

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 15, 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers and virtual.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Erin Laforest, Administrative Assistant (virtual)

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 8:35 p.m.

Mayor Vezina asked that item 19 a) Closed Session, be moved forward on the agenda, following item 7e), to discuss with Mr. Johnson. Council was in agreement and it was

1. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

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 A. Crane

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022, THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE NOTES FROM OCTOBER 25, 2022 AND THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

The visitors were asked if they wished to address Council on anything other than what is already on the agenda and they replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. Road Department update and roadwork in general was discussed. The snow has arrived and they are working with it. They were hoping to get more ditching done and another contract job but that will now be put on hold. They will also be pulling out any beaver screens still in place. Equipment repairs are being completed. Council asked if Hydro One has attended to the beaver chewed tree on Flint Road. Mr. Johnson informed Council that they have not, and he will follow up with them.

The Road Department 2022 Equipment Report was reviewed and discussed. This report provides details on each piece of Road Department equipment and the Disposal Site Garbage Truck. Mr. Johnson reported his concerns of jamming with the new truck's auger system compared to the cross-chain system currently used on our other trucks. He also noted that while the rear tires have tread, they are hard and not good for winter. New tires will have to be purchased for winter use. The front wing cable broke today and Truck #7 was used instead. Overall, most of the Road Department Equipment is in good condition. Council will have to make a decision on which of the snowplow trucks will be sold off as we do not require three. The garbage truck is getting very rusty and will need replacing in the near future. Staff will watch for used ones in upcoming auctions and contact the City of Thunder Bay to see if they might be selling any in the near future.

Mr. Johnson provided an update on the progress of the Shop B retrofit project. The project is a couple of weeks behind and the weather is causing havoc, with snow and the temperatures dropping. There is currently no heat in the building as the chimney has to be extended through to the higher roof line and there is no insulation in the ceiling. Electric heaters have been placed in the office and washroom to prevent

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the water from freezing and to have a warm area for staff. A Site Visit is scheduled for November 16th with Electrical Contractors for the electrical work. As soon as the roof is ready and insulation is in place, a chimney will be installed.

The Health and Safety Report – October 20, 2022 was read. No concerns or questions arose.

A date for a Township Inspection was discussed. Mayor Vezina explained to the new members of Council that a drive about throughout the Township is held each year and this year it was agreed to wait until new Council was in place. Possible dates were discussed and it was

3. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR A TOWNSHIP INSPECTION.

NOVEMBER 25, 2022 AT 8:30 A.M.

Carried

As requested by Mayor Vezina the Closed Session of the meeting was moved forward. Erin Laforest left the meeting. It was

4. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LITIGATION OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION, INCLUDING MATTERS BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS, AFFECTING THE MUNICIPALITY OR LOCAL BOARD; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(E) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 9:13 P.M.

Carried

The Clerk-Treasurer provided the Council with an update on the potential litigation.

5. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

TIME BEING: 9:30 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

The Administration and Roads Voucher dated November 15, 2022 was reviewed. The process of paying and reviewing these bills was explained to new Council. It was

6. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2022-19 DATED NOVEMBER 15, 2022 TOTALLING \$328,164.07 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to October 31, 2022 was reviewed. An explanation of the variances will be provided following the November month end.

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Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Ministry of Finance regarding the 2023 Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding (OMPF) Allocations. The funding for 2023 will be \$3,500 more than in 2022.
- b) Premier of Ontario – Doug Ford, Congratulation letter to Mayor Vezina.
- c) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing letter regarding the Government released More Homes Built Faster: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-2023. This letter will be forwarded to Council via email.
- d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) AMO Policy Update – More Homes Built Faster Act.
ii) Unpacking Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022.
iii) Ontario Food Collaborative invitation. No one from the Township of O'Connor will participate.
- e) Municipal Finance Officers Association of Ontario (MFOA) comments regarding the Provinces Release of Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022.
- f) AMCTO, the Municipal Experts – Advocacy Update – Response to Strong Mayor Regulatory Postings.
- g) Thunder Bay District Health Unit – Board of Health Meeting Minutes – October 19, 2022.
- h) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) – i) ROMA Conference Breaking New Ground, January 22 – 24, 2023 in Toronto. No one from the Township of O'Connor will attend the conference.
ii) ROMA Conference 2023 – Registration Now Open
iii) Call for Nominations 2023 – 2027 ROMA Board of Directors. No nomination will be put forward.
- i) Ontario Good Roads 2023 Conference – April 16 – 19, 2023 in Toronto. This item will be discussed with Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, to see if he would like to attend.
- j) Federal Minister of Agriculture and Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs regarding the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program: information for Municipalities.
- k) Councillor Crane – Copy of a letter to the editor with regard to Tbaytel – “With all that revenue, where's our reception”. This article was referring to poor cell phone reception in the Onion Lake Road area. Councillor Crane expressed his frustration with the internet service in his area of the Township and areas throughout the Township also. He would like to ensure that Tbaytel is invited to attend an upcoming Council meeting to discuss their plans to improve service in the rural areas. The Clerk-Treasurer has reached out to Tbaytel with an invitation, however the contact person has changed and the message was passed on to the new person in charge and has not heard anything back. She will follow up on the invitation.
- l) NORCAT – Notice of Cybersecurity Incident Involving NORCAT.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility response to the Township of O'Connor's application to the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility's 2022-2023 Inclusive Community Grants Program for a playground. The Township's project was unsuccessful.
- b) Update on Financing for Shop B Construction.
 - i) A report was read from the Clerk-Treasurer regarding the Ontario Infrastructure loan application and the possible increase in our line of credit with the CIBC. The Relations Manager for the Northern Region, Finance and Lending, for Infrastructure Ontario has provided a list of required documents to make an application. An estimated Loan Repayment Schedule was prepared by Administration, showing an estimated payment schedule for optional number of years, in 5-year increments, for Council's consideration. The Clerk-Treasurer has a phone meeting with the CIBC Business Advisor on November 18, 2022 to discuss the possibility of a line of credit increase.
 - ii) One of the required documents for the Loan application is a By-law approving the submission of an application to Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation. By-law Number 2022-22 – A By-law to approve the submission of an application to Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation was reviewed and it was

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- 7. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-22 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO ONTARIO INFRASTRUCTURE AND LANDS CORPORATION (OILC) FOR THE LONG-TERM FINANCING OF CERTAIN CAPITAL WORK AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ENTERING INTO OF A RATE OFFER LETTER AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY WILL ISSUE DEBENTURES TO OILC BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

As time was approaching curfew of 10:30 p.m. it was agreed to not continue the balance of the agenda. New Business, Item 16 c) the bank signing authority was moved forward on the agenda to allow for the required banking documents to be prepared and it was

- 8. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S AUTHORIZED SIGNING OFFICERS FOR BANKING PURPOSES BE: MAYOR JIM VEZINA OR COUNCILLOR JOHN SOBOLTA OR COUNCILLOR CARLY TORKKELI AND CLERK-TREASURER BUOB OR DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT.

Carried

The balance of the agenda will be carried forward to the November 28, 2022 Council meeting. It was

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

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE TOWNSHIP INSPECTION TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2022 AT 8:30 A.M. STARTING AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE.

TIME BEING: 10:30 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer