

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 9, 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Community Centre.

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: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 17 b) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

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

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. A Road Department update and roadwork in general was discussed. Mr. Johnson informed Council that they have most of the roads graded up for winter, the sand and salt mix is ready, the truck maintenance has been done and they just have to put the wings and plows on for the first snow fall. He will still be having the contractor do approximately five days of brushing along the sideroads. He has laid off the seasonal employee however, he is still on call for whenever needed.

The Equipment Report for 2020 was read.

A notification from Hydro One Forestry was read with regard to distribution line forestry maintenance taking place within the Township during the months of November and December this year. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that the map enclosed did not cover all the areas that they are working at within the Township.

A date for Union Negotiations was agreed upon and it was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET TO MEET WITH THE CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES LOCAL 87 TO NEGOTIATING A NEW UNION AGREEMENT FOR THE ROAD EMPLOYEES.**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020 AT 7 P.M.**

**THE MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE WITH THE CUPE NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDING VIRTUALLY.**

Carried

It was agreed by Council that item number 17a) on the agenda be moved forward to discuss with Mr. Johnson and it was

3. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**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**

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 9, 2020

**BOARD EMPLOYEES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(E) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.****TIME BEING: 7:15 P.M.**

Carried

A complaint letter received from a resident was discussed.

4. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**TIME BEING: 7:51 P.M.****THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried

Council asked the Clerk-Treasurer to send a response letter to the complainant, inviting them to attend a Council meeting if they would like to discuss the matter further.

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

The Administration and Roads Voucher to November 9, 2020 was reviewed and it was

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

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2020-19 DATED NOVEMBER 9, 2020 TOTALLING \$60,749.51 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to October 31, 2020 were reviewed.

A By-law to enter into an agreement for communication services for the O'Connor Fire Department and First Response Team was read and it was

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-18 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATION SERVICES BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Norfolk County regarding Illicit Cannabis Operations was filed.
- b) City of Belleville regarding Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and website funding support was filed.
- c) City of Hamilton regarding amending the AGCO Licensing and Application Process for Cannabis Retail Stores to Consider Radial Separation from Other Cannabis Locations was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Ministry of Finance regarding the 2021 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) municipal allocations. The Township will receive \$3,500 less than in 2020.
- b) Thunder Bay Court Services – 2019 Financial Statements, 2019 Reconciliation and 2020 Partial Payment. A partial payment for 2020 has been received.
- c) District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board – i) regarding 2021 Rent Freeze. The reduced rent revenue will leave non-profit housing providers with a lessened ability to cover operating cost increases in 2021, and as a result the shortfall will be passed on to member municipalities through their levy. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to enquire if this additional levy could be included as a COVID-19 expense for the COVID-19 funding provided by the Province.

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 9, 2020

- ii) Update from the Board – October 28, 2020.
- d) Superior North EMS regarding the third quarter levy for 2020. Additional pandemic costs are projected to total approximately \$649,500 for 2020 with at this point no additional funding has been announced. If no additional funding is received by the end of the year, they will be required to levy these costs to all the district municipalities.
- e) Chantelle Bryson letter offering Municipal Legal Services.
- f) AMCTO – Advocacy Update – Letter to the Government on Bill 218: Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020.
- g) Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks updating the Conservation Authorities Act.
- h) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) AMO President – regarding Proposed Transition schedule for your Blue Box program to the new Full Producer Responsibility regulation.
  - ii) AMO Policy Update – October 28, 2020 – COVID-19 Resiliency Stream Launch and New Funding to Fight Human Trafficking.
  - iii) AMO Policy Update – October 30, 2020 – 2021 OMPF Allocations and LTC Home Community Paramedicine Program.
  - iv) AMO Policy Update – November 2, 2020 – Standards of Care in Long-Term Care Homes.
  - v) AMO Policy Update – November 3, 2020 - COVID-19 Response Framework and AMO's Bill 218 Submission.
  - vi) AMO Policy Update – November 4, 2020 - Additional Funding for Broadband.
  - vii) AMO Policy Update – November 5, 2020 - 2020 Provincial Budget.
- i) Thunder Bay CDC and Northern Policy Institute – regarding results of the COVID-19 Business Impact Survey.

The balance of the correspondence was available for review.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) i) 2021 Virtual Conference January 25-26, 2021 – Conference and Registration information. Council discussed the virtual conference attendance and agreed to register one member of Council and setup the virtual conference for Council to attend in the Community Centre if COVID-19 restrictions allow. This way if anyone wants to attend a certain session and maybe not the entire conference they still can. All of the content for the conference will also be recorded and will be available for delegates to access following the conference. It was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE RURAL ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION VIRTUAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 25 – 26, 2020.**

**REGISTRATION: \$400.00 PLUS HST**

**COUNCILLOR WENDY HANDY**

Carried

- ii) Municipal Delegation requests for the ROMA conference were discussed. Council would like to request a virtual meeting with the Minister of Transportation with regard to the condition of Highway 595.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Ministry of Infrastructure regarding the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream: Local Government Intake Notification. The Township of O'Connor's allocation is \$100,000.00 for this new stream. The federal government will cover 80% of the total eligible costs associated with any approved project and the Ontario government will cover 20%. The total eligible costs for all submitted projects cannot exceed the municipalities allocation.
- b) Sheelagh Hendrick – letter regarding the Integrity Commissioner and Closed Meeting Investigator Contract. The Township of O'Connor's contract with Ms. Hendrick is

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 9, 2020

expiring on December 31, 2020 and she will not be reapplying for this position. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to reach out to Mr. Matson and Mr. Commisso, who were also appointed to these positions for the Township to see if they are still interested in the position for a new term.

- c) The Township of O'Connor's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2016 – 2020 was reviewed. No comments were received from the residents. Several changes will be made to update the Plan and it will be brought back to Council for approval.

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

- a) Marcus Powlowski, MP regarding Universal Broadband Fund. This funding will help improve high-speed internet access and mobile connectivity across Canada, including the communities here in the Thunder Bay – Rainy River District. The government is also committing to secure low-earth-orbit satellite capacity through Telesat, in order to provide high-speed internet to the most rural and remote parts of Canada.
- b) AMO Policy Update November 9, 2020 regarding the \$1.75 Billion Announced for Broadband Across Canada.
- c) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) – COVID-19 Update to Member Municipalities.

For information not building permits were approved since the last meeting.

Councillor Racicot left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

It was

8. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by A. Crane

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS, PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.**

**TIME BEING: 8:35 P.M.**

Carried

The CUPE Union Proposal and the Management Submission were reviewed.

9. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**TIME BEING: 9:11 P.M.**

**THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried

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

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE MECG MEETING TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 16, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE IF SITUATION DUE TO COVID-19 REMAINS SAFE.**

**TIME BEING: 9:12 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer