

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 11, 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, November 11, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

1. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
OCTOBER 28, 2019 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Mr. Johnson was asked if he wished to address Council on any personal matters and he replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. A Road Department update and roadwork in general was discussed. The staff have been finishing off projects including the Main Street Revitalization projects. New flag poles and municipal display signs have been installed, the cable has been buried and the base constructed for the digital sign. They have been doing maintenance on the trucks and are preparing for winter. Mr. Johnson has also been working with Deputy Clerk-Treasurer on the Asset Management updates. Mr. Johnson and Ms. Laforest recently attended the Forum North, Health and Safety Conference and they will be working on updating some policies and procedures.

The Equipment Report for 2019 was read. The equipment is all in fairly good shape, however the one dependable truck is a 1993 and will be up for replacement in the near future.

The suggestion of purchasing a rubber-tired excavator for brushing and ditching within the Township was discussed. Council would like a cost analysis prepared, comparing the cost for the Township to purchase or lease equipment to do our own excavating and brushing verses hiring a contractor to do the work when needed.

The summary of the data collected from the Cronk Road speed traffic was reviewed. While there are still a few people speeding, at this time it does not warrant the OPP being called to radar the road. The majority of the traffic is driving at a safe speed.

Purchasing of a speed/traffic counter sign, like the one the Township borrowed from the Municipality of Neebing, will be considered at the next budget meeting.

It was also noted that a resident on Cronk sent an email thanking Council for lowering the speed limit but noted that there is still some traffic that is not slowing down.

The Township Inspection held on October 18, 2019 was briefly discussed. Councillor Crane noted that he enjoyed the tour and he found the inspection very informative. During the inspection the Smith Road bridge deck was discussed. Mr. Johnson has purchased the decking but unfortunately didn't have time to change the deck this fall. He will be working on preparing the deck for the winter next week, and the deck will be changed out early next year. Overall the inspection went well.

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan (ICIP) – Green Stream Application Intake is open with applications due by January 22, 2020. Possible projects were discussed. Mr. Johnson will be looking into the condition of some of the bigger culverts with lower condition ratings in the Asset Management Plan and would recommend that an

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application be submitted for their replacement. Mr. Johnson will bring additional information back to Council for their review prior to the application being submitted.

A letter was read from a resident on Highway 590 with regard to a safety concern with her driveway for the winter. Following the construction that was completed by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) on Highway 590 in 2018 she feels her driveway is now too steep. While Council understand her concern, there are other driveways similar to hers along Highway 590 and her own driveway may need maintenance. This is however not a Township issue and is out of our jurisdiction. The MTO has built the shoulder of the road to a standard and her driveway may have to be built up to address her concern. Council would like a reply letter sent to the resident.

A request was made from a resident on Garbutt Road to have a streetlight installed at the corner of Highway 590 and Garbutt Road. It was noted that the Township currently has a streetlight at the intersection of Highway 590 and Highway 595, as well as at the intersection of Highway 590 and Loghrin Road. There are several other intersections within the Township which do not have streetlights. Council would like the cost of the installation brought forward at the 2020 budget meeting. Council will look at this request further at that time. It was suggested that Hydro One be contacted to do a layout prior to bringing it back to budget.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for November 11, 2019 was reviewed, and it was

2. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2019-15 DATED NOVEMBER 11, 2019 TOTTALLING \$83,123.66 BE APPROVED AND PAID.
Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to October 31, 2019 were reviewed. Notes with regard to the variances to date for both revenues and expenditures were discussed.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Thunder Bay Health Coalition requesting support in their campaign to halt the closures, mergers and cuts to local health care services. It was

3. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

WHEREAS PUBLIC HEALTH CARE CONSISTENTLY RANKS AS THE TOP PRIORITY IN PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, AND;

WHEREAS PUBLIC HEALTH PROVIDES VITAL HEALTH PROMOTION AND PREVENTION SERVICES BASED ON THE UNIQUE DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITIES, AND;

WHEREAS THE EVIDENCE FROM HOSPITAL AMALGAMATION IN ONTARIO AND ACROSS CANADA IS THAT THEY HAVE COST BILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND HAVE NOT YIELDED THAT PROMISED ADMINISTRATIVE SAVINGS BUT HAVE TAKEN MONEY AWAY FROM FRONTLINE CARE, AND;

WHEREAS THERE IS A DEEP CONSENSUS AMONG VIRTUALLY ALL STAKEHOLDERS THAT INCREASING ACUITY IN OUR LONG-TERM CARE HOMES REQUIRES ADDITIONAL STAFF AND RESOURCES, NOT CANCELLATION OF THE TWO SPECIAL FUNDS AND REAL DOLLAR CUTS TO PER DIEM FUNDING OF OUR LONG-TERM CARE HOMES, AND;

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WHEREAS OUR LOCAL HOSPITALS HAVE BEEN DOWNSIZED FOR AN ENTIRE GENERATION AND CANNOT MEET POPULATION NEEDS WHILE SUSTAINING REAL DOLLAR CUTS TO HOSPITAL GLOBAL BUDGETS.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR CALLS UPON THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TO HALT THE CLOSURES OR, MERGERS OF, AND CUTS TO OUR LOCAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES INCLUDING PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS, LAND AMBULANCE SERVICES, HOSPITALS AND LONG-TERM CARE HOMES.

Carried

b) City of Greater Sudbury regarding joint and several liability. It was

4. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY ENDORSING THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO'S CALL FOR THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF THE PRINCIPLE OF JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY TO PRODUCE CHANGES THAT PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROTECTION FOR MUNICIPALITIES BE ENDORSED.

Carried

c) Municipality of Prescott regarding the creation of a new Delegated Administrative Authority. It was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRESCOTT REQUESTING THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO PROVIDE EVIDENCE BASED JUSTIFICATION TO MUNICIPALITIES THAT THE CREATION OF AN NEW DELEGATED ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY IS NECESSARY PRIOR TO ANY LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE BUILDING CODE ACT, WITH REGARD TO BUILDING SERVICE DELIVERY, BEING INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATURE BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- d) Grey Sauble Conservation requesting support of the continuation of the programs and services of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority. Council have supported a similar resolution at a previous meeting and therefore this resolution was filed.
e) Township of Ramara regarding the Conservation Authority Exit Clause was filed.
f) Township of Perry regarding Transforming and Modernizing the Delivery of Ontario's Building Code. It was

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF PERRY REQUESTING THAT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO RESEARCH THEIR OWN EFFICIENT AND COST EFFECTIVE MEANS TO DELIVER THEIR OWN SERVICES, WORK WITH CURRENT BUILDING SECTOR GROUPS THAT, FOR THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS, HAVE BEEN FILLING THE VOIDS AS THE MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING HAS SEVERELY REDUCED ITS SERVICE DELIVERY ROLE AND PROVIDE DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE BASED JUSTIFICATION TO ALL ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES THAT THE CREATION OF A NEW "DELEGATED ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY" IS NECESSARY PRIOR TO ANY LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE BUILDING CODE ACT, WITH REGARD TO BUILDING SERVICE DELIVERY, ARE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATURE BE ENDORSED.

Carried

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Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Township of Gillies – copy of letter to the Ministry of Transportation, Regional Director with regard to Highway Maintenance in the Township of Gillies.
- b) Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board – Update from the Board September 30, 2019.
- c) Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) – Fall Economic Statement 2019: A Plan to Build Ontario Together.
- d) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – November 2019 Newsletter. Council would like to see information with regard to off road vehicles statistics in the December issue of the Cornerstone.
- e) LCBO Convenience Outlet Team – regarding the expansion of the LCBO Convenience Outlets program and request for information to be shared. The LCBO are accepting applications for convenience outlets until 2 p.m. on November 20, 2019. It was noted that two new outlets have recently been opened in the neighbouring municipalities and the Township of O'Connor does not have any locations suitable.
- f) Association of Municipalities of Ontario – i) Federal Gas Tax Update. The surplus administration fee payment and the final payment for the year will be transferred soon.
ii) Call for Candidates for the Board of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). No Council member will not put their name forward at this time.
iii) Province Releases Fall Economic Statement.
iv) Fall Economic Statement Contains Minor Development Charge/Community Benefit Charge Changes.
- g) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Environmental Registry notice (019-0732) regarding proposal to amend three statutes and make a new regulation.
- h) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines – regarding the Ontario Electricity Rebate (OER).
- i) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – reply to Council's endorsed resolution regarding conservation authorities.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) – Whitefish River Post Flood Meeting Notes. The meeting was held on October 15, 2019 with the LRCA, Township of Gillies, Township of O'Connor, Ontario Provincial Police, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Lakehead Board of Education and the principle of Whitefish Valley Public School. The meeting was called to address the LRCA's concern with the Whitefish River during a flood and with regard to the school not having a Flood Emergency Plan in place when the school is open and the river is rising, as it is located in the floodplain.

Under further old business, Council asked if the First Response Team has moved forward with getting naloxone kits for the team, as they are aware of other municipalities in the area carrying it. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that at this time they do not but they are still looking into it.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) – i) 2020 Annual Conference – Registration and Program. It was

- 7. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE RURAL ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 19 – 21, 2020 IN TORONTO.

REGISTRATION: \$615.00 PLUS HST

COUNCILLOR HANDY

Carried

- ii) Municipal delegation request for conference – deadline December 2, 2019. It was agreed to participate with the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) delegations but the Township of O'Connor will not submit any requests of their own.

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- b) Ontario Power Generation (OPG) – i) Draft Access Agreement with the Township of O'Connor Fire Department to access aqueduct buildings in Kakabeka Falls to retrieve water.
- ii) Insurance Companies comments with regard to the agreement.

The insurance company expressed some concerns with regard to the agreement and the liability/indemnification section of the document. The Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge and the Township of Conmee have also been provided the same agreement. The Township of Conmee is currently getting a legal opinion on the document. Council agreed to wait to hear the opinion before signing.

- c) Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) – regarding the Input on the Province's proposed Building Services Transformation. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that she has spoken with MFOA with regard to the financial impacts for the Township with the proposed changes.
- d) Municipality of Neebing – Administrative Report regarding the Building Code Act Consultations. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that the Township of O'Connor and neighbouring municipalities, Chief Building Official, Mr. Yanishewski, was consulted by Ms. Evans, Solicitor-Clerk and his views and opinions were included in the report. The deadline for submissions is November 25th and Council would also like similar comments submitted from the Township of O'Connor.
- e) HWIN Modernization – Environmental Registry Posting – Changing the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority's Mandate (EBR 019-0671). The Ministry is proposing to transition to include digital reporting services through its registry.
- f) A date for 2019 Christmas Party was discussed and it was

- 8. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HOLD A 2019 CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR COUNCIL, STAFF, FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRST RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS AT THE KAKABEKA HOTEL ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020.
SPOUSES AND GUESTS WILL PAY FOR THEIR OWN DINNER.**

Carried

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

The Clerk-Treasurer reminded Council of the upcoming meetings and workshops and it was

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

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE TABLETOP EXERCISE TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE.

TIME BEING: 8:55 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer