

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

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Sobolta, Torkkeli
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Brendan Rea

Absent: Councillor Racicot

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

1. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

2. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mr. Rea was asked if he wished to address Council and he replied, no.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department Report for September 24 to October 22, 2023 was read. There were two First Response calls in that time.

Fire Chief Mattas informed Council that he will be out of service from October 29 to November 4, 2023, and again on November 12, 2023. He noted that he has been very busy with his personal work and hasn't been around the Fire Department that much lately. For weekly training, only a few members are attending. He noted that the Fire Chief and the Deputy Fire Chief of the Municipality of Neebing are stepping down. At the recent Zone 1 meeting, Mutual Aid was discussed. The concern of confirming that the neighbouring Department firefighters attending the calls are certified was expressed.

Council thanked Fire Chief Mattas for attending and he left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher was reviewed, and it was

3. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2023-18 DATED OCTOBER 23, 2023 TALLING \$21,756.65 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to September 30, 2023 were unavailable.

By-law Number 2023-35 to appoint a Chief Building Official for the Township was reviewed as per discussion at the October 10, 2023 meeting and it was

4. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by A. Crane

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2023-35 BEING A BY-LAW RESPECTING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

A Resolution for Endorsement was read from the Township of the Archipelago regarding Cigarette Producer Responsibility was discussed and it was

5. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by C. Torkkeli

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF THE ARCHIPELAGO REQUESTING THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO INCLUDE CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY REGULATIONS AND PROGRAMS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) NorWest Community Health Centres letter to Council welcoming Dr. Holloway to their interprofessional care team. He will join the Kakabeka Site on October 23, 2023, bringing immense benefits to our communities.
- b) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board – Update from the Board – October 19, 2023.
- c) Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) – October 17, 2023 Meeting package for Council's information. The League has asked that the full package be forwarded to all of Council to ensure that everyone is aware of what the League does for the communities.
- d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Policy Update – Social and Economic Prosperity Review.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Joe Ladouceur – Greenmantle Forest Inc. regarding comments on Proposed Regulations for Black Ash under Endangered Species Act (ESA). The latest proposed policy for black ash protection is causing a lot of confusion. Overall, Greenmantle is disappointed with the lack of clarity in the revised proposed recovery strategy; the discrepancies in information presented; insufficient information rationale for the proposed protection buffer around black ash trees; the practicality of instituting protections on a tree that is pervasive on the landscape; insufficient information on what the landowner/resident will or will not be allowed to do; what permitting requirements will be; what exemptions will apply.
- b) Update on Official Plan Amendment Application #2023-01. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that an amended application has been submitted to the Township for consideration and the application has now been sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for their review. No public meeting date will be sent until the Township receives comment from the Ministry.
- c) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) 2023 Planning Workshop Attendance. As one of the sessions on the agenda for the Workshop on October 25, 2023 is regarding Planning applications and the process, and the Clerk-Treasurer's availability for that date has changed, it was

6. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE 2023 PLANNING WORKSHOP TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 25, 2023 IN THUNDER BAY.

CLERK-TREASURER BUOB

REGISTRATION: N/C

Carried

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

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) The Clerk-Treasurer reported to Council on the recent E-Transfer Payments scam that the Township of O'Connor has encountered. The Ontario Provincial Police have been contacted, as well as each person who has ever made an e-transfer payment to the Township requesting them to remove the Township email as a payment option. An emergency text message was sent out, as well, the payment options on the website have been updated. The November issue of the Cornerstone will also inform the readers of the incident and warn them of the risk of this type of payment.

In regard to the security on the Township's computers, the Clerk-Treasurer has requested an IT person to come into the office to advise the Township how to increase our security and ensure that there are no virus' left on the computers. Administration is also still working on getting the new backup system in place after the lightning strike.

- b) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) regarding Competent Supervisor Training. The LRCA is hosting a training session and has invited the surrounding municipalities to participate if they would like. The opportunity was discussed, and it was

7. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE WORKPLACE SAFETY NORTH-COMPETENT SUPERVISOR TRAINING, HOSTED BY THE LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 2 AND 3, 2023 IN THUNDER BAY.

**ROAD EQUIPMENT OPERATOR JOHN CAREN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ERIN LAFOREST**

REGISTRATION: TO BE DETERMINED BASED ON NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS – RANGING FROM \$200 - \$369 PER PERSON.

Carried

- c) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) – 2024 Annual Conference – Early Bird Registration deadline October 27, 2023. No one will attend the upcoming Conference.

Under Further New Business, Mayor Vezina informed Council of a meeting he attended last week with the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM). The Provincial government is questioning why there are two campus', which is of concern, after NOMA fought hard to get the two campus' when they were first opened. NOSM is requesting extra money to address the Doctor shortages in the North. Of NOSM's students, 90% are staying in the North.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed

- a) Ministry of Finance regarding the 2024 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) allocation. The Township of O'Connor's funding will be reduced by \$3,700.
b) Ministry of Transportation, Transit Division regarding Electric Vehicle (EV) ChargeON program. No application will be submitted.
c) Erin Laforest, Administrative Assistant, requesting permission to have her son participate in "Take Your Kid to Work Day" by having him come to work with her at the Township Office on November 1st. Council agreed to allow the student participation in the program here at the Township. As per Ms. Laforest's request, Mayor Vezina or Councillor Crane will come into the office during this time to provide him with some information regarding Municipal politics.
d) A complaint regarding excessive garbage surrounding a neighbour's home was discussed. A letter will be sent to the resident and the Clerk-Treasurer will continue to try to contact the homeowner to make them aware of the concerns.

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

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

- 8. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 8:12 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer