

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - NOTES
TOWNSHIP INSPECTION MAY 6, 2024

Notes of the Township Inspection held on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. starting at the O'Connor Council Chambers.

Present: Councillors: Crane, Rea, Sobolta
Clerk-Treasurer Lorna Buob
Road Superintendent Kelly Johnson
Mayor Vezina arrived at 10:00 a.m.

Absent: Councillor Torkkeli

Acting Mayor Crane called the meeting to order at 8:44 a.m. The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that Mayor Vezina will be late. A vehicle was rented from Thunder Bay for the inspection.

It was

1. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Brendan Rea

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

The Township Inspection began with a tour of the Township Office and Council Chambers. The wood finishes of the desks and doors along the floor are turning black and the finish has come off. This should be addressed this year to prevent further damage. It was suggested that the surfaces be cleaned with bleach and resealed with an oil or varnish, and possibly a different trim be added that is water resistant. This will be looked into further.

The pillars outside the office were looked at. They were repainted last season, however the bottom of the pillars are in need of repair or replacement. It was recommended that the pillars be repaired and covered with a metal clad. Quotes will be obtained for this work. Two downspout splash blocks will need to be replaced on the office, and another large rock will be added as protection for the propane tank. Protection will also be installed around the Community Centre air conditioners. A downspout splash block will also be purchased for the drainpipe near the corner of the ramp. The eavestrough currently drips onto the ramp and needs to be repaired. Repair options were discussed, a quote for the work will be requested for both sides of the building. The office hours sign on the outside of the Community Centre is fading and peeling off. It was suggested that the sign be brought in to a sign company and be reprinted.

The outdoor rink was looked at. Several rink boards will need to be replaced and then all boards be painted white. The main gates will have to be raised and a ramp installed in the gate area to enter onto the surface, as there is currently a six-inch straight edge. The concrete surface is in excellent condition. New used floor mats have been installed inside the rink shack and a new step has been built to enter into the building.

The inside of the Community Centre was inspected. It was recommended that the lighting in the basement washrooms and hallways outside of the washrooms be replaced with brighter lights. The door closer on the emergency door in the front of the building needs to be replaced as it does not pull the door closed properly. The price of the installation of an accessible door at the ramp entrance will be looked into. The main hall floor needs repairs and possibly replacement. A quote for the required repairs will be requested and administration will watch for possible funding. The carpets need shampooing, both in the old office and stairs, as well as the entrance mats.

Mayor Vezina joined the group at 10 a.m. and the inspection continued to the road system. The tour headed onto Connolly Road. It was noted that there were two residents displaying negative signage regarding the Prime Minister, one using vulgar language. They will both be asked to move the signage off the road allowance. The

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vulgar sign could possibly also be considered a criminal code offense. The lot of the house fire on Connolly Road last month was observed. The tour continued on Sitch, Rosengren, Earl, Allan and Wheal Roads with no other concerns. It continued onto Blaikie Road. The bridge over the Whitefish River will be included in the bi-annual Bridge Inspection this year, along with two other bridges on Smith Road and two large structures. On both Blaikie and Diana Roads the rock work on the riverbank, completed last year to stop the bank erosion, held up well. There was no ice jamming or high water this spring on the Whitefish River. The tour continued to Chambers, Flint, and Smith Road. Brushing was completed this winter using the Township's own equipment and staff on Smith, Harstone and Sovereign Roads. The minimal amount of snow this year allowed them to spend more time on the brushing and allowed them to get close to ground level with the cuts. It turned out well. Rockwork was also done on the Harstone Road Whitefish River riverbank. The tour continued to Luckens road and to Kakabeka Falls to pick up lunch which was brought back to Council Chambers to eat. Cardiff Drive, Winslow and Loghrin Road were also inspected. The extension to Winslow Road has been completed to Mr. Johnson's satisfaction and the new homeowner is now living there. The property behind the O'Connor Cemetery, off of Loghrin Road, is being logged by the owner. This will reduce the fire hazard in this area. The Cemetery inspection was held. The paths are starting to grow in and will be cleaned up. The row letter markings will be replaced this year. It was also suggested that number markings also be installed for easier plot locating for visitors and for employee measuring. The white rock supply is currently empty. Council will discuss whether or not to purchase more during budget discussions. The Cemetery Maps, located at the site, will be updated by the summer student this year. There are several concrete markers on graves that are no longer maintained by the families. These markers were installed by the Township several years ago and the names and dates have since faded off and should be remarked. The Women's Institute bench was repainted and repaired last year and looks good.

The tour headed back to Council Chambers for lunch at 12:17 p.m. and resumed at 12:56 p.m.

The tour continued onto Broome, Holomego and Garbutt Roads with no concerns. Garbutt Road between Smith and Holomego Roads is currently budgeted to be resurfaced this year. As was discussed at a previous Council meeting, the Northwestern Ontario Recreational Trail will be coming up to Broome Road and using the detour road between Broome and Holomego as a part of the trail. The Arch Culvert on Broome Road will be inspected this year.

Smart Road reconstruction work completed last year, which realigned the road and cleared the encroaching brush, was observed by Council. The road does now have a better site line for oncoming traffic which addressed the concerns of the additional traffic attending the Ranch at 93 Smart Road. Sovereign, Fleming and Strom Roads had no concerns.

The group then attended the Disposal Site. New speed limit signage has been installed by the gate to try to remind residents to slow down while at the site. The Caretaker has suggested that more signage be installed prior to the change between winter and summer hours as residents continue to show up at the incorrect times for the first few weeks of the change. The Clerk-Treasurer has suggested that it be only posted for a short period of time prior to the change so that the attendees notice the change. This will be included in the 2024 budget. Councillor Rea explained what the Fire Department has been doing in the area designated for the Department training at the site and Council toured that area. The Compactor Truck was inspected as a result of the recent fire in the cab area. The Clerk-Treasurer will follow up with the insurance company to see when the adjuster might be attending to investigate, as the garbage still needs to be dumped and with the summer heat arriving, so will the smell of the garbage still inside the truck. It was agreed to check with our current scrap metal collector to see if they might be able to haul the truck in for scrap metal. It was agreed that the other old compactor truck still parked at the site could also go. Mr. Johnson will enquire with them when he calls for the current bin to be exchanged. With the compactor no longer

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available, the garbage is being put directly into the hole. One hole is almost full, and a second one is ready for dumping. The other designated areas have all recently been cleaned up. The wind has been blowing a significant amount of garbage and plastic around the site. The summer student from last year and the attendants will be asked if they would be available to spend extra time at the site to clean up the mess.

The tour went on to Pool, Cronk and Whittaker Roads. Cronk Road was resurfaced in 2023 and one mile of Pool is budgeted to be done this year.

The Helipad was inspected. Ornge also comes out once a year to do their own inspection and inform the Township of what maintenance is required. A couple of cones may need to be replaced.

The inspection continued to the Township’s firehall, annex building and garage. The buildings and yards were inspected and a location for the new propane tank and two generators were discussed. It was agreed to place both generators behind the cold storage building and share one propane tank for both. The exact locations will be determined by the contractor and will meet the distance separation requirements. The replacement of the garage lighting is currently included in the draft budget and it has been suggested that it be the same lighting used in Shop B. The Road Department equipment was looked at, including the box of Truck #9, which is included in the draft budget for repair or replacement. The Fire Hall water pooling issue, discussed at a previous Council meeting, was discussed further and the area identified. The Fire Department equipment was looked at. The ladder proposed for replacement in the draft budget was looked at, as well as the SCBA system.

Mr. Johnson showed Council his concerns with the Annex Building and the proposed options for repairs were discussed.

The inspection ended and it was

- 2. Moved by Brendan Rea
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE TOWNSHIP INSPECTION ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O’CONNOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

TIME BEING: 3:15 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer