

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 25, 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, May 25, 2020 at 7 p.m., held virtually from the O'Connor Municipal Office and Council Chambers.

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 LeBoeuf
Kelly Johnson, Leadhand arrived at 7:50 p.m. (in the Council Chambers)

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

1. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020 AND THE BUDGET MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

As Fire Chief Mattas was recently in attendance at the budget meeting on May 12, 2020 he was not asked to attend in person at tonight's meeting. The Fire Department Report was submitted and read for the period of April 23, 2020 to May 21, 2020. There was one fire related call and one first response call in that time. The area Fire and First Response monthly stats report was also provided. The Township of O'Connor has had eight medical calls and two fire calls to date in 2020. Council did not have any questions with regard to the report.

The summary of the Administration and Roads Voucher to May 25, 2020 was reviewed. There were no questions with regard to the voucher and it was

2. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by B. J. Loan

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2020-10 DATED MAY 25, 2020 TALLING \$7,524.17 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of Gillies with regard to the reporting of the number of cases of COVID-19 in the rural areas and it was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF GILLIES REQUESTING THAT THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT MAKE THE NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES IN THE RURAL AREA KNOWN BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Council would also like a letter sent to the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) requesting this information, even if the other municipalities do not endorse the resolution from the Township of Gillies.

- b) Township of Central Frontenac and the Township of North Frontenac requesting the government of Ontario consider lifting the prohibition on residential construction where no building permit had been issued prior to April 4, 2020. This resolution was filed.
- c) City of Kitchener urging the Ontario Provincial government to pursue a partnership with the Federal government for the establishment of a Canada-wide basic income of the type previously piloted in Ontario. It was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF KITCHNER URGING THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO PURSUE A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBSSAB) – May 20, 2020 – Response to COVID-19 – Update (amended to remove confidential information).
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) i) Office of the President – regarding Financial Assistance for Municipal Governments.
ii) COVID-19 Update, May 12, 2020 – Emergency period extended and Building Code amendments.
iii) COVID-19 Update – May 14, 2020 – Continued Fiscal Stabilization Request + Re-opening Start.
iv) AMO COVID-19 Update – May 19, 2020 – Municipal Fiscal Request, Emergency Orders, Pandemic Pay, LTC Homes Commission, Extended School and Child Care Closures, and Summer Camps.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) A draft resolution with regard to High Speed Internet in our area for Council's review and comments. Comments were made and some changes made to the draft resolution. Administration will take the resolution back and continue working on it. Council will also submit suggested wording to express their concerns further.

It was moved by Councillor Loan and seconded by Councillor Crane that the next item on the agenda, Draft #2 budget for further discussion, be moved to the end of the meeting to ensure that all items on the agenda are dealt with. Council were in agreement.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Paul and Janice LeBoeuf letter regarding Council's response to a resolution for endorsement from the Township of Armour regarding High Speed Internet Connectivity in Rural Ontario, discussed at the Council meeting held on May 11, 2020. Mr. and Mrs. LeBoeuf expressed their concerns with comments made by Council regarding this resolution. The lack of access to reliable, affordable, high speed internet in rural areas is all across Ontario. They encourage Council to give deliberate and informed consideration to rural issues in the future.

Council expressed their concern with these comments made in the letter as they have been working on this issue for several months. It was also noted that the comments referred to may have been lost in translation, as the particular resolution, in Council's opinion, was not worded correctly to address Council's opinion. As a result, Council are working on a resolution of their own in this regard. Council met with MP, Marcus Powlowski in February and during this meeting this same issue was discussed. Council also clarified that the resolution from the Township of Armour was endorsed. Mayor Vezina thanked Mr. and Mrs. LeBoeuf for their feedback.

- b) Insurance policy renewal information for review. The Clerk-Treasurer provided Council with a copy of the proposal and quotes for coverage for the next term. A premium renewal comparison from Gillons was explained by the Clerk-Treasurer. The Township's current insurer, JLT, has merged and is now Marsh Canada. There would be a 3.7% increase in premium with Marsh and they are still waiting for Marsh Canada to complete the property placement for the Township's policy. The second option is Frank Cowan Company who has been an insurer of Municipalities for a long time and they are stable with a hard market. The quote from Frank Cowan is coming in at a similar premium to our current 2019 rates.

The Aviation policy, for coverage of the helipad, with Frank Cowan is higher than with the current insurer and Gillons is recommending staying with the same company as last year for this coverage. The user facility coverage for the community centre was discussed. It was agreed to continue to offer this coverage. The Clerk-Treasurer

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noted that she has asked the insurance company, due to the COVID-19 and the community centre being closed, if there could be a refund of the premium for this time period. They are still waiting for a reply. It was also noted that the Electronic Data Processing (EDP) coverage included in the Frank Cowan quote was quoted for the same coverage as our current policy and is at a much higher amount than needed, but was the standard for the previous company. Council agreed to lower this value, which will also lower the premium. Out of Province coverage for Council was discussed. As Council do not go out of Province for municipal purposes it was agreed to remove this coverage from the Frank Cowan quote also. Cyber insurance was discussed and it was agreed to not add this to our policy. It was

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE QUOTE FROM GILLONS INSURANCE BROKERS LTD. AND FRANK COWAN COMPANY BE ACCEPTED FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE UPCOMING TERM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,009 PLUS ANY APPLICABLE PROVINCIAL SALES TAX (PLUS OR MINUS ANY CHANGES MADE TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE COVERAGE) EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2020.

Carried

This information will be forwarded to Gillons and the policy will be finalized.

- c) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – cancellation of the 2020 NOMA Conference and Annual General Meeting which was to be held in Fort Frances at the end of April, but was originally post-poned. The Board has decided to cancel the Conference to ensure the health and safety of the delegates and exhibitors, due to COVID-19. They will begin planning for the 2021 Conference which will be held in Thunder Bay April 28 to 30. Fort Frances will host the 2022 NOMA Conference.
- d) Emergency North Training – cancellation of FireCon 2020 in light of current COVID-19 Pandemic.
- e) Groundskeeper position was discussed. One application for the position was received. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that neither herself or Mr. Johnson, the Leadhand, see any issue with the application provided and recommend that Council hire the applicant. It was

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT EVAN FIORITO BE HIRED AS THE GROUNDSKEEPER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR.

RATE OF PAY FOR THIS POSITION WILL START AT THE PROBATION RATE FOR 2020.

Carried

Under further new business, Council discussed an upcoming Ritchie Bros. Auction to be held locally. It was suggested that Mr. Johnson be given preapproval to purchase a truck chassis if one should become available at a reasonable price from the auction. It was agreed that due to the current unknown financial situation with the COVID-19 and the unknown circumstances ahead that no purchase would be made from the auction at this time.

A five-minute break in the minute was taken at 8:41 p.m.

Council returned and the meeting continued at 8:46 p.m. The Township's draft #2 budget was reviewed. The Clerk-Treasurer provided an updated list of changes made from draft one. Council suggested additional lines that could be looked into further or cut from this year's budget. It was agreed to cut the cutting of the weeds on the Township's roadsides this year. As the Community Centre has been closed and there is no indication at this time when it may reopen, the janitor's wages for the Community Centre will be lowered. Council discussed the insurance policy earlier in the meeting and the insurance numbers will also change as a result of changes made. These

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numbers will be adjusted. The road employee Union Agreement expires on July 31, 2020 and no compensation for a possible wage increase has been included in the budget. It was agreed to not include any increase at this time. The Fire Departments Capital purchase of SCBA bottles was discussed. It was agreed that these bottles are required for Health and Safety purposes for the Fire Department members and they will not be cut. The Reserve Fund balances were discussed. It was noted that a portion of the Infrastructure Reserve could be used to cover a portion of the Township’s Road Projects this year, as well the Levy Stabilization Reserve could be used to cover the variance between the OMPF and the Mandated Government Programs. Quotes for Auditor Services and the Bridge and Structure Study are due to be opened at the next meeting and actual numbers could be included at that point. Tax levy increases of different rates were reviewed.

As Council has agreed to delay the final tax bill until later in the summer and more actually numbers will be available in the near future, it was agreed that the Clerk-Treasurer adjust the budget numbers further and bring back to Council, where they will determine how much money will be pulled from Reserves and what the final tax levy increase will be. At this time Council have agreed that no further cuts will be made on either the Road Department or the Fire Department budgets and they may move ahead with purchases and projects at this time.

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

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

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON JUNE 8, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. FROM THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE AND O’CONNOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

TIME BEING: 10:11 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer