

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 22, 2021

Minutes of the Council meeting held on November 22, 2021 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Community Centre and virtually.

Present: Mayor Vezina (Virtually)
Councillors: Crane, Handy, Loan
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot, Administrative Assistant Erin Laforest

Absent: Councillor Racicot

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas, Stephen Wiebe

As Mayor Vezina was attending virtually he asked to have the Acting Mayor chair the meeting. Acting Mayor Loan called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

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

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mr. Stephen Wiebe was asked if he wished to address Council and he replied no.

Fire Chief Henry Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read and no comments were made.

Under Fire Department Issues, Fire Chief Mattas informed Council that he has removed four names from the roster as they have not been attending training. He also indicated that Ms. Gayle Poohachoff has retired from the O'Connor Fire Department Auxiliary.

Fire Chief Mattas discussed the Who's Responding application that is used to page out fire and first response members to emergencies. Chief Mattas gave Council a background on the E-Dispatch application which was previously used by the Thunder Bay Area Zone 1 Mutual Aid Association fire departments, including our department. The application was offered through the Zone for better pricing, however, the Zone decided to start using the Who's Responding application and E-Dispatch was dropped. Out of the fourteen fire departments that are part of Zone 1, only the City of Thunder Bay and the Township of O'Connor are not using the new application.

Fire Chief Mattas pointed out the cost of the application would be approximately \$600.00 a year and had some concerns, however he indicated that it would be up to Council if they want to proceed.

Council discussed the benefits of the Who's Responding application and it was:

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

THAT COUNCIL AGREE THAT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATE IN THE WHO'S RESPONDING DISPATCH SYSTEM APPLICATION ORGANIZED BY THE THUNDER BAY ZONE ONE MUTUAL AID.

Carried.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for November 22, 2021 was reviewed and it was

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2021-20 DATED NOVEMBER 22, 2021 TOTALLING \$44,202.31 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to October 31, 2021 were reviewed.

By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

- a) By-Law Number 2021-16 being a By-law to amend By-Law 2020-24, to govern the proceedings of Council and Committees was reviewed and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2021-16 BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW 2020-24 TO GOVERN THE PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- b) By-Law Number 2021-17 being a By-Law to establish an Emergency Management Program and repeal By-Law 2021-04 was reviewed and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2021-17 BEING A BY-LAW TO ESTABLISH AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, THE ENVIRONMENT, THE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROPERTY, AND TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC STABILITY AND A DISASTER-RESILIENT COMMUNITY AND TO REPEAL BY-LAW 2021-04 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- c) By-Law Number 2021-18 being a By-Law to accept the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan was reviewed and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2021-18 BEING A BY-LAW TO ACCEPT THE MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AND TO REPEAL BY-LAW 2016-16 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- d) Policy for COVID-19 Antigen Testing was reviewed and it was

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

THAT THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S POLICY FOR COVID-19 RAPID ANTIGEN TESTING APPROVED AT THE NOVEMBER 8, 2021 MEETING BE RESCINDED AND REPLACED WITH THE NEW POLICY, PROPERTY NUMBERED AS POLICY 4.30.

Carried

- e) Policy for Pandemic Risk Management and Prevention – Community Centre was reviewed and it was

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

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THAT THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S POLICY FOR PANDEMIC RISK MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION FOR THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE BE AMENDED TO ADD REFERENCE TO POLICY 4.29 – COVID-19 VACCINATION PUBLIC POLICY IN SECTIONS 6.1, 6.2 AND 7.3, TO ADD REFERENCE TO THE COVID-19 – PROOF OF VACCINATION FORM IN APPENDIX "A", SUPERVISOR AND LESSEE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND INCLUDE THE COVID-19 – PROOF OF VACCINATION FORM IN APPENDIX "C".

Carried

f) Policy for Pandemic Risk Management and Prevention was reviewed and it was

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

THAT THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S POLICY FOR PANDEMIC RISK MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION BE AMENDED TO UPDATE SECTION 8 TO INCLUDE POLICY 4.30 – COVID-19 RAPID ANTIGEN TESTING AS A SUPPORTING DOCUMENT, REPLACE APPENDIX "B" – COVID-19 WORKER SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE, ADD APPENDIX "C" – COVID-19 VISITOR SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE BE APPROVED AND THAT THE RESOLUTION #6, NOVEMBER 8, 2021 BE RESCINDED.

Carried

g) By-Law Number 2021-19 being a By-Law authorizing the execution of a Conditional Contribution Agreement with the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation was reviewed and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2021-19 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND CORPORATION, A CORPORATION EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF ONTARIO ("NOHFC") AND THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR FOR THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM NOHFC TO HIRE AN INTERN TO FILL THE POSITION OF EQUIPMENT OPERATOR #1 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for Endorsement were read as follows:

a) Municipality of Mattice-Val Cote urging the government of Ontario to reconsider its decision and to direct the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) to proceed with a province-wide assessment update and it was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY MATTICE-VAL COTE URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO CONTINUE POSTPONEMENT OF THE PROVINCIAL-WIDE ASSESSMENT UPDATE FOR THE 2022 AND 2023 TAXATION YEARS AND TO DIRECT MPAC TO PROCEED WITH A PROVINCE-WIDE ASSESSMENT UPDATE IN ORDER FOR ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES TO BE ABLE TO COLLECT PROPERTY TAXES BASED UPON ACTUAL PROPERTY VALUES BE ENDORSED.

Carried

b) Township of Lake of Bays requesting additional COVID-19 Funding and it was

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

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THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS SUPPORTING THE SIMCOE MUSKOKA DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT'S REQUEST TO THE HONOURABLE CHRISTINE ELLIOTT, MINISTER OF HEALTH FOR ADDITIONAL COVID-19 FUNDING BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- c) Township of Lakes of the Bays requesting support for Federal and Provincial funding of rural infrastructure projects, and it was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS SUPPORTING THE TOWNSHIP OF ADELAIDE METCALFE'S REQUEST FOR THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE MORE FUNDING TO RURAL MUNICIPALITIES TO SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS RELATED TO MAJOR BRIDGE AND CULVERT REPLACEMENTS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- d) Municipality of Chatham-Kent supporting the resolution from Huron County to establish a "Huron County Homelessness Task Force and for the Provincial and Federal governments to identify homelessness as a Provincial and National crisis and it was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT REQUESTING THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO IDENTIFY HOMELESSNESS AS A "PROVINCIAL" AND "NATIONAL CRISIS" ACROSS THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO AND CANADA AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE LACK OF RESOURCES TO SUPPORT ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS TO BE A LEADING CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- e) Municipality of Chatham-Kent supporting the resolution from the Council of Kitchener regarding the Vaccine Passport Program and urging the Province to provide financial supports for businesses to cover capital and human resource costs and it was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT URGING THE PROVINCE TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR BUSINESSES TO COVER CAPITAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE COSTS NECESSARY TO EXECUTE THE VACCINE PASSPORT PROGRAM DEVELOPED BY THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- f) Municipality of Chatham-Kent supporting the resolution from the Council of Kitchener regarding Renovictions and it was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT LOBBYING THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO TO TAKE ADDITIONAL AND MEANINGFUL STEPS TO ADDRESS THE EVER-INCREASING PROBLEM OF "RENOVICTIONS" AND URGING ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO COLLABORATE IN DATA SHARING AND COLLECTION RELATED TO RENOVATIONS, SPECIFICALLY THE IMPACTS OF RENOVATIONS OF TENANCY BE ENDORSED.

Carried

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- g) Corporation of the Town of LaSalle regarding COVID-19 testing requirement at land border was filed.
- h) The Township of Alnwick Haldmand support resolution endorsing the National Teen Driver Safety Week and requesting the Ministry of Transportation to review measures impacting newly licensed drivers was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Prime Minister e-mail acknowledging receipt of Council's letter supporting the resolution of Municipality of Chatham-Kent regarding access to affordable internet.
- b) OMERS i) Stakeholder Relations e-mail regarding OMER's Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) Exposure Draft proposing to revise the accounting standards for employee benefits.
ii) OMERS Bulletin – November 15, 2021 including important information in response to letters that have been sent to municipal Councils by CUPE Ontario regarding OMERS investment performance.
- c) IESO Engagement regarding Northwest Electricity Planning Discussion on November 18, 2021 regarding emerging local initiatives and how they pertain to the Northwest region's future electricity needs.
- d) Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO) regarding upcoming New Councillor and New Head of Council Training. No member of Council is interested at this time.
- e) Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) regarding 2022 Good Roads Conference and Concurrent Sessions. Council was reminded that the conference agenda and registration will be discussed later on the Agenda.
- f) Thunder Bay District Health Unit Media Release regarding COVID-19 outbreak declared at St. Martin Elementary School.
- g) Ontario Human Rights Commission regarding the release of the Policy statement on human rights in COVID-19 recovery planning.
- h) Municipal World regarding the upcoming Municipal Master Class session – Orientation to Good Governance.
- i) Municipal Finance Officers' Association (MFOA) updates including MFOA's response to PSAB's Exposure Draft on Employment Benefits.
- j) City of Thunder Bay regarding 2020 Financial Statements, 2020 Reconciliation and the 2021 Partial Payment for Thunder Bay Court Services. The Township has received \$1,638.00 which represents 75 percent of 2021 revenues less 2020 revenue shortfalls of \$435.00.
- k) Sun Life Major Contract Update regarding the amended termination provision effective May 1, 2022 for insured contracts.
- l) Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council's resolution supporting the Municipality of Mattice-Val Cote's resolution regarding concerns with the continued postponement of property assessments.

Balance of correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business Council discussed;

- a) Mr. Brent Dennhardt's official notice of retirement was read.
- b) Hiring of Mr. Eugene Payette as the Intern Equipment Operator #1 and it was

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

THAT EUGENE PAYETTE BE HIRED AS AN INTERN EQUIPMENT OPERATOR #1 UNDER THE NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND CORPORATION (NOHFC), PEOPLE AND TALENT PROGRAM, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STREAM.

Carried

Under Further Old Business Councillor Crane informed Council that, Ms. Judith Monteith-Farrell, MPP has contacted him to update us on the situation with optometrists not doing eye exams on children and seniors that would be covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP). She informed Councillor Crane that they will start doing OHIP covered eye exams again.

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Administrative Assistant Erin Laforest presented Council with information on COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Screening Testing. Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce has offered a Rapid Antigen Testing for COVID-19 program that the Township is participating in. Council was asked if they wished to participate in the voluntary program.

Under new business Council discussed:

- a) Invitation from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) to join the upcoming online Annual Billing Overview Webinar. Council was informed that the Clerk-Treasurer has been registered for the webinar.
- b) Ontario Good Roads Association 2022 Conference registration was discussed. Leadhand Kelly Johnson has been asked if wished to participate in next year's conference and declined. No one from Council will be attending either.

Under further new business, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer indicated that she had been contacted by friends of the family of Stefan Derech regarding having a memorial bench placed in the O'Connor Cemetery. There is an area in the cemetery that is reserved for trees and is close to the plot where Mr. Derech will be interred. Council agreed that a bench can be placed in that area.

Mayor Vezina informed Council that he will be unable to attend the Emergency Tabletop Exercise to be held on Monday, November 29, 2021.

Under issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed were discussed;

- a) E-mail from Ms. Nancy Kutas, Ministry of Finance requesting a meeting with the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition to discuss their concerns about the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) that was brought to the AMO Conference this summer. Mayor Vezina will attend and if he cannot make it Councillor Handy will take his place.
- b) Minutes of the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition minutes from the October 19, 2021 meeting were read.

- 19. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY DECEMBER 6, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE, IF CONDITIONS WITH COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ALLOW.

TIME BEING: 8:47 P.M .

Carried

Mayor

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer