

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 24, 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers and Virtual.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Handy (virtual), Loan, Racicot
Clerk-Treasurer Buob
Administrative Assistant Laforest

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas, Captain Greg Biloski

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

1. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report from April 21, 2022 to May 21, 2022 was read. There were two first response calls since the last report. Mayor Vezina questioned Fire Chief Mattas' attendance on Broome Road which was included in the report. Fire Chief Mattas replied that a resident had an inquiry regarding a brush pile they wished to burn. The question was asked if food was being served at any of the meetings to help encourage attendance with Volunteers' busy schedules. Fire Chief Mattas replied, no, not yet. It was confirmed with Fire Chief Mattas and Captain Biloski that meals will be included in the budget and ordering food occasionally to encourage attendance at meetings would be acceptable. Fire Chief Mattas apologized for not being able to attend the Wildfire Community Preparedness Day event held by the Township as he had a prior engagement.

Under Fire Department issues, Fire Chief Mattas commented that getting volunteers continues to be difficult, possibly due to the new Provincial Regulations. Three (3) volunteers for the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department were in attendance for the Firefighter 1 Program and one member will be attending the Firefighter 2 Program as scheduled. Getting drivers with a DZ license also continues to be an issue. Four (4) Volunteer Fire Department Members have shown interest to get their DZ license. The question was asked what would happen should the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department not be able to get enough volunteers. It was presumed that the Township may need to contract the services out, should our Fire Department not be able to get enough volunteers which could increase the Township's budget. Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for his report.

Captain Greg Biloski was welcomed to the table and Item 7 c), Structure Fire Report, was discussed. Captain Greg Biloski offered suggestions for modifications to safety procedures and Fire Hall implementations. Further discussion will take place at budget. Council members thanked Captain Biloski for his report and the clarification on the events that transpired at the fire on April 15, 2022.

The Call Detail Report from Thunder Bay CACC for the April 15, 2022 fire call was reviewed. No comments were made.

The 1998 Freightliner Vehicle Inspection Report for 2019 was reviewed. Fire Chief Mattas was asked if service requirements had been completed and it was confirmed that all service requirements on the Inspection Report were completed. The Vehicle Inspection for 2022 is scheduled to take place in the next week or two.

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 24, 2022

Fire Chief Mattas and Captain Biloski were thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

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

3. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2022-10 DATED MAY 24, 2022 TOTALLING \$23,907.85 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried.

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to April 30, 2022 were unavailable for review.

Consent application decisions from the Lakehead Rural Planning Board (LRPB) for Application #1B/09/22 and #1B/10/22 were read. Each severance was approved.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) City of Brantford regarding Release of all Federal and Provincial Documents Related to the Former Mohawk Institute Residential School was filed.
- b) City of Cambridge regarding Request to the Region of Waterloo to Consider Free Public Transportation on Election Days was filed.
- c) Community School Alliance regarding a Three Point Action Plan in Support of Rural and Northern Education was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) Minutes of the Meeting held on April 19, 2022.
 - b) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) Update from the Board dated May 11, 2022.
 - c) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Update to Screening Map – 9 used in the Administration of Ontario Region 180/06: Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses under the Conservation Authorities Act.
 - d) Jennifer Novak, Opioid Response Team, Health Canada Response to Council's endorsed resolution regarding the TBDSSAB Homeless Enumeration Report 2021.
- The Balance of the Correspondence was passed around the table, including a Thank You card from Ms. Mattas.

Under Old Business, Council discussed:

- a) The O'Connor Summer Party to occur June 18, 2022. It was determined that Mayor Vezina will now be unable to attend and the Acting Mayor for June, Councillor Handy, will stand in on Mayor Vezina's behalf. Attendance was discussed. A light meal will be provided. Special event suggestions included horseshoes, baseball and children's events. The retirement of Equipment Operator #1, Mr. Brent Dennhardt, was discussed. It was agreed that a plaque of recognition for Mr. Dennhardt's time with the Township and a small token gift would be given to mark the occasion.
- b) The Development of a Strategic Plan. Discussion between Council and Administrative Assistant Laforest took place. Council agreed to move forward in the development of a Strategic Plan for the Township of O'Connor. Administrative Assistant Laforest will bring more information to Council for further discussion.
- c) The Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) Rural Action Plan (RAP) was discussed. Mayor Vezina explained to Council how the RAP is presented to the Ministers during a conference and then asked Council for any comments or suggestions to add to the list of RAP topics. Discussion of topics took place. Concerns Council brought forward for the Township were: Short Time Frames for Grant Applications; the ability to tax Property Owners the Policing Levy by Household rather than the current method of Weighted Assessment; MPAC's Value Assessments Per Municipality; Lakehead Rural Planning Board Funding; Fire and Emergency Services Support, Training and Funding. Among these topics, Councillor Crane would also like to stress the importance of keeping the Norwest Community

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 24, 2022

Mobile Health Clinic coming to O'Connor. Mayor Vezina will bring Council's concerns to the LRMC and Clerk-Treasurer Buob will forward comments to the Committee responsible for updating the RAP.

- d) Under Further Old Business, Councillor Racicot inquired what the status was on the Township's newly purchased 2021 International Snowplow Truck. Clerk-Treasurer Buob replied that the truck is soon to be in transit and should arrive in the next few days.

Under New Business, Council discussed:

- a) Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance Program (MDRAP) – The Township of O'Connor recently experienced severe flooding and damage due to the spring melt and heavy rainfall for the month of May 2022. Guidelines for the MDRAP state that the Township would first need to spend the money to fix the road, followed by an application submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to determine if the Township qualifies for funding under the program, and it was

4. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

WHEREAS THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR RECENTLY EXPERIENCED HEAVY FLOODING DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, DUE TO SPRING MELT AND HEAVY RAINFALL, AND HAS EXPERIENCED INCREMENTAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL COSTS, THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HEREBY REQUESTS THE MINISTER OF THE MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING TO ACTIVATE THE MUNICIPAL DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

FURTHER THAT LORNA BUOB, CLERK-TREASURER, BE GIVEN DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO VERIFY AND ATTEST TO THE ACCURACY OF THE COSTS CLAIMED.

Carried.

- b) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) regarding NOMA Learning Morning. It was decided that no one would attend.
c) The Royal Canadian Legion Manitoba/NW Ontario Command regarding an advertisement for the Military Service Recognition Book and it was

5. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR PURCHASE AN 1/10 PAGE B/CARD B&W ADVERTISING SPACE IN THE 14TH ANNUAL MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK.

Carried.

- d) Aabble Marketing Products Inc. regarding Celebrate Canada Day merchandise. Clerk-Treasurer Buob asked Council if they would like to purchase any celebratory merchandise to hand out at the Staff & Volunteer Summer Party and to also have available in the office for the residents. It was decided that Council did not wish to purchase any materials.
e) Under Further New Business, Mayor Vezina brought up Councillor Crane's concern regarding the status of the Norwest Community Mobile Health Clinic in O'Connor. Mayor Vezina advised that he will bring the concern of keeping the O'Connor clinic open to the LRMC as discussed during the RAP discussion.

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

- a) Westland Insurance Group Ltd regarding the Municipal Insurance Renewal. Increase in costs for insurance coverage were reviewed and discussed. Cyber insurance was discussed, and it was suggested that Clerk-Treasurer Buob request a quote for further discussion. Mayor Vezina also requested that Clerk-Treasurer Buob inquire on the levels of insurance deductibles and if the Township could save money on yearly premiums by raising deductibles. Clerk-Treasurer Buob will make

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 24, 2022

these inquiries.

b) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge regarding the Evergreen Pharmacy and Norwest Community Health Clinic Lease Agreement was discussed, and it was

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

THAT COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AGREE TO CONTRIBUTE PORTION OF LEASE PAYMENT FOR THE TERM AUGUST 1, 2022 TO MARCH 31, 2023, IN SUPPORT OF THE NORWEST COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE BEING LOCATED IN THE EVERGREEN PHARMACY. PAYMENT WILL BE MADE TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF OLIVER PAIPOONGE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$540.

Carried.

For information purposes, four (4) building permits were approved since the last meeting as follows: #2022-02 for a new home at 68 Broome Road; #2022-03 for a new garage at 68 Broome Road; #2022-05 for a new modular home at 56 Broome Road; and #2022-06 for a new garage at 13 Blaikie Road, and two (2) demolition permits were issued as follows: #2022-01 at 733 Highway 595; and #2022-04 at 56 Broome Road.

- 7. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE BUDGET MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIRTUAL.

TIME BEING: 9:22 PM

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer