

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 11, 2020

Minutes of the Council meeting held virtually from the O'Connor Municipal Office on Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7 p.m.

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

Visitors: Paul and Janice LeBouef

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on April 27, 2020 and the Budget meeting held on May 4, 2020 were read. It was noted that the minutes of the April 27, 2020 did not include the time the meeting was adjourned in the motion. This will be corrected to include the time and it was

1. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020 AND THE BUDGET MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED AND AMENDED.

Carried

Mayor Vezina acknowledged that Paul and Janice LeBouef were in attendance virtually, however, at this time if anyone wishes to address Council they must submit a request to speak 48 hours prior to the meeting and they were not asked if they would like to address Council.

The Road Department report was read. Smith Road was closed on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 until today, May 11th at 4:30 p.m. to allow employees to replace the bridge deck over Whitewood Creek. To date the frost coming out of the ground on the roads is going smoothly with no major issues. There were also no issues with spring flooding this year. Highway 595 at Whitewood Creek will be closed as of June 1, 2020 by the Ministry of Transportation to allow for a culvert replacement. The detour for this closure will be on the Township roads, as was previously agreed to.

The Administration and Roads Voucher summary was reviewed. No questions with regard to the summary arose and it was

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2020-09 DATED MAY 11, 2020 TOTTALLING \$44,567.46 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to December 31, 2019, final copy, and to April 30, 2020 were reviewed.

Amendments to the Emergency Management Program for the Township of O'Connor with regard to the addition of an Influenza (or other) Pandemic Plan, as recommended by the Community Emergency Management Coordinator, were read. The description included in the Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis (HIRA) for an Influenza was updated and an Influenza Pandemic Plan will be added as Appendix "H". It was

3. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

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THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-13 BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW NUMBER 2017-23, BY ADDING AN INFLUENZA PANDEMIC PLAN, AND EDITING THE DESCRIPTION OF THE INFLUENZA (OR OTHER) PANDEMIC BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) City of Hamilton requesting to regulate and enforce odour and lighting nuisances related to the cultivation of cannabis plants was filed.
- b) Township of Montague requesting that the federal government provide grant funding to municipalities to forgive tax payments was filed.
- c) Township of Armour regarding high speed Internet connectivity in rural Ontario and it was

- 4. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR REGARDING THE NEED TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENTS IN HIGH-SPEED INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS OF ONTARIO BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Council would also like to see a resolution drafted for the next meeting with regard to this same matter that can be forwarded to the Thunder Bay District Municipal League and the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association.

- d) Town of Grimsby supporting the Commercial Rent Assistance Program was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) Update from the Board April 30, 2020.
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - i) COVID-19 Update, May 7, 2020 – Pandemic Pay Information Now Available.
 - ii) COVID-19 Update – May 6, 2020 – Emergency Orders Extended to May 19th, CMOH Direction on Seasonal Residences, More Businesses to Open.
 - iii) AMO releases OPP Detachment Boards Discussion Paper. The AMO Board recently approved the discussion paper with regard to the establishment of new OPP detachment boards. AMO sees the merit in municipality selected board members to support the policy drafting functions of a board. AMO also believes all municipalities should have the opportunity to select a representative on an OPP detachment board. Council noted that as a result of the consultations they feel the municipal input with regard to special circumstances in the North and the need for two separate boards was heard, however no final decision has been made.
 - iv) AMO COVID-19 Update – April 29th, 2020.
 - v) AMO COVID-19 Update: Child Care, Enforcement Reporting and Provincial Parks.
- c) Northern Policy Institute – The Future of Jobs – Continuation.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) A formal approval of the 2019 Financial Statements for the Township of O'Connor is required. Council did not have any concerns with regard to the presentation made at the last meeting and it was

- 5. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE DRAFT 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AS PRESENTED BY BDO, THE AUDITOR, AT THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 27, 2020.

Carried

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Under Further Old Business, Council asked if new, wired security cameras for the municipal yard should be included in the 2020 budget. It was noted that this item was cut from the 2019 budget. It was agreed to continue using the current battery-operated cameras until the cameras die and then Council can once again look at whether or not to get new ones.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Thora Cartlidge, Agriculture Development Advisor, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs letter requesting support from the Thunder Bay District Municipalities for research into the barriers to attracting and retaining large animal vets in underserved areas of northern Ontario. The research would be done through the OMAFRA/University of Guelph Research Alliance. A draft supporting letter was provided. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that she reached out the Veterinary Committee Council members and the Mayor earlier as a response was requested by May 8th. Council agreed to submit a letter of support.

Under Further New Business, Mayor Vezina noted that he received an email from 360 Studios, a virtual tourism photography and production company. They are trying to help restart communities following COVID-19 by creating a virtual tour of municipalities to allow local and future visitors to see all that the area has to offer, while planning their next trip, when it is safe to do so. There is an estimated cost of \$1,200. Council agreed that this would not be a priority at this time.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed out were read as follows. These items were emailed to Council prior to the meeting.

- a) Solicitor General regarding the amendment made to the Police Services Act (PSA) to prescribe a new deadline for the completion and adoption of the Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the four municipalities in the Lakehead Police Services Board (LPSB) are working together to create this plan under the lead of Rosalie Evans. The deadline has now been extended to January 1, 2021.
- b) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – i) Minutes of the March 3, 2020 meeting.
ii) Administrative Report regarding Matters arising out of the March 3, 2020 meeting.
- c) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) –
i) Regarding the TBDSSAB 2019 Levy Surplus Disposition. The Township of O'Connor will receive a refund of \$742.
ii) 2019 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements were reviewed.

For information purposes no building permits were approved since the last meeting.

- 6. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded A. Crane

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE BUDGET MEETING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON MAY 12, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. FROM THE O'CONNOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE AND COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

TIME BEING: 7:49 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer