

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 28, 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on March 28, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Community Centre and virtually.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Loan
Councillor Handy (virtually)
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot
Administrative Assistant Laforest

Visitors: Ms. Candace Phillips, BDO Canada LLP
Henry Mattas, Fire Chief

Absent: Councillor Racicot

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: none

2. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Ms. Candace Phillips, auditor from BDO Canada LLP was welcomed to the meeting. Mayor Vezina turned the meeting over to her and she proceeded to present the Township of O'Connor's 2021 Financial Statements. Ms. Phillips provided a breakdown of the audit process and the responsibilities of the Township and auditor.

Ms. Phillips then continued with an explanation of the 2021 Financial Statements. The Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Liability was discussed and due to 2021 inflation rates the estimated future expenses had decreased slightly from 2020. Ms. Phillips also commented that we have a few more years to go before we will require another landfill study.

The description of uncorrected misstatement was reviewed. It was noted that the accounts payable was overstated due to the audit fee accrual and the taxes receivable was also overstated which was the result of supplemental billings in 2021 that were reflected on the financial statements as receivable, however the tax program does not recognize them as receivable at year end.

During the course of the audit, they did not encounter any significant matters that required Council's attention. Ms. Phillips asked Council if they had any questions or concerns and Council replied no.

Ms. Phillips was thanked for her presentation of the Financial statements and left the meeting at 7:50 pm.

The Administration and Roads Voucher summary for January 24, 2022 was reviewed. No questions were asked and it was

3. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE DRAFT 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AS PRESENTED BY BDO, THE AUDITOR, AT THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MARCH 28, 2022.

Carried

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Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the meeting. The Fire Department report from February 24, 2022 to March 24, 2022 was read. There was one first response call since the last report.

The report from the Fire Underwriters Survey report was read. The Fire Underwriters Survey conducted an assessment of the Township's fire defenses for the primary purpose of fire insurance grading and classification. The report can be used by the Township to assist in planning for future direction of fire protection services for the Township.

The O'Connor Fire Department Auxiliary minutes from their meeting held on November 9, 2021 was read.

Under fire department issues, Chief Mattas discussed upcoming budget considerations. Four sets of turnout gear will need to be purchased at a cost of \$8,800.00, fifteen helmets will need to be purchased to replace helmets that are outdated, even though some are brand-new and still in the original packaging. The cost of the helmets will be approximately \$5,700.00. Chief Mattas also indicated he has four or five people interested in taking the driver training for their DZ license. There are two possible organizations that can provide the training. Chief Mattas is still making inquiries regarding scheduling issues as members will need to take time off work to do the training.

Leanne Coderre, First Response Coordinator, will be recertifying members of the first response team and will be certifying new members interested in joining the first response team.

Chief Mattas was asked to begin to consider succession planning as the certification requirements to become a fire chief will take time for anyone who steps into the position.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

The Administration and Roads Voucher summary for March 28, 2022 was reviewed. No questions were asked and it was

4. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2022-06 DATED MARCH 28, 2022 TALLING \$51,446.88 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

By-laws were discussed as follows:

- a) By-law Number 2022-09 – Being a by-law authorizing the execution of an agreement between Bell Canada and the Corporation of the Township of O'Connor for Next Generation 9-1-1 Services and it was

5. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-09 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN BELL CANADA AND THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR TO PROVIDE NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 SERVICE BE PASSED AND ENTERED INTO THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- b) The Draft Zoning-Bylaw as presented by Fotenn Planning + Design was reviewed. Council do not have any further comments and the notice of the public meeting that will be held on April 21, 2022 has been included in the April issue of the Cornerstone and will be mailed out to the appropriate authorities as outlined by Fotenn Planning + Design.

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Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of Adelaide Metcalfe regarding a support for their resolution for the dissolution of the Ontario Land Tribunal and it was

6. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF ADELAIDE METCALFE SUPPORTING THE RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GRAVENHURST REGARDING THE DISSOLUTION OF THE ONTARIO LAND TRIBUNAL BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- b) The Town of Wasaga Beach regarding the County of Simcoe Regional Government Review Service Delivery Task Force – Fire Services was filed.
c) The City of Barrie requesting the Province of Ontario for a Plan of Action to address Joint and several Liability and it was

7. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF BARRIE'S REQUEST TO THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO FOR A PLAN OF ACTION TO ADDRESS JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- d) The Township of Kingsville regarding the support of the Town of Aurora and their request for support for the Government of Ontario to dissolve the Ontario Land Tribunal and it was

8. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM TOWN OF KINGSVILLE SUPPORTING THE TOWN OF AURORA'S REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO TO DISSOLVE THE ONTARIO LAND TRIBUNAL BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- e) Town of Halton Hills regarding new gravel extraction licensing applications was filed.
f) City of Port Colborne regarding the proclamation of the Year of the Garden was filed.
g) Municipality of Shuniah supporting the resolution of the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board regarding the Homeless Enumeration Report was filed. This same resolution was supported by Council at their February 28th meeting.
h) Municipality of Shuniah supporting the resolution of the Township of Chapple regarding the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association's support of the expansion of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. As the expansion has already been announced the resolution was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO) regarding the "Lead Where You Live – AMO's Guide to Running for Municipal Election".
b) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association i) Environmental Registry of Ontario's posing of 019-4995, Conservation Agreement Proposal.
ii) Letter to Minister Rickford regarding Forest Access Roads Funding Program.
iii) News Release regarding Ontario supporting Local Fire Services in the North.
iv) Senate Appointments Cycle and requesting assistance in identifying Canadians who could serve in the Senate of Canada.
c) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board's Update from the Board.
d) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition Minutes from the February 15, 2022 meeting.
e) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – 2022 Annual Repayment Limit for the Township.

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- f) Thunder Bay District Health Unit regarding Mask Mandate. Mask may be optional but people are encouraged to wear them.
- g) Northern Ontario School of Medicine announcement of medical education expansion.
- h) Ministry of Energy letter regarding the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO).
- i) Ministry of Transportation regarding update on the Electronic Logging Device (ELD) mandates for Ontario-based carriers. Administration will look into whether the Township is affected by the mandate.

Under Old Business, Council discussed:

- a) Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation regarding approval of funding for an Equipment Operator #1 Intern. The position has been posted in the April issue of the Cornerstone, on the Township website and on the Canada Job Bank.
- b) Office of the Solicitor General letter to Reeve Wendy Wright, Township of Gillies thanking her for the completion of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for the Townships of Gillies, O'Connor, Conmee and the Municipality of Neebing.

Under further new business, Councillor Crane updated Council on the Thunder Bay Veterinary Services Committee meeting he attended on March 17, 2022. Councillor Crane is now on the Board. Councillor Crane also indicated that he will not be attending the NOMA Conference in Fort Frances in April 2022. His registration will be cancelled.

Under New Business, Council discussed:

- a) Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)
 - i) Request for Municipal involvement in procuring new electricity supply facilities.
 - ii) Information Session for Municipalities to be held on April 12th and 19th. No one from Council expressed an interest in participating.
- b) AMO 2022 Conference Launch. The conference will be held in Ottawa. No one from Council expressed an interest in attending.

Under further new business, Mayor Vezina informed Council that he has accepted a position as the NOMA representative on the AMO Energy Task Force. Mayor Vezina asked Council for their support. Council gave their support and commented that he will be an asset on the Energy Task Force.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer attended the TBDML Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, March 26th and informed Council that they will be looking for an Executive Director in the coming months. She also indicated that she may be interested in applying for the position. Council gave her their support.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was sent out were read as follows:

E-mail received from the office of the Prime Minister acknowledging receipt of Council's resolution supporting the resolution of the Town of Mono in relation to the crisis in Ukraine.

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

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE ROAD DEPARTMENT BUDGET MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

TIME BEING: 9:01 PM

Carried

Mayor

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer