

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 23, 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, November 23, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Community Centre.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas

Absent: Mayor Vezina

Acting Mayor Loan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

1. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020 AND THE MINUTES FROM THE MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY CONTROL GROUP MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 16, 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table.

The Fire Department report from October 22 to November 21, 2020 was read. There were three fire related calls and one First Response call in that time. It was noted that the side-by-side was used for the first response call. Fire Chief Mattas reported that five new members have signed up for the department.

Ten members attended the traffic control training for stop and slow signs held on November 18, 2020 and are now certified.

Fire Chief Mattas discussed driver training. Due to COVID-19 there has been a delay in two interested members getting their required training. They are looking into a possible new option but this would not be available until the new year.

The monthly stats from January to October 2020 with regard to calls for the area were read.

The upcoming Christmas parade was discussed. Fire Chief Mattas has provided permission for all the Fire Trucks to participate providing the weather is not too cold.

The outdoor skating rink was briefly discussed. The fire department is willing to put down the ice again this year but would like to request that Mr. Backstrom, once again, be asked to assist.

The O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary meeting minutes from October 13, 2020 were read. It was noted that the auxiliary is looking at purchasing a sea-can for training purposes. Council questioned what they were planning on doing with the sea-can and wanted to ensure that all health and safety issues are addressed prior to use.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher was read and it was

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2020-20 DATED NOVEMBER 23, 2020 TOTALLING \$25,766.50 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 23, 2020

By-law were reviewed as follows:

a) By-law Number 2020-19 – Being a by-law authorizing the execution of an agreement with Electronic Products Recycling Association. It was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-19 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS RECYCLING ASSOCIATION FOR THE COLLECTION AND PROVISION OF ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

b) By-law Number 2020-20 – Being a by-law to constitute a Joint Police Service Board. It was

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-20 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING THE CONSTITUTION OF A JOINT POLICE SERVICE BOARD BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

c) By-law Number 2020-21 – Being a by-law to authorize the execution of an agreement for the provision of Police Services. It was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-21 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPROVE THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR, THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE, THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING AND HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AS REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

d) By-law Number 2020-22 – Being a by-law authorizing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority. It was

6. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-22 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT WITH THE LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF A PLAN REVIEW PROGRAM BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) is requesting support from member municipalities with regard to recent changes made to the Conservation Authorities Act and the Planning Act. The Province has introduced a number of changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and the Planning Act that significantly either limit or completely change the role of conservation authorities to protect Ontario's environment and ensure that people are safe from natural hazards. It was

7. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

WHEREAS THE PROVINCE HAS INTRODUCED BILL 229, PROTECT, SUPPORT AND RECOVER FROM COVID ACT – SCHEDULE 6 – CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT; AND

WHEREAS THE LEGISLATION INTRODUCES A NUMBER OF CHANGES AND NEW SECTIONS THAT COULD REMOVE AND/OR SIGNIFICANTLY HINDER THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES' ROLE IN REGULATING DEVELOPMENT, PERMIT APPEAL PROCESS AND ENGAGING IN REVIEW AND APPEAL OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS; AND

WHEREAS WE RELY ON THE WATERSHED EXPERTISE PROVIDED BY LOCAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES TO PROTECT RESIDENTS, PROPERTY AND LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES ON A WATERSHED BASIS BY REGULATING DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGING IN REVIEWS OF APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER THE PLANNING ACT; AND

WHEREAS THE CHANGES ALLOW THE MINISTER TO MAKE DECISIONS WITHOUT CA WATERSHED DATA AND EXPERTISE; AND

WHEREAS THE LEGISLATION SUGGESTS THAT THE MINISTER WILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-MANDATORY PROGRAMS WHICH ARE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES TO MEET LOCAL WATERSHED NEEDS; AND

WHEREAS MUNICIPALITIES REQUIRE A LONGER TRANSITION TIME TO PUT IN PLACE AGREEMENTS WITH CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES FOR NON-MANDATORY PROGRAMS; AND

WHEREAS MUNICIPALITIES BELIEVE THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES ON CA BOARDS SHOULD BE A MUNICIPAL DECISION; AND THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE CA BOARD SHOULD BE DULY ELECTED; AND

WHEREAS THE CHANGES TO THE "DUTY OF MEMBERS" CONTRADICTS THE FIDUCIARY DUTY OF A CA BOARD MEMBER TO REPRESENT THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE WATERSHED; AND

WHEREAS CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN WORKING WITH THE PROVINCE, DEVELOPMENT SECTOR AND MUNICIPALITIES TO STREAMLINE AND SPEED UP PERMITTING AND PLANNING APPROVALS THROUGH CONSERVATION ONTARIO'S CLIENT SERVICE AND STREAMLINING INITIATIVE; AND

WHEREAS CHANGES TO THE LEGISLATION WILL CREATE MORE RED TAPE AND COSTS FOR THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES, AND THEIR MUNICIPAL PARTNERS, AND POTENTIALLY RESULT IN DELAYS IN THE DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL PROCESS; AND

WHEREAS MUNICIPALITIES VALUE AND RELY ON THE NATURAL HABITATS AND WATER RESOURCES WITHIN OUR JURISDICTION FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF RESIDENTS; MUNICIPALITIES VALUE THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES' WORK TO PREVENT AND MANAGE THE IMPACTS OF FLOODING AND OTHER NATURAL HAZARDS; AND MUNICIPALITIES VALUE THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY'S WORK TO ENSURE SAFE DRINKING WATER;

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 23, 2020

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO WORK WITH CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES TO ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS BY REPEALING AND/OR AMENDING CHANGES TO THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT AND THE PLANNING ACT; AND

THAT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO DELAY ENACTMENT OF CLAUSES AFFECTING MUNICIPAL CONCERNS; AND

THAT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO PROVIDE A LONGER TRANSITION PERIOD UP TO DECEMBER 2022 FOR NON-MANDATORY PROGRAMS TO ENABLE COORDINATION OF CA-MUNICIPAL BUDGET PROCESSES; AND

THAT THE PROVINCE RESPECT THE CURRENT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY/MUNICIPAL RELATIONSHIPS; AND

THAT THE PROVINCE EMBRACE THEIR LONG-STANDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES AND PROVIDE THEM WITH THE TOOLS AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES THEY NEED TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THEIR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ROLE.

Carried

b) Township of Howick regarding Tile Drain Loans. It was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF HOWICK REQUESTING THAT THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS CONSIDER LOWERING THE INTEREST RATE ON TILE DRAIN LOANS TO 4% AND INCREASE THE YEARLY LOAN LIMIT TO \$100,000, BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – Minutes of October 15, 2020 meeting.
 - b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) AMO Policy Update November 13, 2020 – COVID-19 Framework Updated.
ii) AMO Policy Update November 17, 2020 – COVID-19 Resiliency Infrastructure Stream Intake Open, Expanding Mental Health Services, and AODA Compliance Report Deadline Extended.
iii) AMO Policy Update – November 18, 2020 – Bill 218 Passes, 2020 Auditor General's Report, and Clarification of Budget Property Tax Measures.
iv) AMO Policy Update – November 20, 2020 – Updated COVID-19 Measures, New LTC Projects, Emergency Orders Extended, and AODA Items.
v) AMO Policy Update – November 23, 2020 – Immunization Strategy Start, Revised COVID-19 Closure Regulations, CMOH Reappointment, Cemetery Care and Maintenance Funds Discussion Paper.
 - c) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) regarding 2021 Values and COVID-19.
 - d) Ministry of Finance regarding property tax and assessment measures announced in the 2020 Ontario Budget, released on November 5, 2020.
 - e) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) – Update – November 19, 2020 – A Path to Better Connectivity: ROMA Launches Municipal Broadband Resources.
- The balance of the correspondence was available for review.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Erika Kromm, Municipality of Neebing, update with regard to the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) Broadband project. Work on the second phase of the Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) application is in progress. The submission is due December 11, 2020. The program coordinator is looking for information on demonstrating economic growth. Ms. Kromm also noted that the Federal Universal Broadband Fund has opened up and is funding 75% of the approved project. This

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 23, 2020

makes the LRMC project feasible for Tbaytel and they are making it a priority.

Under further old business, Council discussed the disposal site and the improper etiquette that some of the residents are using, while at the site. There are rules in place and these rules are to be followed by all. Information in this regard will be included in the December issue of the Cornerstone. Council would also like it noted that if a resident has a complaint with regard to these rules that they come to Council and not complain to the employees.

Council would like to ensure that the Disposal Site Caretaker is wearing a high reflective vest or jacket while at the site.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Councillor Loan reported on the OPP billing webinar that he participated in on November 19, 2020. Information from the webinar noted that there will be a \$2.5 million operational increase cost to the OPP budget in 2021, with an estimated cost recovery for 2021 for all provincial operating costs being \$356.00 per household.
- b) Councillor Crane reported on the Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) meeting held November 14, 2020. As the Annual General Meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 they will now, at the next board meeting in January 2021, provide a financial report prior to the start of the regular meeting.
- c) Len Day – requesting support for establishing a recreational trail between Kakabeka Falls and Shabaqua. Mr. Day is currently doing the ground work for establishing a multi-use hike, bike and horseback recreational trail, with the ultimate vision of linking the communities of Atikokan, Ignace, Kakabeka Falls, Thunder Bay, Red Rock and Nipigon into the vast coast-to-coast Trans-Canada trail network. The trail is proposing to piggy-back the existing Thunder Bay Adventure Trails trail. A map of the trail through the Township of O'Connor was reviewed. Council discussed the idea and it was

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

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUPPORTS IN PRINCIPLE MR. LEN DAY'S PROPOSAL TO CREATE A MULTI-USE HIKE, BIKE AND HORSEBACK RECREATIONAL TRAIL FROM KAKABEKA FALLS TO SHABAQUA. THIS TRAIL WILL PIGGY-BACK THE EXISTING THUNDER BAY ADVENTURE TRAILS TRAIL.

Carried

- d) Best Safety Training and Consulting Ltd. – Joint Health and Safety Training. The Clerk-Treasurer requested that Ms. Laforest, Health and Safety representative, take this training to assist her in the position and it was

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

THAT ERIN LAFOREST PARTICIPATE IN THE JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE CERTIFICATION PART 1 TRAINING THROUGH THE ON-LINE SESSION TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY IN 2021. DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED.

REGISTRATION: \$475 PLUS HST.

Carried

- e) Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) update. The Clerk-Treasurer provided an update on the TBDSSAB's current budget process. Their Administration is currently proposing a 1.1% increase for their 2021 budget. It was noted however that the Weighted Assessment calculations will determine how this increase will be distributed among the municipalities.
- f) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the Ontario Rebuilding and Recovery Act: Accelerating Infrastructure Initiatives Municipal Engagement. The Ministry is requesting feedback through an online survey.

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 23, 2020

- g) Township of O'Connor Outdoor rink and the upcoming skating season was discussed. Due to COVID-19, Council was asked if the Township would have an ice surface this year. Council discussed the issue and agreed that the ice will be put in, however, the rink shack will remain closed. Proper signage will be installed.
- h) The 2020 Staff and volunteer Christmas party was discussed. Due to COVID-19 the party will not take place this year. An email wishing everyone all the best will be sent out.

Under Further New Business, Council discussed the upcoming Christmas Drive-thru parade that will be hosted by the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department and the O'Connor Community Club. Council would like to support and contribute to the event and in so also support local businesses and it was

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

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SPONSOR ATTENDANCE PRIZES IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$100.00 FOR THE O'CONNOR TOWNSHIP CHRISTMAS PARADE TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 12, 2020.

Carried

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed were read as follows:

- a) Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) - Media Release November 20, 2020 – TBDHU Moving to Yellow Level of Provincial Framework effective November 23, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.

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

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

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 7, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE IF SITUATION DUE TO COVID-19 REMAINS SAFE.

TIME BEING: 8:52 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer