

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 25, 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, November 25, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Dodie LeGassick, Wendy O'Connor

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

1. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 11, 2019 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Ms. LeGassick and Ms. O'Connor were welcomed to the table. Introductions were made.

Ms. LeGassick is a Board member of Environment North and is here tonight to discuss her concerns with regard to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's plans to transport nuclear waste into Northwestern Ontario. She thanked Council for allowing her to do a deputation to them. She is speaking in objection to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's deep geological repository (DGR), with three options being in Northwestern Ontario, those being Ignace, Hornepayne and Manitouwadge. The final vote for consent by a host community will take place in 2023. Ms. LeGassick provided scientific information with regard to the nuclear waste and its life cycle. She also expressed her concern for the transportation of the nuclear waste into Northwestern Ontario from Southern Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. The distance being up to 2500km to Ignace. She also expressed her concerns with regard to a "provision of temporary shallow storage at the central site, if needed". There is also concern with regard to the safety case as it cannot be made for a DGR that would last up to 250,000 years. She noted a document referred to as "Rock Solids" by Gene Watch. She also noted the responsibility to future generations in Northwestern Ontario to protect the lands, the water and their inhabitants and how a small handful of people can make this decision. It was noted that the Township of Gillies did pass a resolution supporting Environment North.

Council thanked Ms. LeGassick for her presentation and suggested that perhaps she should attend the next Thunder Bay District Municipal League conference and annual meeting to do her presentation there. This would then reach all municipalities in the District. Council have previously over the years heard the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's side and it was good to now hear both sides. Ms. LeGassick and Ms. O'Connor then left the meeting.

Fire Chief Mattas was unable to attend the meeting and did not provide a written report. It was noted that there was one First Response call since the last meeting.

The Wildfire Community Preparedness Day 2020 applications are now open. Council agreed to apply for funding to host a FireSmart event in the spring. The Township has in the past hosted two events, however, did not do one in 2019 and would like to host one again in 2020.

The participation of the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department in the Christmas parades in Thunder Bay was discussed. The members did participate in the Annual Rotary Christmas Parade on Saturday, November 16th, with the pumper tanker and the first response rescue vehicle. The members are also considering participating in the upcoming parade of lights to be held in the evening on December 7th. Council discussed the risk and liability and the suitability of having the pumper tanker leaving the Township, as it is our main emergency response vehicle. For due diligence purposes

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Council decided to not allow the volunteers to take the pumper tanker into the parade. Council do not have any concern with the first response rescue vehicle participating as long as all the equipment is left in the fire hall for others to attend a call if needed. It was suggested that perhaps if the members wanted to take a second vehicle that they could take the side by side instead.

The Clerk-Treasurer will speak with the Deputy Fire Chief, due to the Fire Chief not being available and an email will be sent out to the members explaining Council's decision. Mayor Vezina will also try to attend the Fire Department meeting on Tuesday evening to explain Council's decision.

The Fire Department Auxiliary minutes from January 2019 to October 2019 were read.

The Administration and Roads Voucher was reviewed, and it was

2. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2019-16 DATED NOVEMBER 25, 2019 TALLING \$12,630.64 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

A resolution for endorsement was read from the Town of Amherstburg with regard to the climate emergency in the Town of Amherstburg. This resolution was filed by Council.

Correspondence was read as follow:

- a) Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board – Update from the Board – October 31, 2019.
- b) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding the Ontario's new Municipal Modernization Program, Intake 1 is now open.
- c) Ontario Municipal Leadership Institute – Ontario announces New Municipal Modernization Funding Program.
- d) Ministry of Infrastructure – i) A message from the Minister regarding the Formula Component of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF).
ii) regarding the Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2019 (Bill 132).
- e) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) – regarding the Budget and Municipal Levy for 2020.
- f) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Province Launches Consultations on the Blue Box Regulation.
ii) Public Health and Emergency Health Services Modernization Consultation.
- g) Premier Doug Ford – i) Reply to Council's endorsed resolution with regard to public health funding.
ii) Reply to Council's endorsed resolution with regard to Conservation Authorities.
iii) Reply to Council's endorsed resolution with regard to public health funding.
- h) Northern Policy Institute – i) regarding the document "A Northern Perspective: 2019 Foresight Papers".
ii) regarding the document "What is discussed at the table doesn't stay at the table".

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Building Code Act Consultations – A draft copy of comments to be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing were reviewed by Council. No further changes will be made to the document and the submission will be submitted following tonight's meeting.

Under old business, Mayor Vezina asked for Council's approval to attend the Public Health and Emergency Health Services Modernization Consultation session and it was

3. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT MAYOR VEZINA ATTEND THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES MODERNIZATION CONSULTATION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 28, 2019 IN THUNDER BAY.

Carried

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Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – i) email regarding the 2019 Financial Indicators Report (y/e December 31, 2018).
 ii) The Township of O'Connor's Financial Indicator Review document was read. Currently Council does not see any issues with the results of the document.
 iii) Township of O'Connor Municipal Financial Profiles was read. The information for these documents are pulled from the Financial Information Return (FIR) prepared by the Township auditors.
- b) Municipal Modernization Funding Program – Council discussed whether or not to submit an application for this funding. The Clerk-Treasurer provided some examples of what other municipalities are applying for and it was agreed that the Township will not be submitting an application.
- c) Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) – 2020 Municipal Membership was discussed. It was agreed to be a member once again in 2020.
- d) Thora Cartlidge, Agriculture Development Advisor, OMAFRA – regarding Facilitating Agriculture Sector Growth in Thunder Bay Area – Invitation to their Municipal Actions Workshop – December 4, 2019. No one will be available to attend this workshop.

Under further new business, it was suggested that the Council consider possible projects within the Township to reduce the environmental footprint in case funding comes along, and the Township would be prepared for the application intake.

The presentation from Ms. LeGassick was discussed further. Council understands the concerns and agree that there is a problem with nuclear waste. Some of Council have heard and seen the Nuclear Waste Management Organization presentation and they have seen the equipment that will be used for both storage and trucking. Council agreed to not comment or endorse any documents until further into the decision-making process.

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

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – Minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting.
- b) Tribunals Ontario – regarding the Assessment Review Board (ARB) Upcoming Changes – Effective January 2020.

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

It was

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS A PERSONAL MATTER ABOUT AN IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING MUNICIPAL OR LOCAL BOARD EMPLOYEES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(E) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 9:32 P.M.

Carried

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

TIME BEING: 9:45 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

Council was reminded of the Emergency Management Program Committee Meeting and Senior and Elected Officials Workshop to be held on November 26th and the next Council meeting will be held on December 2, 2019. It was

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6. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COUNCIL
CHAMBERS.**

TIME BEING: 9:46 P.M.

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer