

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 10, 2021

Minutes of the Council meeting held virtually on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Handy, Loan, Racicot
Clerk-Treasurer Buob (in the Township office)
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot (in the Township office)

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand (in the Council Chambers)
Erin Laforest, Administrative Assistant
Stephen Wiebe, Paul LeBoeuf, Janice LeBoeuf

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

1. Moved by J. 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 an interest in item 19 b) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

2. Moved by J. Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

The visitors were acknowledged as being present at the meeting. The Clerk-Treasurer provided them with information on how to rejoin the meeting following the closed session later in the meeting.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the meeting. He provided a verbal Road Department update and discussed roadwork in general. Mr. Johnson reported that they are still dealing with frost boils in some of the roads, overall the roads are good. The snow removal equipment has been taken off the vehicles, cleaned up and put away. Line locates have been requested for upcoming culvert replacements on Smart Road. New signs purchased have been installed. They are currently filling a bin with scrap metal for pickup from the Disposal Site. Council did not have any questions.

The Health and Safety report for April 28, 2021 was read. It was noted that the First Aid and CPR certifications have expired, however quotes are currently being requested for training for all necessary staff.

Summer Students for the Road Department were discussed. The Township was successful in their application to hire two summer students this year. Mr. Johnson confirmed that he would be able to find enough work for them, with extra cleanup around Shop B also being required prior to construction. He did have a concern with moving the students around in one vehicle during COVID-19 restrictions. Council will enter into the agreement with Canada Summer Jobs later on in the agenda.

The Ritchie Bros. upcoming Auction was discussed. Mr. Johnson informed Council that there is a 2015 plow truck coming up in the May 11-13, 2021 auction from Bolton, Ontario that he would like to bid on. He is concerned however, that it would be sight unseen. Council discussed the opportunity and the information that Mr. Johnson was able to share on the condition of this truck and agreed that if he could get it for a good deal, it would be worth it. Funding for the purchase was also discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer provided information with regard to the Infrastructure Ontario loan opportunity and confirmed that the purchase of a truck does qualify. It was confirmed that the Township's Annual Repayment Limit would allow for a loan to cover a truck as the Township is currently debt free. A limit as to what Council was willing to allow Mr. Johnson to bid up to was discussed. Council did also note that Mr. Johnson was only to

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bid to where he felt comfortable, knowing what his needs are, and the opportunity. Mr. Johnson also noted that there are other auctions coming up that he will keep an eye on and the Highway Maintenance company currently in our area, EMCON's contract is currently up and perhaps there could be some of their trucks coming up for sale. It was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT KELLY JOHNSON, LEADHAND, BE APPROVED TO BID ON A COMBINATION PLOW AND SANDER TRUCK AT THE RITCHIE BROS. AUCTION TO BE HELD FROM MAY 11 – 13, 2021 FOR UP TO \$210,000.

Carried

It was also clarified that the Garbage compactor truck previous discussed is not being sold through the Ritchie Bros. live auction but rather through Iron Planet and is currently not available for bidding until after this auction. Mr. Johnson did note that there are issues with the hydraulics and it currently does have cylinder issues but they could be fixed but he is not sure at what cost.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher summary to May 10, 2021 was reviewed. No questions were asked and it was

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2021-09 DATED MAY 10, 2021 TOTTALLING \$47,129.09 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to April 30, 2021 were reviewed.

By-law Number 2021-10 to enter into an agreement for the hiring of summer students was read and it was

5. Moved by J. Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2021-10 BEING A BY-LAW TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CANADA TO HIRE TWO SUMMER STUDENTS BE PASSED AND ENTERED INTO THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) City of Brantford regarding the Province of Ontario withdrawing its prohibition on golfing and any other outdoor recreational activities and it was

6. Moved by J. Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF BRANTFORD RECOMMENDING THAT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO WITHDRAW ITS PROHIBITION ON GOLFING AND ANY OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES WHICH CAN BE ENJOYED WHILE MAINTAINING PROPER SOCIAL DISTANCING BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- b) Municipality of Leamington regarding Advocacy for Reform, Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) was filed.
c) Town of Fort Erie regarding the Province investigating and updating Source Water Protection Legislation was filed.
d) Town of South Bruce Peninsula regarding lottery licensing to assist small

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organizations and it was

7. Moved by J. Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF SOUTH BRUCE PENINSULA REQUESTING THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONSIDER INSTITUTING AN ADDITIONAL LEVEL OF LOTTERY LICENSING WHICH WOULD ENABLE SMALL ORGANIZATIONS WHO DO NOT SUSTAIN A NON-PROFIT OR CHARITABLE STATUS TO BE ABLE TO RECEIVE A LOTTERY LICENSE IF THEIR PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- e) Burnaby, British Columbia resident regarding a Day of Action Against Anti-Racism Proclamation and it was

8. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM DORIS MAH, OF BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA PROCLAIMING MAY 10, 2021, AS A “DAY OF ACTION AGAINST ANTI-ASIAN RACISM” BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Superior North EMS regarding potential strike, District of Thunder Bay paramedics.
- b) Ministry of Transportation (MTO) regarding internal organizational changes.
- c) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding notification of proposal on modernizing environmental compliance practices and Ontario Community Environment Fund re-launch.
- d) Ministry of the Attorney General & Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding recent liquor licensing measures.
- e) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding draft Forest Biomass Action Plan.
- f) Association of Municipalities on Ontario (AMO) – i) Policy Update April 27, 2021 – Ministry of Transportation Bill, CSPA Regulations, Municipal Act clarification, and delegation requests open.
ii) Policy Update – April 28, 2021 – Reports on Long-Term Care pandemic response.
iii) Policy Update – April 29, 2021 – Province introduces paid COVID-19 leave.
iv) Policy Update – May 3, 2021 – Long-Term Care Commission Report Overview and Digital Ontario.
- g) Thunder Bay District COVID-19 Business Impact Survey – April 29, 2021.
- h) Northern Policy Institute – Chasing Paper: Forms over function in First Nation Administration.
- i) Town of Perth regarding Provincial Hospital funding of Major Capital Equipment.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Hydro One Community Fund regarding the purchase of backup generator for the Township office and/or Community Centre. As per Council's request at the last meeting, the Clerk-Treasurer reported that Federal Gas Tax funding could be used to help offset the cost of the purchase of a generator. Council discussed further if this new generator would be for both buildings or just the Township office and what size of generator would be adequate, to request quotes for. It was decided that as the community centre can continue to receive a power back up source from the current generator, that we would only request quotes for a generator large enough to feed the Township office in an emergency or any other power outage. This generator will have an automatic start and transfer switch. This will provide a cleaner power for the computers and other electronics required. A request for quote will be sent out for the purchase and installation of a 20 KW generator, with automatic start and transfer switch.

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- b) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) regarding an Invitation to the member municipalities to discuss Thunder Bay OPP Detachment Board Framework Proposal. Attendance was discussed and it was
9. Moved by J. Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S PARTICIPATE IN THE LAKEHEAD RURAL MUNICIPAL COALITION (LRMC) MEETING TO DISCUSS THE THUNDER BAY OPP DETACHMENT BOARD FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021 AT 3:00 P.M.

**COUNCILLOR LOAN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT LAFOREST.**
Carried

- c) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) discussion regarding the recently held Annual General Meeting and Conference held on April 28 – 30, 2021. Council was all very impressed with how the Conference went and the presentations and information discussed. At the meeting Enbridge provided a presentation on their current and expanding services and Council would like to see an application submitted to have natural gas come into the Township of O'Connor. The Clerk-Treasurer will look further into this and bring it back to Council.
- d) Ministry of Transportation reply to Council's concerns regarding Highway right-of-way. Council now has the contact information if they have any further issues with this.

Under further Old Business the Clerk-Treasurer reported on the Township of O'Connor's Weighted Assessment (WA), as requested by Council at the last meeting. In 2020 the WA was \$75,439,756.24 and in 2021 it is \$75,720,231.24. A slight increase of \$280,475.00.

Councillor Loan also noted that at the last meeting he noted that he was awaiting a response from the OPP as to whether or not the calls that he had presented in his report were all chargeable or not. He did receive confirmation that they were all chargeable to the Township.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding a Townhall session consulting with Northern Ontario municipalities with regard to strengthening accountability for municipal council members. It was
10. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by J. Loan

THAT COUNCILLOR CRANE PARTICIPATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING'S CONSULTATION SESSION ON HOW TO STRENGTHEN ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021.
Carried

For information purposes a building permit was approved for a new garage at 121 Garbutt Road.

The visitors at the meeting were then notified of the Council moving to closed session and were reminded on how to get back into the open meeting upon the completion of the closed session. It was

11. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LITIGATION OR

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POTENTIAL LITIGATION, INCLUDING MATTERS BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS, AFFECTING THE MUNICIPALITY OR LOCAL BOARD; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(E) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001 AND TO DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 9:01 P.M.

Carried

Council discussed correspondence received on the matter regarding Main Street.

Councillor Racicot left the meeting at 9:22 p.m. due to his pecuniary interest.

Council continued in the closed session discussing administration and non-union employee wage review.

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

TIME BEING: 9:53 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

In regard to the potential litigation matter Council would like a letter sent to both parties involved explaining that the Township has no further interest in the matter at hand.

The decision of the administrative and non-union employee wages, discussed in closed were set and it was

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

THAT THE SALARY AND WAGE SCHEDULE FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR NON-UNION STAFF COMPRISING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, DISPOSAL SITE CARETAKER, JANITOR, GROUNDSKEEPER, DOG CONTROL OFFICER, FENCEVIEWER, LIVESTOCK VALUATOR, WEED INSPECTOR AND THE STARTUP/PROBATION RATE WILL RECEIVE AN INCREASE AS FOLLOWS:

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021 INCREASED BY 2 PERCENT.

AND THAT THE MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT/PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER HOURLY WAGE BE INCREASED TO \$█/HOUR.

Carried

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

THAT THE SALARY AND WAGE SCHEDULE FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S CLERK-TREASURER AND DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER TO RECEIVE A WAGE INCREASE AS FOLLOWS:

1. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST, 2021 INCREASED BY 3 PERCENT
2. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST, 2022 INCREASED BY 3 PERCENT
3. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST, 2023 INCREASED BY 2 PERCENT
4. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST, 2024 INCREASED BY 2 PERCENT

Carried

15. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by J. Loan

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**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE (EMPC) MEETING TO BE HELD
VIRTUALLY ON MAY 17, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.**

TIME BEING: 10:01 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer