

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – OCTOBER 12, 2021

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, October 12, 2021 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Community Centre and virtually.

Present: Mayor Vezina  
 Councillors: Crane, Handy, Loan, Racicot  
 Clerk-Treasurer Buob  
 Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot  
 Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand  
 Paul LeBeouf, Margaret Foster, Joyce Posthumus  
 Erin Laforest, Administrative Assistant - Virtually

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Moved by Jerry Loan  
 Seconded by W. Handy

**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 Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 AND THE NOTES FROM THE TOWNSHIP INSPECTION HELD ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

All visitors were asked if they wished to address Council for anything other than what is on the agenda and they replied no.

Ms. Foster and Ms. Posthumus were welcomed to the meeting. Introductions were made. They have asked to address Council with regard to jointly sharing the Dog Control Officer position, as per their letter received at the September 13, 2021 Council meeting.

Ms. Foster explained her experience with dogs running at large and inquired as to what the position entailed. She noted that she is also currently working with a dog rescue program. Both Ms. Foster and Ms. Posthumus have kennels to house a dog for short periods, if required. They asked how the expenses would be covered if they are required to house a dog and were told that the Township would be responsible for covering the costs. Ms. Foster noted that she may be able to get a sponsor for the food. They were informed that records will have to be kept for all calls and that there is a voluntary Dog Registry available in the office, for reference if required. It is the Township's hope that the dog can be returned to its owner as soon as possible. It was noted that this position does not include administering fines for the Dogs Running at Large, as the Township has a By-law Enforcement Officer who would be responsible at that stage. It was confirmed that only one person would attend each call unless the situation warrants both of them to attend. Ms. Foster asked if they would also be responsible for cats and she was told that currently the Township does not have any municipal responsibility over cats and if they were to deal with them it would be on their own time. It was confirmed that Ms. Foster's phone number will be the number advertised in the newsletter and provided by the Township if a call is made to the office. A By-law will have to be drafted for the appointments to the position and it will be brought back to the next meeting for approval if Council are in agreement of the hiring. A copy of the current By-law and Policy will be provided to each of them. It was also noted that the current Dog Running at Large By-law is under review. The Clerk-Treasurer will follow up with any further details or questions with regard to the position with both Ms. Foster and Ms. Posthumus. Council thanked them both for attending and they left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table.

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Roadwork in general was discussed. New culverts are being installed in the road system as per the budget, with one more to install tomorrow. The preparation for the new generator for the Municipal office will be done soon. Council then discussed if they would be willing to accept the Briggs & Stratton generator and move forward with the installation before winter or wait until January 2022 or later for a Kohler. Council discussed the specs and agreed to move forward with the Briggs & Stratton, which includes an additional year warranty. Mr. Johnson will forward this information on to Gilbert Electric, the successful bidder on the project. Mr. Johnson will be bringing in KAK Contracting to do work at the Disposal Site, as well as brushing in the near future. More grading of the road system is also taking place and one mile of Strom Road is still scheduled to be graveled this year. The Road crew will also be getting equipment ready for winter.

Council informed Mr. Johnson that the culvert at the intersection of Highway 590 and Loghrin Road is again crushed on the ends. Mr. Johnson will pass this on to the Ministry of Transportation.

The programing for the speed sign purchased in 2020 was installed and the sign was temporarily placed on Garbutt Road. This sign will also do traffic counts for the Township. It was noted that it will require a stand or a post which will have to be put into the ground, requiring a line locate each time it is moved.

Mr. LeBeouf left the meeting for a short time during Mr. Johnson's discussion and returned at 7:45 p.m.

The purchase of winter sand from the Township of Conmee was discussed. The sand and salt will be mixed up at the end of the month. Mr. Johnson reminded Council that they will be purchasing a two-year supply of sand and salt mix this year and a tarp will be purchased to cover the stockpile.

The recent construction and resurfacing of Highway 595 was discussed. Mr. Johnson and Council are concerned with the final condition of the Highway. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact Ms. Seeley and Mr. Caldwell from the Ministry of Transportation and request that they come back to Council to discuss the project. Mayor Vezina will also get further information on the rural municipal highway standards.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending the meeting and he left at 8:02 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for October 12, 2021 was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2021-17 DATED OCTOBER 12, 2021 TALLING \$100,032.53 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to September 30, 2021 were reviewed with no questions from Council.

By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

- a) Draft By-law #2021-14, the new Cemetery By-law was once again reviewed and discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer pointed out a few additional changes made after the draft was included in their package. Council agreed with the changes and it was

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2021-14 BEING A BY-LAW TO ESTABLISH MAINTENANCE, MANAGEMENT, REGULATION, AND CONTROL OF THE O'CONNOR CEMETERY AND TO REPEAL BY-LAW NUMBER 2014-06 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

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- b) Policy for Administrative Benefits and Wage Review was amended to include the National Truth and Reconciliation Day as was discussed at the last meeting. It was
5. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE POLICY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE BENEFITS AND WAGE REVIEW BE AMENDED TO ADD NATIONAL TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY AS A PAID HOLIDAY FOR FULL-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF.**

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Municipality of Shuniah regarding 988 Suicide and Crisis Hotline.  
b) Municipality of Shuniah supporting resolution regarding a motion M-84 Anti-Hate Crimes and Incidents and Private Member's Bill – C313 Banning Symbols of Hate Act.  
c) Township of Alnwick/Haldimand regarding Lottery Licensing to Assist Small Organizations.

The Clerk-Treasurer noted that in her absence during the preparation of the agenda, staff were unaware that all three of the original resolutions have been previously endorsed by Council and they were all therefore filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Association of Municipalities (AMO) i) AMO Policy Update – Queens Park News – Speech from the Throne Highlights and More.  
ii) AMO Policy Update – Increased Staffing in Long-Term Care & Red Tape Reduction Bill.  
iii) Policy Update – October 12, 2021 – Phase I Regulations of Conservation Authorities Act Released.  
b) Municipal Policing Bureau Financial Services Team regarding the 2022 Annual Billing Statement. The package also includes the 2020 cost reconciliation.  
c) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the Expiry of Temporary Regulation (130/20 and 131/20) Limiting Municipal Authority to Regulate Construction Noise.  
d) Mosey & Mosey – Employee Group Benefit Plan Renewal Projection for November 1, 2021.  
e) HATCH Infrastructure regarding the Notice of Study – Kaministiquia River Bridge Rehabilitation. The bridges are located on Highway 588, 1.56 km and 1.7 km south of Highway 11/17. The purpose of the notice is to introduce the study and invite comments or concerns with regard to the proposed work. No comments will be made.  
f) Vance White, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of National Defence regarding National Veterans' Week Speakers Program.  
g) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding Regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act. Three new regulations have been made under the Act.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Municipality of Shuniah regarding the Thunder Bay OPP Detachment Board Framework finalized Proposal. Mr. Greenwood, CAO, has submitted the document to the Solicitor General on behalf of all the Municipalities and the First Nations within the OPP Detachment.

Under further Old Business, Mayor Vezina updated Council on his appointment to the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and thanked Council for their support in regard to this appointment. He will hold the position on the Board until the next Annual General Meeting in 2022. He also noted that the Board is currently working on a Strategic Plan and will be looking for input from the municipalities.

Mayor Vezina reported that the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) is also taking nominations for the recent vacancy and this appointment will be until 2023.

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Mayor Vezina's name has also been submitted for this position, along with Mayor Kloosterhuis of Oliver Paipoonge.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Chamber of Commerce – Antigen Testing Kits made available to small businesses. These tests have been made available to businesses with under 150 employees and free refills are available until March 2022 at this time. The Township is eligible to receive the tests for use by staff or volunteers if required. It is recommended that the tests be taken twice a week for any not declaring or non-vaccinated persons attending work. Council agreed that test be requested for the Township of O'Connor.
  - b) Ontario Association of Emergency Managers webinar regarding Collaboration: Connecting Emergency Management with Cyber. It was suggested the Administrative Assistant/Alternate CEMC, attend this webinar and it was
6. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE COLLABORATION: CONNECTING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WITH CYBER HOSTED BY THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS (OAEM) AND ADVANCING MUNICIPAL DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION (MISA ONTARIO) TO BE HELD OCTOBER 20, 2021 AT 9:30 A.M.**

**REGISTRATION: \$25.00  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT LAFOREST  
Carried**

- c) Rogers Communications Canada regarding a service territory and providing new leading edge fibre optic technology to customers throughout Ontario.

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

- a) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – NOMA Board Meeting Report for October 7, 2021. In an effort to increase communications between NOMA and the membership, reports will be received following each NOMA Board meeting to summarize the business discussed. This report also included some background on who NOMA is.
- b) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) – Launches its 2022 Virtual Conference to be held January 24 – 25, 2022. The early bird deadline for registration is November 1, 2021. Council will review their schedules and attendance to this conference will be discussed at the next meeting.
- c) Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) – 2022 Good Roads Conference to be held February 27 – March 2, 2022 in person in Toronto. The early bird registration deadline for this conference is January 21, 2022, so this item will therefore be brought back to Council in the new year.

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

It was

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

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE, IF CONDITIONS WITH COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ALLOW.**

**TIME BEING: 8:53 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer