

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Community Centre and virtually.

Present: Mayor Vezina
 Councillors: Crane, Loan, Racicot
 Clerk-Treasurer Buob
 Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot
 Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
 Absent: Councillor Handy

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Moved by Jerry Loan
 Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared and interest in item 16 a) and b) 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, FEBRUARY 28, 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mr. Johnson was asked if he wished to address Council on any personal matters and he replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. Roadwork in general and a Road Department update were discussed. Winter road maintenance continues, the frost heaving has started and warning signs have been set out.

The Intern Program was discussed. A report was read from the Clerk-Treasurer in regard to the position. The second applicant from the original round was no longer interested in the position, so a new job posting will have to be sent out. A draft notice was read and minor amendments were made. The distribution of the notice was discussed. It was agreed to post as soon as possible on the Township's website, request that it also be posted on the neighbouring municipalities websites and if possible, in their newsletters, post on the Township's bulletin boards and on the Canada Job Bank as well as kijiji. It will also be included in the April issue of the Cornerstone with applications due back into the Municipal office on Friday, April 8, 2022, for review by Council at their April 11, 2022 Council meeting.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by A. Crane
 Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2022-05 DATED MARCH 14, 2022 TOTTALLING \$45,875.42 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

By-laws were reviewed as follows:

- a) A report in regard to the draft Zoning By-law was read. The Clerk-Treasurer and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer have met virtually with Mr. Posen of Fotenn, in regard to the draft, to discuss changes as per Council and administration's recommendations. Mr. Posen will be making the agreed upon changes and will get a copy back to

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Council as soon as possible for final review. A public meeting will have to be held prior to the final approval. Twenty days' notice must be given for the meeting. Mr. Posen will participate virtual to help to answer any questions that might arise from the residents. Potential dates for a public meeting were discussed and it was

4. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT A STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING WITH REGARD TO THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S DRAFT ZONING BY-LAW BE HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022 AT 7 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE AND VIRTUALLY.

Carried

- b) By-law Number 2022-08, a By-law to accept electronic payments from payees from Central 1 Credit Union was reviewed. The current method of notification of these payments is changing from fax to email and an agreement must be entered into to accept this method of payments. It was

5. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-08 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ELECTRONIC PAYMENT CONSOLIDATION AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN CENTRAL 1 CREDIT UNION AND THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of Woolwich regarding mental health support and it was

6. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF WOOLWICH REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ENSURE APPROPRIATE AND SUSTAINED FUNDING IS TRANSFERRED TO PROVINCES FOR MENTAL HEALTH PURPOSES IN THEIR 2022 BUDGET; AND REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO PROVIDE STABLE, RELIABLE AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS IN THEIR 2022 BUDGET BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- b) Town of Mono calling on the Federal Government to support Ukraine in their fight against the invasion and it was

7. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF MONO CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE GREATER SUPPORT TO UKRAINE IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE INVASION OF THEIR SOVEREIGN TERRITORY BY RUSSIA BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Police Services Board (LPSB) – i) October – December 2021 Report for O'Connor. The calls for service in this time period were down compared to 2020.
ii) Minutes of the October 13, 2021 meeting.
iii) 2022 approved budget. The budget is based on the Board remaining in existence for the enter 2022 calendar year, as they are still awaiting the decision from the Province on the proposed new structure of the joint Police Services Board.

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- b) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – i) Response to the Solicitor General in regard to the proposed Firefighter Certification.
 - ii) Northern Ontario Transportation Task Force. Mayor Landry from the Municipality of Shuniah, and President of NOMA, is on the Task Force and will accept any of Council's concerns or suggestions in this regard.
 - iii) Ontario establishes new independent Universities in Northern Ontario. The Northern Ontario School of Medicine University (NOSM University) and Universite de Hearst (Hearst) will be new, independent universities effective April 1, 2022.
 - c) Hydro One Community Relations regarding Waasigan Transmission Line environmental assessment. With the recent approval of the project, Hydro One is moving forward with the environmental assessment, which will evaluate the alternate routes to identify the preferred route and project design.
 - d) Minister of Infrastructure – Introduction of Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022. The Minister is committed to keeping municipal partners up-to-date as they continue to work towards full broadband connectivity in Ontario by the end of 2025.
 - e) Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry – regarding Inspection of 2022 – 2023 Annual Work Schedule.
 - f) Ministry of Health regarding COVID-19 vaccination for children ages 5 – 11.
- The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Fire Smart Canada, Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. The Township of O'Connor's funding application has been approved. Council will now have to set a date to hold an event. Event options and potential dates were discussed and it was

- 8. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT A WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY 2022 EVENT BE SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022, TIME TO BE DETERMINED.

Carried

- b) Ontario Senior of the Year Award. The municipality can recognize an outstanding senior who enriches the social, cultural or civic life of the community. Nominations were discussed and it was agreed that the Township of O'Connor would nominate Lorna Krieg for this award in 2022. The deadline for submissions is April 30th.

Under New Business, Council discussed

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- a) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) 2022 Conference and Annual General Meeting to be held April 27 to 29 in Fort Frances. Attendance was discussed and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION (NOMA) 2022 CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN FORT FRANCES, ON APRIL 27 TO 29, 2022.

**MAYOR VEZINA
COUNCILLOR RACICOT, HANDY, CRANE
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT
ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT LAFOREST**

REGISTRATION: \$455.00

Carried

As both Council Handy and Administrative Assistant Laforest were not in attendance to confirm their availability to attend, they are being included in the motion, however

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confirmation from them, as to whether or not they would like to attend, will be made prior to their registration.

- b) AMCTO Zone 9 – i) regarding the Spring Meeting and Conference to be held on April 12 & 13, 2022 in Thunder Bay.
- ii) Meeting and Conference agenda was reviewed and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE AMCTO ZONE 9 SPRING MEETING AND CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON APRIL 12 AND 13, 2022.

**CLERK-TREASURER BUOB
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT LAFOREST**

REGISTRATION: \$100.00

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- c) Township budget meeting dates were discussed and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATES BE SET FOR BUDGET MEETINGS:

**ROADS DEPARTMENT APRIL 11, 2022 AT 6 P.M.
FIRE DEPARTMENT APRIL 25, 2022 AT 6 P.M.**

THE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE AND VIRTUALLY.

Carried

These meetings will be held prior to the regular Council meeting. The full budget meeting date will be set at a later date.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed were discussed as follows:

- a) Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) – Cancellation of the Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled to be held on March 24 and 25, 2022. The conference will be rebooked for late September. The AGM will be reorganized as a virtual meeting and more information on a new date will be sent out later.

For information purposes, no building permits have been approved since the last meeting.

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

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE AND VIRTUALLY.

TIME BEING: 8:15 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer