

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - NOTES
TOWNSHIP INSPECTION NOVEMBER 25, 2022

Notes of the Township Inspection held on Friday, November 25, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. starting at the Municipal Office.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Sobolta, Torkkeli
Clerk-Treasurer Lorna Buob
Leadhand Kelly Johnson

Absent: Councillor Racicot

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order and the Township Inspection began at 8:40 a.m. A vehicle was rented from Thunder Bay rental company for the tour.

The Township Inspection began with a tour of the Municipal Office, Council Chambers and the O'Connor Community Centre. The new Council members were given the full tour and detailed information in regard to all buildings. The emergency food supply for the reception the storage room was discussed. It was suggested that we look into the Emergency

72-hour meal kits, which consists of dried food which does not expire. The outdoor recreation and the addition to the rink shack was looked at. The addition is still under construction. Better lighting is being considered inside the current rink shack, and a brighter interior finish was also discussed. Councillor Sobolta offered to saw lumber to spruce up in the interior. The floor covering and the possible installation of matting was discussed. Council was informed that the new well has been tagged and the pump installed. Wiring, to power the pump, will be connected at the same time as the electrical installation of the addition to the rink shack project. A new concrete slab has been poured for the outdoor rink.

The road tour started in the southwest corner of the Township at 9:30 a.m., with Connolly, Sitch, Rosengren, Earl, Allan and Wheal Roads. The 2022 road resurfacing projects were pointed out during the tour. Connolly Road, from Sitch to the Marks/O'Connor Townline for 3.2 km and Wheal Road were done in 2022. The Township owned properties were pointed out to the new members. The large structures and bridges that require bi-annual inspections were also identified throughout the tour.

The Boundary Road Agreements were discussed. Main Street, the boundary road between the Township of O'Connor and Gillies, at Prouty Road has been temporarily closed by the Township of Gillies. As Main Street is a boundary road, to officially close the road both Township's would have to agree to do so. The Township of O'Connor Council and staff would like to see this road reopened. The Main Street barricaded area was looked at during the inspection so new Council are aware of the area.

The tour continued to Blaikie Road. Council was informed of Mr. Johnson's concerns with regard to the Whitefish River eroding its banks and coming closer to the road, as well, the erosion and flooding that occurred this spring was pointed out. He has spoken with the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) about his concerns as well. It was recommended that Council watch for funding to do a study for flood mitigation for the area. Mr. Johnson also noted that if the river breaks through its banks the water could be diverted in a different direction, leaving the bridge sitting high and dry and a new structure would be required further down the road. The Blaikie Road hill, South East section was ditched this year.

The tour continued to Cliffmclean Road and back to Diana Road and then to Kershaw and Chambers Road. There is a tree hung up on the telephone line along Highway 595 near Kershaw Road that has been there for some time now. Tbaytel will be contacted to make them aware. The beaver chewed trees on Flint Road, which were discussed previously were identified. Hydro One has been notified but have not come to cut them down yet. If they fall they will take out the power lines in the area and block the road. Mr. Johnson has wrapped metal fencing around them so that the beavers do not continue to chew on them further. Hydro One will be notified once again.

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The tour continued to Smith Road where Bridge #2 was discussed. This is the oldest bridge left in the Township. A new wooden deck was installed a couple of years ago and the estimated life span would be for another eight years. The tour continued to the Harstone Road, bridge #3, located over Whitewood Creek which was also discussed. The box culvert on the Harstone Road was also identified. The tour continued to Luckens Road, Cardiff Drive Winslow and Loghrin Road. A new home is being built at the end of Winslow and the road has been extended and a culvert installed. Loghrin Road will be resurfaced with a chip seal in 2023 with funding from Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS). A drive through the O'Connor Cemetery was done. The new shrubs and trees planted last year were quickly looked at. Most have survived but are still small. The old dead tree that was located in the centre of the cemetery has been cut down, as well as a dead limb off of a second tree has been removed.

Lunch was picked up in Kakabeka Falls and brought back to the Council Chambers. On the return the tour travelled onto Smart Road and Garbutt Road to Broome Road. The location of the Steel Box Culvert on Garbutt was identified. It was noted that there are still yield signs at the intersections along Garbutt Road. A lunch break was taken from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m.

The tour continued to Sovereign Road and Fleming Road. The boundary road with the Township of Conmee was identified and the agreement between the two briefly discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that Fleming Road will be discussed at the Council meeting on Monday, November 28, 2022 in regard to the Northwestern Ontario Recreational Trails Association's (NWORTA) proposed use of the road for a non-motorized trail. Strom Road flooding and repairs this summer were identified and it was noted that this road and the West end of Fleming Road are not maintained all the way to the end in the winter.

The Disposal Site was inspected and the setup and areas still available for addition holes were briefly explained to the new Council members. The control of the furniture pile was discussed. A new hole for the garbage has been dug, however, the old hole is still being used until it is full. The brush piles were burnt on Wednesday. The compactor garbage truck was discussed. There are concerns with the old truck and the rust holes in the side, as was discussed at the last Council meeting. The road employees will attempt to keep it running and fix up the holes until a new one can be found.

The tour continued down Pool, Cronk and Whittaker Road and back to the Helipad, Municipal Garage and Fire Hall. Ornge also comes out once a year to do their own inspection and inform the Township of what maintenance is required on the Helipad. The buildings were toured and the setup and equipment discussed. The new construction of Shop B was looked at. The contractor is currently working on the installation of the new roof.

The inspection ended and it was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer