

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 9, 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on March 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Loan
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Absent: Councillor Handy, Councillor Racicot

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

1. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that Mr. Johnson called in that he would be late attending the meeting and Council agreed to move on with the agenda and go back to item 6 a) when he arrived.

The Administration and Roads voucher was reviewed, and it was

2. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2020-05 DATED MARCH 9, 2020 TOTTALLING \$76,481.78 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Draft Statement of Revenue and Expenditures report to December 31, 2019 was reviewed. It was noted that the Superior North Emergency Medical Services (SNEMS) – 4th Quarter Levy for 2019 invoice arrived and it is significantly higher than was originally budgeted, and the amount that was setup as an accounts payable for 2019 at year end. This is resulting in the deficit for 2019 being much higher than originally anticipated. Council was asked if they wished to reconsider funds that were put into reserves for 2019 at the January 27, 2020 Council meeting. Council agreed to not make any changes to the reserves.

A copy of the letter and the 4th Quarter levy invoice from the SNEMS was read by Council. The increase in the levy is attributed to Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) expenses relating to injury and presumptive legislation claims for paramedics.

A new by-law to appoint the Community Representative to the Lakehead Police Service Board (LPSB) was reviewed. It was noted that By-law Number 2020-09, passed at the last meeting, had the incorrect name of the appointee and would have to be repealed. A new by-law with the correct name will have to be passed. It was

3. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-10 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT THE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LAKEHEAD POLICE SERVICES BOARD BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

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Consent Application 1B/02/20 was reviewed, and it was

4. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE CONSENT APPLICATION 1B/02/20 FOR MARTIN AND CORINNE TEMPELMAN FOR THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS CONCESSION 5, LOT 4 FOR A SEVERANCE OF 4.06 HECTARES BE APPROVED, WITH CLARIFICATION OF SECTION 12.

Carried

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – i) Minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting.
ii) Administrative Report – regarding Emergency Health Services Modernization and Public Health Modernization. The LRMC will be submitting the comments as presented in this document by the due date of March 31st.

Mayor Vezina noted that as the representative on the Thunder Bay District Health Unit Board he did provide comments to the LRMC and they have been included in the report. Council were very impressed with the detail in the report and agreed that as a member of the LRMC they would not make their own submission.

- b) Enbridge Gas Inc. – Community Expansion. A letter providing an update on the company's next steps. It was noted that while the letter announces that the Government of Ontario is further increasing access to natural gas, Mayor Landry of the Municipality of Shuniah and employee of Enbridge noted at the last LRMC meeting that it will not be expanding into the Township of O'Connor as they will not cross the Kaministiquia River.

Mr. Johnson arrived at the meeting and was welcomed to the table. Roadwork in general and a Road Department update was provided.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Roadcrew has been scratching any ice off the roads as it melts and refreezes. There are frost heaves starting and they will be stock piling some gravel at the yard to fix any of these heaves during half load season. Mr. Johnson has been working on the tender package for the culvert replacement on Sitch Road at Beaver Dam Creek, to be replaced this summer. He will contact LHNorth to see when Highway 595 at Whitewood Creek will be closed, as it will interfere with the route for access to materials. He also noted that he does plan on changing the bridge deck on Smith Road over Whitewood Creek prior to the detour on Highway 595 as Smith Road will be part of the detour.

Mr. Johnson has also started working on his budget. Budget dates were briefly discussed, and he was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Council continued with the agenda where they left off, under Correspondence.

- c) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines regarding expanding natural gas access. This was previously discussed in item b).
- d) Tom Gervais, Police Services Advisor, Ministry of the Solicitor General – copy of email to the Township of Gillies regarding the Lakehead Police Services Board (LPSB), member payment and Board funding. Councillor Loan provided more explanation on this item. Mr. Gervais was at a recent LPSB meeting and is responding to concerns brought forward by the Township of Gillies at that meeting.
- e) Ministry of the Solicitor General regarding the Regional Roundtable Follow-up: Next Steps and Confidentiality. The Ministry will send out notice to various stakeholders once the draft regulations are posted for public comment.
- f) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) letter regarding the 2020 Annual Repayment Limit (ARL) for the Township of O'Connor. The 2020 ARL is calculated based on 25 percent of the Township's net own source revenues as reported in the 2018 Financial Indicator Report. An explanation of what the ARL is and the role of

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the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing was also included.

- g) Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board – 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. The Board's vision is to be a model of excellence in local solutions, by investing in the success of the people they serve through flexible, inclusive services from a strong organization.
- h) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), 2020. The PPS, 2020 policies will take effect on May 1, 2020 and will replace the PPS, 2014.
- i) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Drug Community Benefit Charge/Development Charge Regulatory Proposal and Provincial Policy Statement Posted.
ii) Queen's Park Update.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) The LRMC's Rural Action Plan (RAP), January 2020. The LRMC will be reviewing the document at their next meeting and are looking for Council's suggestions for any changes they would like to see before the AMO Conference. At this time Council do not have any suggestions for change and feel the document is very thorough.
- b) The draft Social Media policy will be deferred until the next meeting.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Ministry of Solicitor General, Chief of Emergency Management letter confirming that the Township of O'Connor was in compliance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) in 2019.
- b) The Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) is hosting a Parliamentary Services training for the LRMC member municipalities' Council and staff. A couple of members attend the session previously held in Thunder Bay and found the training to be excellent. Ms. Lukinuk, who provided the training is from Thunder Bay and was asked if she would provide another training session for the LRMC member municipalities. She has agreed and the training will be held on April 23, 2020 at the Township of Conmee Municipal Complex. Ms. Laforest did attend the previous training. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ATTEND THE PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES TRAINING, HOSTED BY THE LAKEHEAD RURAL MUNICIPAL COALITION (LRMC) TO BE HELD ON APRIL 23, 2020 AT THE CONMEE MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

REGISTRATION FEE - \$10.00 PER PERSON PLUS \$84.00/MUNICIPALITY.

**MAYOR VEZINA
COUNCILLOR LOAN, CRANE, HANDY, RACICOT
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT**

Carried

- c) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) i) regarding the Conservation Authority Broader Consultation and request for Municipal support. The Township of O'Connor has already submitted a resolution in support of Conservation Authorities to the Minister. As a part of the Conservation Authority Broader Consultation, there is an on-line survey that the LRCA is requesting be submitted by the deadline of March 13, 2020. The LRCA has provided a copy of the comments that they have submitted as a reference to their concerns. Each member of Council can go on-line and answer the survey.
- ii) 2020 LRCA Budget Summary was reviewed. The Township of O'Connor's total 2020 levy is \$4,620.00.
- d) Thunder Bay & Area Food Strategy request to place an advertisement in their 2020 Northwest Nosh magazine and purchase copies to distribute in the Township office.

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It was

6. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR PURCHASE AN 1/16 PAGE ADVERTISING SPACE IN THE 2020 NORTHWEST NOSH, A PUBLICATION OF THE THUNDER BAY & AREA FOOD STRATEGY FOR \$238.00.

Carried

As the price of the issues was not included in the request, it was agreed to wait and get the cost of the copies prior to committing to purchase copies.

2020 budget dates for the Township of O'Connor were discussed. In the past Council have held the department budget meetings one hour prior to the regular Council meeting in April or combined the Road Department and Fire Department budget meetings together on the same night. A separate meeting has been held for the Administration budget and any changes that need to be made to the Road Department or Fire Department budget are done that evening as well. As there are deputations scheduled for both the April Council meetings, it was agreed to do a separate budget meeting night. It was

7. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE FOLLOWING DATES BE SET FOR BUDGET MEETINGS:
ROADS DEPARTMENT AND FIRE DEPARTMENT – MONDAY, APRIL 20,
2020 AT 7 P.M.**

ADMINISTRATION – TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020 AT 7 P.M.

THE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Carried

Under further new business, Councillor Crane gave a report on the Thunder Bay District Veterinary Service Committee Meeting that he attended on February 27, 2020. He noted the concern of area farmers with regard to the new Animal Welfare Act and the fines of up to one million dollars that can be implemented. It was suggested that this information be included in the next issue of the Cornerstone.

Council also discussed the COVID-19 outbreak. Council would like staff to meet together to discuss any concerns they may have, as well as how business could continue if it becomes an issue in our area. It was suggested that information also be included in the Cornerstone. Council would like to ensure staff are safe while dealing with the public. The Clerk-Treasurer will arrange a meeting with staff to discuss any concerns and how to deal with it if it becomes an issue.

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

- a) Ontario Rett Syndrome Association request for proclamation. It was agreed to not officially make the proclamation, however information can be included in the October issue of the Cornerstone, during Rett Syndrome Awareness month.

8. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS.
TIME BEING: 8:45 P.M.**

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer