

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 23, 2023

Minutes of the Council meeting held on May 23, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers and virtual.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Racicot, Sobolta, Torkkeli
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot
Administrative Assistant Laforest

Visitors: None

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

Mayor Vezina requested that item 18, Closed Portion, be moved forward on the agenda after item 14 d) in order to discuss labour relations and Council was in agreement.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Mayor Vezina declared an interest in item 9 g) as his spouse has submitted an expression of interest to sitting on the Committee of Adjustment.

2. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE NOTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON MAY 5, 2023, THE MINUTES OF THE ROAD DEPARTMENT BUDGET MEETING HELD ON MAY 8, 2023, AND THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MAY 8, 2023 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Administrative and Roads Voucher #2023-10 was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2023-10 DATED MAY 23, 2023 TOTALLING \$33,258.99 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

Under By-laws and Policies Council discussed

- a) i) Report to Council regarding Zoning By-law Amendment 2023-01 recommending the passing of By-law Number 2023-14 to amend the Township of O'Connor's Zoning By-law Number 2022-12.
- ii) Draft Notice of Passing of Zoning By-law Amendment which will be circulated upon approval of By-law.
- iii) By-law Number 2023-14, being a By-law to amend By-law 2022-12, the Zoning By-law and it was

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2023-14 BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-12, THE ZONING BY-LAW BE PASSED AND ENTERED INTO THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- b) By-law Number 2023-15, being a By-law respecting the Building Inspector Intern and it was

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5. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2023-15 BEING A BY-LAW RESPECTING BUILDING INSPECTOR INTERN BE PASSED AND ENTERED INTO THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- c) By-law Number 2023-16, being a By-law to Authorize the Borrowing of Monies and it was

6. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2023-16 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE BORROWING OF MONIES BE PASSED AND ENTERED INTO THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- d) By-law Number 2023-17, being a By-law to Authorize the Submission of an Application to the Ontario Infrastructure and Land Corporation and it was

7. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2023-17 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO ONTARIO INFRASTRUCTURE AND LANDS CORPORATION FOR FINANCING OF CERTAIN ONGOING CAPITAL WORKS BE PASSED AND ENTERED INTO THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- e) By-law Number 2023-18, being a By-law respecting a By-law Enforcement/Provincial Offences Officer and it was

8. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2023-18 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT A BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT/PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED INTO THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- f) By-law Number 2023-19, being a By-law to Authorize the Execution of a Memorandum of Agreement with Northwestern Ontario Recreational Trails Association (NWORTA) to use Sovereign and Luckens roads and it was

9. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2023-19 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO RECREATIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION (NWORTA) AND THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED INTO THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Mayor Jim Vezina left the room at 7:19 p.m.

- g) i) Expression of Interest to sit on the Committee of Adjustment was received from Ms. Ronda Martin. As one member of the Committee has stepped down one position needed to be filled. As only one expression of interest was received and it was

10. Moved by Carly Torkkeli

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 Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2023-20 BEING A BY-LAW TO CONSTITUTE AND APPOINT A COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AND TO REPEAL BY-LAW 2023-09 BE PASSED AND ENTERED INTO THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Mayor Jim Vezina returned to the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

- f) Policy 3.21, an Abuse Policy was reviewed. The Deputy Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that Westland Insurance Group Ltd, who have requested that the Township adopt an Abuse Policy for insurance purposes, have submitted comment on the draft policy and Administration still need to review the comments and implement them. The policy will be brought back to the next Council meeting.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) City of Cambridge regarding Legislative Amendments to Improve Municipal Code of Conduct Enforcement was filed.
 b) City of Cambridge regarding the Highway Traffic Act Amendments was filed.
 c) County of Prince Edward regarding Declaring Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic and it was

11. Moved by J. Sobolta
 Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

WHEREAS THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF PRINCE EDWARD HAS RECOGNIZED THAT ISSUES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE TO THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF THEIR RESIDENTS AND HAS DEMONSTRATED THIS BY INCLUDING IT AS A PILLAR IN THEIR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING PLAN.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF PRINCE EDWARD REGARDING DECLARING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AN EPIDEMIC BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- d) County of Prince Edward regarding the Proposed New Provincial Planning Statement and it was

12. Moved by A. Crane
 Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF PRINCE EDWARD URGING THE PROVINCE TO PAUSE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PROVINCIAL POLICY STATEMENT, PARTICULARLY REGARDING NATURAL HERITAGE (SECTION 4.1) AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS (SECTION 2.6 AND 4.3) AND TO REINVEST TRUST IN THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY OF ALL 444 MUNICIPALITIES BY RECOGNIZING THAT EACH ONTARIO MUNICIPALITY HAS A UNIQUE LANDSCAPE, DIFFERENT HOUSING NEEDS AND DIFFERING VISIONS FOR LOCAL PLANNING MATTERS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- e) The Town of Lincoln regarding the Municipal Heritage Register was filed.
 f) The Municipality of Tweed regarding Reducing Municipal Insurance Costs and it was

13. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
 Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF TWEED CALLING ON THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO TO TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE MUNICIPAL INSURANCE COSTS BE ENDORSED.

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g) The Municipality of Tweed regarding Bell-Hydro Infrastructure was filed.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) regarding Waste Management Group Reminders.
- b) O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Meeting Minutes for April 11, 2023.
- c) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2023.
- d) Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) regarding ongoing municipal involvement in procuring new electricity supply facilities.
- e) Public Works News regarding Update on Proposed Locate Fees.

The O'Connor Fire Department Report was included in the Council package but was omitted on the agenda. The report was read and no comments were made.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Municipality of Dryden Public Works Department forwarding of Enbridge letter to Councils regarding the introduction of a locate charge and the misinformation accusation that was brought forward concerning the Association of Road Supervisors (AORS) motion presented to Councils.
- b) Discussion of Township Inspection lunch. Administration will order lunch and it will be brought to back to Council Chambers.
- c) Administrative Report to Council regarding Circular Materials Ontario's (CMO) Master Service Agreement and Statement of Work for Blue Box materials. It was noted that the deadline to execute the agreement or to submit a written commitment from a signing authority is June 30, 2023. The agreement that Administration is recommending to Council is the Residential Depot Operation Agreement that would have the Township responsible for the collection of the recycling at the Township's Disposal Site and CMO would be responsible for hauling to the Receiving Facility. Council was in agreement, however, Administration would like to clarify insurance requirement before the agreement is signed.
- d) Administrative Report to Council regarding wage impact on the 2023 and 2024 budget for three full-time employees on the Roads Department was read.

It had been agreed to move Item #18, Closed Session, ahead on the agenda and It was

- 14. 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 LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 8:07 P.M.

Carried

The Road Department Intern position was discussed.

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

TIME BEING: 8:46 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

Under Further Old Business Council discussed:

Senior and Elected Officials for Emergency Management and Essentials of Municipal Fire Protection workshops. The date of June 14th and June 22nd have been set. A motion for attendance will be passed at the next Council meeting.

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Councillor Crane discussed the upcoming Thunder Bay District Municipal League meeting that will be held in person. The League has invited alternate representatives to this in person meeting and Councillor Torkkeli will be attending.

Councillor Sobolta inquired about an e-mail he received regarding a governmental official wanting to tour some rural areas. This official is responsible for emergency readiness and rural development. Mayor Vezina indicated that he did discuss the e-mail with the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition(LRMC) members at their meeting held on May 16th. The tour is scheduled for May 24th and 25th. Mayor Vezina did comment that there wouldn't be much to show them in the Township, as the tour would be for economic development and fire protection and that it was too short of a notice to arrange anything as the tour is tomorrow.

Under New Business, Council discussed:

a) Westland Insurance Group Ltd quote for Municipal Insurance Renewal and it was

16. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE QUOTE FOR INSURANCE RENEWAL FROM WESTLAND INSURANCE GROUP LTD TO COVER THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR INSURANCE NEEDS EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2023 TO JUNE 1, 2024 AT A PREMIUM OF \$55,950.00 PLUS TAX BE ACCEPTED.

Carried

- b) Council Crane requested that a survey be conducted as to whether there is an interest in having natural gas made available in the Township. He also commented that there are current incentives available to homeowners who convert to natural gas. Council agreed that a survey should be conducted using the Township website, the Township newsletter and a paper copy made available at the office.

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

- a) E-mail from Ms. Teri Treftlin. She has an issue with dirt bikes speeding down Cronk Road and upsetting horses that are being ridden. She is asking that horseback riding signs be installed on Cronk Road. Council commented that if Ms. Treftlin is willing to purchase the signs then our roads crew will supply the posts and install the signs.

For information purposes one Building Permit #2023-03 was approved for a new garage at 271 Highway 590.

17. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE TOWNSHIP INSPECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 AT 8:30 A.M. STARTING IN THE O'CONNOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

TIME BEING: 9:16 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer