

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - NOTES
TOWNSHIP INSPECTION MAY 30, 2023

Notes of the Township Inspection held on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. starting at the Township Office.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Racicot, Sobolta, Torkkeli
Clerk-Treasurer Lorna Buob
Leadhand Kelly Johnson

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order, and the Township Inspection began at 8:45 a.m.

1. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

The road tour started, using Ms. Laforest's vehicle, touring the southwest corner of the Township. A complaint was received from a resident on Connolly Road regarding the condition of the road near the corner lot on Connolly and Highway 595, and the concern that the property owner is responsible for the mounds that have been created in the road. The area of concern was looked into, and it was agreed that the condition of the road is the result of frost boils and not the property owner. The road is drying up and the Road crew will be doing more work in this area to level out the road in the near future. The tour continued to Connolly, Sitch, and Rosengren. It was noted that Connolly Road was one of the smoother roads in the Township this spring, as frost boils are of concern throughout the Township. The Township owned property on Connolly Road was briefly discussed, as the Township has agreed to go out for quotes to have the trees cut from the property. The RFQ has not been drafted yet but will be in the near future. It was noted that the yield signs on Rosengren and Sitch will be replaced with Stop Signs as per the By-law passed by Council. A couple of guiderail posts on Sitch Road at Beaver Dam Creek will have to be replaced. The tour continued onto Earl, Allan, Wheal, and the south end of Sitch Roads. The beavers are very busy this year and the water is high along Sitch Road. Mr. Johnson has been working with the property owner to deal with the beavers in this area. The Main Street Road closure was briefly discussed.

The tour continued to Blaikie Road. Council was shown by Mr. Johnson the eroding banks along the Whitefish River and he expressed his concern of the water coming closer to the road again this spring. Mayor Vezina, the Township's representative on the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Board, will bring these concerns to the LRCA's attention at the next meeting to see what might be able to be done to stop the erosion. Mr. Johnson also noted that if the river breaks through its banks the water could be diverted in a different direction, leaving the bridge on Blaikie Road sitting high and dry and a new structure would be required further down the road. The scene of the recent head on collision on the Blaikie Road bridge was pointed out to Council. Areas of concern due to erosion of the banks on Diana Road were also pointed out by Mr. Johnson. The Blaikie Road hill, Southeast section, was closed for the past week and is still in poor condition due to frost heaves. Material has been hauled in, but more work is required. Mr. Johnson also noted that while the road was closed two different signs were stolen in broad daylight, from the site.

The tour continued to Cliffmclean Road, a small sawmill is setup along the road near the end. As it is a dead-end road, there were no concerns. The tour then continued to Kershaw, Chambers and Flint Road. It was noted that Hydro One has cut the beaver chewed trees along Flint Road, which were discussed at the last inspection.

The tour continued to Smith Road where Bridge #2, over Whitewood Creek, was discussed. This is the oldest bridge left in the Township. It was noted that the Township does have plans prepared for replacement if funding should become available. It is still in good shape but is made of creosote.

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The second bridge on Smith Road, over Pitch Creek, was discussed. It was noted that work was scheduled to be done on this bridge a couple of years ago, however, upon site inspection, it was recommended by the engineers in attendance that the structure was still sound and should not be touched at this time. The Township currently has three bridges, three multiplate arches and four large concrete box culverts in the Township. These structures must be inspected every two years.

The tour continued to Harstone Road, the multiplate arch, located over Whitewood Creek was discussed. Mr. Johnson pointed out the erosion from the Whitefish River near the abutment of this structure. Water was getting in behind the headwall. The Road Employees have installed large field rock in the area to stop some of the erosion, but more will be required. The tour continued to Luckens Road, Cardiff Drive, Winslow and Loghrin Road. It was noted that Mr. Johnson has the resurfacing of Luckens Road in his 2023 draft Road budget. The road extension for the new home that is being built at the end of Winslow Road was reviewed. The resurfacing of Loghrin Road in 2023 with funding from Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) was discussed. A decision will have to be made as to whether or not to resurface the road with a chip seal or possibly asphalt. A drive through the O'Connor Cemetery was done. The old dead tree that was located in the center of the cemetery has been cut down, as well as a dead limb off of a second tree has been removed. The new shrubs and trees planted two years ago were quickly looked at. Some have not survived the winter. The water pump still has to be installed in the well at the cemetery. The shrubs in the cremated ashes garden need to be cut back again.

The tour continued to Smart Road, where Council observed the concerns of the residents expressed at the recent public meeting, in regard to the Zoning By-law Amendment for the property at 93 Smart Road. Mr. Johnson does have plans to widen the road where possible, as well as install warning signage.

Sovereign, Fleming, and Strom Road were inspected. Council have given approval to the Northwestern Ontario Recreational Trails Association's (NWORTA) to use both Sovereign and Fleming Road for a non-motorized trail. It was noted that the Strom Road culvert repairs from last spring's flooding have worked well this spring.

The Disposal Site was inspected. Mr. Johnson has patched the rust holes in the side the compactor truck. The new hole for the garbage is filling up quickly. The Fire Department members are working on their training area at the Disposal Site. The tires and the scrap metal will need to be picked up. The site seemed neat in regard to plastic bags.

The tour continued down Pool and Cronk Roads. The resurfacing of 3.2 km of Cronk Road is currently included in the draft Road Department Budget for this year.

Lunch was picked up in Kakabeka Falls and brought back to the Council Chambers. A lunch break was taken from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

The tour continued to Holomego, Garbutt, and Broome Road. The multiplate arch over Cedar Creek was looked at. It was noted that the beavers had recently built a dam inside the arch, which Mr. Johnson has removed. The yield signs currently at the intersections of Holomego and Garbutt and Broome and Garbutt will also be replaced with Stop signs, as per the By-law recently passed by Council. The South section of Garbutt Road is currently closed due to the frost heaves.

The Helipad and Municipal buildings were discussed. The new construction of Shop B was looked at. The interior still needs to be painted and shelving units installed. More lighting will also be installed on the walls where required. An HVAC system will also be purchased and installed this year, using Canada Community Building Funds. Mr. Johnson informed Council of the compactor he recently purchased at the Ritchie Brothers Auction. A couple of sheets of plywood have been purchased for the rink boards and will be installed this summer. The outdoor tables outside the ball diamond will require some new boards on the top and seating area.

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The inspection ended and it was

2. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE TOWNSHIP INSPECTION ADJOURN TO THE CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

TIME BEING: 2:20 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer