services from the OPP and pay for those services, the same, whether on the Board or not, however, would not have a say with regard to the detachment or have the opportunity to express any concerns that the Township may have. Funding opportunities for additional services would also not be available to the Township. Councillor Loan expressed his opinion on why he felt the Township of O'Connor should be a part of a Board. Council discussed their concerns once again, and the extra expense of being a part of the Board and not seeing the benefit. Council was concerned that if all municipalities did not agree to be on the Board the expense would be even higher.
 - ii) OPP Board Framework Worksheet/Information provided by Mr. Greenwood from Shuniah for the meeting held on June 24, 2021 was reviewed. The estimated costs of forming one board or two boards were reviewed. Again, the expenses were discussed. Council did question Councillor Loan on why the members had decided to move forward with the two-board option when it would be cheaper to form one. Councillor Loan explained that the Municipality of Shuniah has had their own Board for over twenty years and they do pay for extra services with the OPP. They also have different issues, being closer to the City of Thunder Bay, than the four municipalities have, and they like the structure they currently have and are willing to pay the extra to have their own board and not share the costs of the joint board.
 - iii) A draft Resolution with Council's decision with regard to Board Structure was discussed. Council at this time are not prepared to endorse a resolution committing them to be a member of the Board. They would like this matter deferred and brought back to the next meeting. Council would like to confirm the other municipalities decisions prior to making any commitment. It was noted that if the Township was to commit to being on the board, there would most likely be a one year notice period to remove ourselves from the board, if Council did not see the

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benefit and wanted to get out.

The Clerk-Treasurer will follow up with the surrounding municipalities to see if they have all committed to the board structure and will bring this back to the July 12, 2021 meeting for a final decision by Council.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Military Service Recognition Book requesting support from the Township by way of advertisement in their annual Military Recognition Book. It was

7. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR PURCHASE AN 1/10 PAGE (B/CARD B & W) ADVERTISING SPACE IN THE 13TH ANNUAL MILITARY SERVICE REGONITION BOOK.

Carried

- b) Community Safety and Well Being Plan prepared by Rosalie Evans for the Municipality of Neebing, the Townships of Conmee, Gillies and O'Connor, with information and discussions with the Clerk-Treasurers, as well as using information from surveys previously completed by the Township's residents, was reviewed. The Plan is due to be submitted to the Province of Ontario by July 1, 2021. Due to COVID-19, the required committees were not created and this is noted in the Plan. Council felt that the Plan was well done and it was

8. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by J. Loan

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ENDORSE THE JOINT COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL BEING PLAN AS PREPARED WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING, TOWNSHIP'S OF CONMEE, GILLIES AND O'CONNOR, AS PER THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO'S POLICE SERVICES ACT.

Carried

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

- a) Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) – update on People and Talent application. Additional information is being requested and the completion of the review will be conducted. NOHFC will then determine if funding will be approved for this project.
- b) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) – copy of the comments submitted by the LRCA on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) posting 019-2986. The Township did submit comments as well, based on the resolution endorsed at the June 14, 2021 meeting.

It was

9. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by J. Loan

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 8:37 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer