

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – OCTOBER 13, 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, October 13, 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
Janice LeBoeuf

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none.

1. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Visitors were asked if they wished to address Council and they replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. He provided a Road Department update and discussed roadwork in general. The last gravel resurfacing job was completed last week. Due to the lateness of the year the calcium will not be put down until next year. They have also completed some contract jobs and installed culverts on Diana Road since the last meeting.

Councillor Handy asked Mr. Johnson for information and clarification of ownership with regard to the road and property at the end of Holomego Road, East, as she has had an enquiry from a resident which she will be bringing up under new business. Mr. Johnson confirmed that signage is posted that the road is not maintained beyond a certain point. There is crown land and private property abutting the unmaintained road.

The Health and Safety Report for September 21, 2020 was read. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that Ms. Laforest, Health and Safety Representative, has asked that she inform Council of two additional items on the Monthly Workplace Inspection Report that should have been signed off as completed, which are referred to as complete in the Health & Safety Report.

An email from Doug Morris, which was deferred from the last meeting, was discussed with Mr. Johnson. In the email Mr. Morris referred to an accident on Blaikie Road involving a gravel truck. Mr. Johnson confirmed that there was an incident and not an accident and he does not feel there is a trucking issue on Blaikie Road. This is the first incident that he is aware of involving a truck. There may be more truck traffic on Blaikie Road due to the weight restrictions on the Highway 588 bridge in Stanley, and trucks may be diverting this way to get to Highway 588. Council agreed no further action is required as per this concern.

The Township Inspection, scheduled for October 23, 2020 was discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer expressed her concern with COVID-19 and having staff and Council in close quarters in a vehicle for this inspection, with the cases currently rising. Our policy for Pandemic Risk Management was also noted. It was discussed further and Council agreed that the Inspection will be post-poned until the spring. Council asked Mr. Johnson to take pictures of recently completed projects or any items he would like to highlight to Council and bring them to the next meeting for review. Council was also encouraged to drive around the Township on their own if they want to see any particular project or concern, they may wish to discuss.

As item #17 - Closed Portion, involves Mr. Johnson, Council agreed to move this item up on the agenda and asked Ms. LeBoeuf if she could temporarily leave the meeting.

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She agreed and left the building and will be called back in when the meeting moves back to open.

2. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

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: 7:15 P.M.

Carried

Personal matters regarding employees of the Township were discussed with Council.

3. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Jerry Loan

TIME BEING: 7:46 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

Mr. Johnson, was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

Ms. LeBoeuf was welcomed back to the meeting.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for October 13, 2020 was reviewed and it was

4. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2020-17 DATED OCTOBER 13, 2020 TOTTALLING \$176,081.65 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to September 30, 2020 were reviewed. No questions arose.

Policies were reviewed as follows:

- a) The Policy for Workplace Harassment/Violence was reviewed. Copies of Schedule "B" Workplace Violence Hazard Assessment for employees from each of the Township employees were also reviewed. It was agreed by Council that no changes to the Policy were required at this time.

As per revisions to the Provincial regulation with regard to COVID-19, the following Policies were amended.

- b) A revised Policy for Mandatory Use of Mask or Face Covering was reviewed. It was

5. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S POLICY FOR MANDATORY USE OF MASK OR FACE COVERING APPROVED AT THE AUGUST 10, 2020 MEETING BE RESCINDED AND REPLACED WITH THE NEW POLICY, AS PER NEW PROVINCIAL AND THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT MANDATES.

Carried

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- c) The Pandemic Risk Management and Prevention Policy was amended and it was
6. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE PANDEMIC RISK MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION POLICY DATED AUGUST 10, 2020 BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:
PAGE 9 – 2ND BULLET TO READ “WEAR A NON-MEDICAL MASK AS REQUIRED PER THE PROVINCIAL AND THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT MANDATES” AND
PAGE 10 – 5TH BULLET TO READ “LIMIT OF ONE PERSON PER VEHICLE OR EQUIPMENT CAB. WHEN NOT FEASIBLE, WORKERS SHALL WEAR NON-MEDICAL MASKS WHILE IN THE VEHICLE”, AND THIS REVISED POLICY WILL BE ENTERED INTO THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S POLICY BOOK.**

Carried

- d) The Pandemic Risk Management and Prevention Policy – O'Connor Community Centre was amended and it was
7. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE PANDEMIC RISK MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION POLICY – O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE DATED AUGUST 10, 2020 BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:
PAGE 6 – THE LESSEES AND ANY VISITORS OF THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE SHALL – 5TH BULLET TO READ “FOLLOW SPECIFIC GUIDANCE FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL PRACTICES AND MEASURES AND PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR” AND
PAGE 8 – APPENDIX “B” – RENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC, STAGE 3 – ITEM 1 TO READ “PRIVATE FUNCTION EVENTS NOT TO EXCEED ALLOTTED PERSONS, AND ITEM 4 – MASKS MUST BE WORN UPON ENTERING THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, EXCEPT WHERE A PERSON IS EXEMPTED AS PER TOWNSHIP POLICY AND THIS REVISED POLICY WILL BE ENTERED INTO THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S POLICY BOOK.**

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of North Glengarry urging Ontario to allow capital expenditures under the Safe Restart Agreement and it was
8. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY URGING THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO TO ALLOW CAPITAL EXPENDITURES UNDER THE SAFE RESTART AGREEMENT BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- b) City of St. Catharines regarding calling on the Government of Ontario to amend Bill 197, COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020, to eliminate the development approval requirement provisions from adjacent municipalities and that the “host” municipality be empowered to render final approval for landfills within their jurisdiction was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) regarding Feedback, Complaints, and Service Inquiries from Community Members. The Board has implemented a Corporate Complaints Policy and Procedure to ensure

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a clear process exists by which elected officials may direct concerns or complaints received, and ensure a timely and appropriate response is provided.

- b) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) – i) regarding Safe Restart Agreement information on applying for additional funding under Phase 2 of the Municipal Operating Funding stream. It was agreed that the Township of O'Connor will not be applying for the Phase 2 funding.
- ii) regarding the Helping Tenants and Small Businesses Act, 2020. On October 1, 2020, the Act received Royal Assent and a freeze has been put on residential rent increases in 2021 to give a vast majority of Ontario tenants some relief and financial security as we recover from the pandemic.
- c) Solicitor General regarding the anti-racism initiatives and the Anti-Racism Directorate.
- d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) i) AMO Policy Update – September 29 – New Long-Term Care Funding, Measures, and Community Paramedicine to Address COVID-19.
- ii) AMO Policy Update – September 30 – COVID-19 Fall Plan, Modelling, Social Assistance Recovery, Food and Organic Waste, Pre-Budget Submissions.
- iii) AMO Policy Update – October 1 – Temporary PSW Support, Cybersecurity Resources and school & child care screening guidance.
- iv) AMO Policy Update – October 2 – Public Health Measures, Municipal Relief Phase 2 Funding, an Inspector General for Policing.
- v) AMO Policy Update – October 7 – Main Street Recovery Plan & Increased Mental Health Services, Economic Recovery Legislation, Firefighter Safety, Child Care.
- vi) AMO Policy Update – October 9, 2020 – Modified Stage 2 Restrictions for High Risk Areas, Caution for Rest of the Province, Support for Small Business.
- e) Township of Wasaga Beach – copy of letter to the Premier of Ontario regarding a recent unauthorized car rally held in Wasaga Beach.
- f) Township of Lake of Bays – copy of letter to the Premier of Ontario regarding a reform to the Municipal Insurance Policy.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) The Municipality of Neebing's email, with regard to an updated email from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and information with regard to the OPP Section 10 Contract with the Lakehead Group. It has been confirmed that the Board name can remain the same at the end of the year when the Township of Gillies leaves the Group. There is a one year termination notice required to dissolve the contract. The current contract expires December 31, 2021. As the Township of Conmee, also in the Group, is currently in talks with the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge to amalgamate, and Oliver Paipoonge has a contract with the City of Thunder Bay for policing services, it is unknown what the Township of Conmee will do for their services if the amalgamation does move forward. It was agreed to continue moving forward with the Group as is at this time.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Ontario Provincial Police – Municipal Policing Bureau regarding the 2021 OPP Annual Billing Statement package. The package contains a 2019 reconciliation statement and a 2021 cost estimate. The 2021 billing has been adjusted accordingly and the Township of O'Connor's levy for 2021 will be \$74,980.
- b) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) letter regarding their transition to their "Plan Review - Fee for Service". Effective January 1, 2021 the LRCA will be transitioning to this associated fee to reduce required municipal levy to administer the delegated core mandated program. The applicant will be charged based on the type of Planning application. The LRCA is also requesting that the fee for service be collected by the municipalities at the time of application and then remitted to the LRCA. A memorandum of Understanding, outlining each organization's role in the Plan would have to be signed. The LRCA's Chief Administrative Officer will be contacting the Clerk-Treasurer in this regard. Council do not have any issues with this new fee at this time.
- c) Fire Marshal's Communique – Staffing Levels and Firefighter Safety. Council asked that this item be deferred to discuss further with the Fire Chief at the next meeting.

Under further New Business, Council Loan informed Council that he has spoken with the Chair of the Lakehead Police Services Board with regard to the letter received from

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the Township of Gillies and them not being willing to pay their 2020 levy to the Board and requesting a refund for their 2019 payment. These concerns will be discussed further at the Board meeting to be held on Wednesday night, October 14, 2020. He also noted that Mr. John Sobolta will be in attendance at the meeting to listen only and on January 1, 2021 he will be appointed to the Board. Councillor Loan will update Council at the next meeting on further discussions following the meeting.

Councillor Handy informed Council that she has received a call from a resident who is concerned with hunters in the area of Holomego Road. They are leaving carcasses and their dogs are bringing them back into their yard. It was agreed to have the resident contact the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry with any hunting concerns.

Mayor Vezina apologized for missing a meeting with the Minister of Finance with regard to the Provincial budget earlier today. He is sure that the other Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) member municipalities would have expressed his same concerns with regard to the Provincially mandated programs.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed:

a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – Minutes from August 4, 2020 meeting.

It was noted that the Highspeed funding application has made it to the second stage, however, no one has contacted any of the municipalities for additional information at this time. Also, no Federal funding has been announced, which would be required to move forward.

For information purposes Building permits were approved as follows: 944 Hwy 588 - new barn, 265 Blaikie Road – new garage and shed, 224 Cronk Road – new garage, 38 Flint Road – permit extension.

As the Closed Portion of the meeting was already discussed, it was

9. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded Bishop Racicot

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 26, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE IF SITUATION DUE TO COVID-19 REMAINS SAFE.

TIME BEING: 8:45 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer