

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MAY 27, 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, May 27, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Present: Mayor Vezina  
Councillors: Crane, Handy, Loan  
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Timo Hiiback, Simone Laatu, Ken Prout – Tbaytel  
Paul Leboeuf  
Fire Chief Mattas arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Absent: Councillor Racicot

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: None

1. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Mr. Leboeuf was asked if he wished to address Council and he replied no and as the next portion of the meeting was closed, Mr. Leboeuf was asked to leave and come back if he wished in approximately ½ hour. He thanked Council for the information and noted he would not be coming back as he was not aware that the meeting was going to be closed.

Mr. Timo Hiiback, Ms. Simone Laatu and Mr. Ken Prout from Tbaytel were welcomed to the table and introductions were made. It was then

2. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS A TRADE SECRET OR SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL, COMMERCIAL, FINANCIAL OR LABOUR RELATIONS INFORMATION, SUPPLIED IN CONFIDENCE TO THE MUNICIPALITY OR LOCAL BOARD, WHICH, IF DISCLOSED, COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO PREJUDICE SIGNIFICANTLY THE COMPETITIVE POSITION OR INTERFERE SIGNIFICANTLY WITH THE CONTRACTUAL OR OTHER NEGOTIATIONS OF A PERSON, GROUP OF PERSONS, OR ORGANIZATION.**

**TIME BEING: 7:02 P.M.**

Carried

A presentation was made to Council with regard to the current status of high-speed internet services in the Township and the cost of improved service, funding options and possible next steps.

Time being 7:30 p.m. it was

3. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**TIME BEING: 7:30 P.M.**

**THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried

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Time Being 7:30 p.m. the Quotes for the Disposal Site Study were opened. Four quotes were received. The lowest quote received will be further reviewed and if it meets all the requirements as requested, it will be accepted by Council at the next meeting.

As Tbaytel's presentation was not complete prior to 7:30 p.m. Council allowed them to continue and they agreed to finalize their presentation in open meeting. If Council is aware of any funding that the Township might be eligible for and that their Corporation is not, they would be willing to work together. The cost to do the entire Township would be significant and Council suggested that perhaps it could be completed in stages. Council thanked Mr. Hiiback, Ms. Laatu and Mr. Prout for attending and asked that they let Council know of anything that can be done to assist in the improvement of service for highspeed internet in the area and they left the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. There were three first response calls since the last report. The training provided to the volunteers during the month of May and the attendance were reviewed. Fire Chief Mattas, along with Mr. Johnson, attended a meeting on May 8, 2019 with regard to the Highway 590 road closure at Cedar Creek. Fire Chief Mattas noted that at this meeting he asked would the Fire Department be compensated if an accident were to occur on the Township roads while they are being used as a part of the Highway detour. He was told yes, they would be compensated during the detour if accident were to occur.

The suggestion to purchase more AED's and to have them situated in different locations within the Township for the First Response Team to access was discussed. It was noted that the current AED's were donated to the Township. The question of where they would be located and who would be responsible for them was discussed. Fire Chief Mattas will discuss this further with Ms. Coderre, the First Response Coordinator. Council also asked that it be confirmed that the AED in the First Response vehicle is being tested regularly.

A Health and Safety Committee for the O'Connor Fire Department was discussed. Fire Chief Mattas reported that both Deputy Fire Chief Budiselic and Morris Douglas are certified and qualified to be on a Joint Health and Safety Committee. If an employer has more than 20 employees a committee is required. The current roster is 21 volunteers. They will be asked to organize and coordinate what is required.

Fire Chief Mattas once again expressed his concern for the attendance at training for the Fire Department members. He asked Council how long we should keep a member listed on the roster if they are not attending calls or meetings, as there is costs associated with having them on the roster. With a small group it is preferred not to have someone removed if they are still interested, however there could be liability if a member is not trained properly. It was suggested that perhaps letters be sent to those who have not attended for a period to confirm whether or not they are still interested and explain the municipality's expense of naming them on the roster. A suggestion to them could be that they join the auxiliary if they would prefer to be involved but not attend calls and training. They could be put on a non-active list if they require time off. Fire Chief Mattas will check with other municipalities to see how they handle their attendance and ensure that members stay involved.

It was noted that a new member has joined the Fire Department. Mr. Shane Thorne initially was interested in the First Response Team but has since joined the Fire Department as well. A resolution of approval will be brought forward for the next meeting.

Fire Chief Mattas informed Council that the current Edispatches enhanced paging system, which sends a page out to the volunteers on their own personal cell phones, is being discontinued as of May 31st. The original pagers will still work and members who were only using their cell phones will be supplied with pagers. There is a new program through EDispatches which will be launched in a few months. There is a cost associated with this new system and Fire Chief Mattas feels the pager system will be sufficient.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and he left the meeting.

The Administration and Roads Voucher 2019-06 was reviewed and it was

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

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER 2019-06 DATED MAY 27, 2019 TALLING \$18,082.12 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

Two applications for consent were reviewed. Application 1B/09/19 and 1B/10/19 for Timothy Silvaggio, Concession 3, Pt N ½ Lot 7 were reviewed and it was

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

**THAT THE CONSENT APPLICATION 1B/09/19 FOR TIMOTHY SILVAGGIO FOR THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS CONCESSION 3, PT N ½ LOT 7 PCL 7262, FOR A SEVERANCE OF 4.713 HECTARES BE APPROVED.**

Carried

6. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE CONSENT APPLICATION 1B/09/19 FOR TIMOTHY SILVAGGIO FOR THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS CONCESSION 3, PT N ½ LOT 7 PCL 7262, FOR A SEVERANCE OF 5.791 HECTARES BE APPROVED.**

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were reviewed as follows:

- a) Township of McNab/Braeside requesting the Premier of Ontario reconsider online courses until rural Ontario students can be given the same opportunity to access the internet as the urban students and it was

7. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF MCNAB/BRAESIDE REQUESTING THE PREMIER OF ONTARIO RECONSIDER THAT SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS BE REQUIRED TO TAKE FOUR (4) OUT OF THIRTY (30) HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS AS ONLINE COURSES UNTIL RURAL ONTARIO STUDENTS CAN BE GIVEN THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS THE INTERNET AS THE URBAN STUDENTS BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

- b) Township of Bonnechere Valley with regard to changes to the Fisheries Act and it was

8. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY CALLING ON THE PARLIAMENT OF CANADA TO REMOVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BILL C-68, AN ACT TO AMEND THE FISHERIES ACT AND OTHER ACT IN CONSEQUENCE BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

- c) City of Kenora with regard to funding cuts to Legal Aid in Ontario and it was

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

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF KENORA CALLING UPON PREMIER FORD AND ATTORNEY GENERAL CAROLINE MULRONEY TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO ACCESS THE JUSTICE: TO RESPECT THE COMMITMENT OF THEIR GOVERNMENT TO NOT DECREASE FRONT LINE**

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**SERVICES; AND TO CONFIRM THAT FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINICS WILL NOT BE DECREASED BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) – 2018 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements.
- b) Superior North Emergency Medical Services (SNEMS) – 2019 Funding.
- c) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Ontario Budget Bulletin: #3.  
 ii) AMO Breaking News – May 24, 2019 – AMO partners with occupational health and safety service provider.  
 iii) AMO Policy update – Money-saving solutions – some help is at hand.  
 iv) AMO Policy Update – Welcome fiscal relief for this year.
- d) Office of the Prime Minister – reply letter to Council's endorsed resolution regarding the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- e) Greenstone Gold Mines – regarding the Hardrock Project Expression of Interest (EOI) Process.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed:

- a) Summer employment options for the municipal office were discussed. It was agreed to accept applications for a part-time casual employee for an as needed basis during the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer's leave of absence. Information will be included in the June issue of the Cornerstone and posted on the Township's website. The Clerk-Treasurer will also look further into whether Ms. Laforest should be appointed as Acting Deputy Clerk-Treasurer during her absence.
- b) The Township of O'Connor's insurance renewal and new quote for coverage was discussed. It was

- 10. Moved by Jerry Loan  
 Seconded by W. Handy

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CURRENT INSURANCE POLICY WITH CANADA BROKERLINK (ONTARIO) INC. AND BFL CANADA BE CANCELLED; AND THAT THE QUOTE FROM GILLONS INSURANCE AND JARDINE LLOYD THOMPSON CANADA INC. BE ACCEPTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$36,365.00 PLUS ANY APPLICABLE PROVINCIAL SALES TAX EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2019.**

Carried

- c) The Dog Control Officer position and the Township's options with regard to how to handle dogs running at large were discussed. Since Mr. Frowen, the Township's previous Dog Control Officer, has resigned from this position, a report was prepared for Council explaining the current process, including the job description of the Dog Control Officer, the Policy and By-law for dogs running at large. It was noted that the Dog Control Officer should not be dealing with personal disputes between neighbours. It was agreed that the By-law and Policy should be updated to reflect the current process. At this time, Council will not advertise for the position until the process is updated on paper. A suggestion of requiring dog tags was discussed and it was agreed to not require tags.
- d) Mayor Vezina provided an update with regard to the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and the possible amalgamation with the Northwestern Ontario Board of Health. At the last Board meeting the Board members were informed that the Boards will be amalgamating, however, they are pushing back against the Province on this decision. Four Boards in the Northeastern Ontario will also be amalgamated, and they are also pushing back against this decision. No details have yet been discussed.
- e) Mayor Vezina provided Council with additional information with regard to the meeting he and Mayor Holland of the Township of Conmee had with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs at the Ontario Good Roads Association conference. Those present were very respectful to the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) Rural Action Plan (RAP) and they seemed to understand the District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) issue that the LRMC is trying to get across and were open to change.

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Under New Business, Council discussed:

- a) A letter received from the Township of Conmee with regard to the use of Fleming Road, the Boundary road between the Township of Conmee and O'Connor, during the Highway 590 closure. A letter in reply to their concerns will be sent, clarifying that this is not a haul route and that Fleming Road was used as a detour two years ago with no issues. The contractor will be maintaining Fleming road. If Mr. Johnson sees any concerns with the route, he will address it immediately. A reply letter will be sent.
- b) A letter received from the Township of Conmee with regard to the Boundary Road Agreement for Fleming road. A copy of the current Boundary Road Agreement was read. The current agreement was signed in 2016 for five years. The Township of Conmee Council would like to make a change to the agreement with regard to summer maintenance. Council see no concerns with the current agreement and would prefer to wait for the renewal date to renegotiate the agreement. It was noted that while Sovereign Road is not a boundary road, the majority of the traffic using it is entering into the Township of Conmee. A reply letter will be sent.

Under further new business, Councillor Loan provided a report on his attendance at the Police Services Conference. He also noted that he will be away for the next Lakehead Police Services Board meeting to be held in the O'Connor Council Chambers on July 24, 2019. He requested that a member of Council attend in his absence. Mayor Vezina will attend.

Councillor Handy presented a letter she received from a group of residents on Loghrin Road. The letter is requesting that Council consider chip and sealing Loghrin Road. The letter explains their concerns with dust and the maintenance of the road. Council would like Mr. Johnson to collect information with regard to the cost of chip and sealing vs calcium and grading for the budget meeting. It was noted that chip and sealing the road would not address the concern of the vibration of the trucks hauling on the roads.

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

- a) The Cemetery work bee scheduled for Saturday, June 1, 2019. Councillor Crane will attend. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that no residents have called in to say they will be attending. Staff members and some of their families will be there. Mr. Johnson will be picking up supplies this week. Council agreed to continue the work bee and accomplish as much as possible. Staff can complete what doesn't get finished.
- b) The Lakehead Police Services Board (LPSB) meeting in July was previously discussed.
- c) A letter from the Premier of Ontario regarding the Provincial Government having made a decision to maintain the in-year (2019-2020) cost sharing adjustment for land ambulance, public health and childcare services. The Minister of Finance has advised that they will be taking more time to understand that, as partners, Ontario's municipalities will use additional time to work with the Government of Ontario to transform critical shared public services and find the efficiencies that will ensure their sustainability.
- d) A letter from the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities with regard to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and a resolution Council endorsed with regard to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure program.

For information purposes a building permit was issued for an addition at 302 Highway 595.

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

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE BUDGET MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 10:12 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer