

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – OCTOBER 15, 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on October 15, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Handy, Loan, Racicot
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Paul LeBoeuf, Janice LeBoeuf

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 items 9a), 13 c) & d) and 14 c) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mayor Vezina asked the visitors if they wished to address Council and they replied no.

Mr. Johnson was unavailable to attend the meeting due to a conflict with the North of Superior Public Works Association meeting. As the Township Inspection will be held on October 18th any questions or issues Council may have with regard to the roads can be discussed with him at this meeting.

The Administration and Roads Voucher to October 15, 2019 was reviewed and it was

2. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER 2019-13 DATED OCTOBER 15, 2019 TOTTALLING \$62,167.10 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to September 30, 2019 were unavailable.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

A spreadsheet with the financial impact of an employee recognition policy was reviewed. The spreadsheet provided the expense to the Township, with years of service for each employee, retro to 2019, and eight additional years moving forward, if all employees remained the same. It was agreed that both full-time and part-time employees would receive the same recognition. Retirement recognition options were also discussed, and it was agreed to include in the policy that it be at Council's discretion. A presentation of Years of Services certificates to the employees, as well as the volunteer Fire Department members will be included in this policy. A full policy will be drafted for Council's review and approval.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

Resolutions for endorsement were reviewed as follows:

- a) Municipality of East Ferris with regard to child care services throughout conferences was filed.
- b) Town of The Blue Mountains with regard to Integrity Commission Matters was filed.
- c) Town of Penetanguishene with regard to municipal amalgamation. The resolution requests that the Provincial Government, before forcing amalgamation in any of the 444 municipalities in Ontario, hold a local referendum letting the citizens decide; conduct an evidence-based study showing savings; allow those municipalities to work out local collaborative agreements; ensure that there is no conflict of interest in the consultative process; and emphasize the political reality of forcing amalgamation on the many rural and northern municipalities across Ontario and it was

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3. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF PENETANGUISHENE WITH REGARD TO MUNICIPAL AMALGAMATION BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- d) Township of North Glengarry recommending changes to the Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline and it was

4. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY PROPOSING CHANGES TO THE PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW GUIDELINE BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) – Minutes of the Board Meeting September 14, 2019. Council asked Councillor Loan, as the Township of O'Connor's representative, questions with regard to the upcoming Conference. Plastics at landfill will be the main topic at the conference. Speakers for the conference are coming together. Due to the Federal Election only being days before the conference they are not sure as to whether or not the MP's will be attending.
- b) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – i) OPP Municipal Policing 2020 Annual Billing Statement package. The 2020 OPP billing for the Township of O'Connor will be \$75,577. The cost per property charges is \$252.77 each. It was noted that the calls for service for the Township of O'Connor increased significantly from mid 30's for the previous 3 years to 50 calls in 2018. The calls for service count is averaged, based on the previous 4 years, and this number is used to determine the estimated calls for the service charge.
ii) October 2019 Newsletter. Council would like to see information with regard to the new distractive driving penalties and data regarding seat belt deaths included in the next issue of the Cornerstone. The newsletter also included information with regard to the OPP participating in the dedication service of the 52nd battalion monument. Mayor Vezina also participated and Council would like to invite the residents of O'Connor to visit the monument.
- c) Mosey & Mosey regarding Employee Group Benefit Plan Renewal Protection for November 1, 2019. The Township of O'Connor's overall change effective November 1st will be a reduction of 10.4%.
- d) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) – regarding the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Food Security Fund (CHPI). It was noted that the Rural Cupboard Food Bank will be eligible to apply for this funding.
- e) Stewardship Ontario – Industry Funding for Municipal Blue Box Recycling - Second Quarter of 2019 program year. The Township's payment for this installment was \$995.59.
- f) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) i) AMO Board Highlights and Policy Items You Need to Know
ii) AMO submits report to Attorney General on liability and insurance cost reforms
iii) Province Appoints Advisor for Public Health and Emergency Health Services Consultations
- g) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding Building Code Services Transformation. It was noted that there are no open house sessions being held in Northwestern Ontario. It was suggested that Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) request a session. This will be brought to the President's attention.
- h) Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and Humane Society offering continued support to municipalities for law enforcement services. The Society has made the decision to not renew their contract with the Province of Ontario to enforce their animal welfare legislation.
- i) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Notice: Proposed changes to the Aggregate Resources Act
- j) Ontario Human Rights Commission – regarding Launch of Right to Read public inquiry. Eight School Boards have been selected to provide a representative sample of boards across Ontario and the Lakehead District School Board has been chosen as one of the boards.
- k) Township of Springwater regarding Joint and Several Liability Consultation information. They have requested that this information be distributed to Council.
- l) Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) reply to Council's endorsed resolution with regard to Bill C-68 – and the Fisheries Act.
- m) Township of Tarbutt – regarding support for the Municipality of Neebing's resolution about financial compensation to municipalities with property under the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program.

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The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) The City of Thunder Bay's Council meeting held on October 7, 2019 with regard to their draft truck route by-law. Councillor Racicot attended the meeting in support of the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC). A concern came forward with regard to a possible pecuniary interest for any City of Thunder Bay Council member who own their own business, as the decision could possibly influence the cost of delivery to their business. It was recommended by the Integrity Commissioner that they declare a conflict. The By-law was once again deferred.
- b) The Giant Heart Blessing Box, to be located at the O'Connor Community Centre, was discussed. It was confirmed that Hydro One will be making a donation towards this box and the payment will be made directly to the Giant Heart organization. The box will be located on the North side of the Community Centre.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- c) The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing 2019 Planning Workshop was discussed and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES OFFICE-NORTH ANNUAL PLANNING WORKSHOP TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 23, 2019 IN THUNDER BAY.

REGISTRATION: N/C

**COUNCILLOR CRANE
COUNCILLOR RACICOT
ERIN LAFOREST ADMIN ASSISTANT**

Carried

- d) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing 2019 Northern Treasurer's Forum attendance was discussed and it was

- 6. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE TREASURERS' FORUM TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON OCTOBER 24, 2019.

**LORNA BUOB, CLERK-TREASURER
LINDA RACICOT, DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER
ERIN LAFOREST, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

REGISTRATION: N/C

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- e) Municipality of Neebing's Administrative Report with regard to the Ontario Consultation on the Provincial Policy Statement was read. Council agreed to submit a letter of support to the Ministry for the Municipality's comments. The deadline for comments is October 21, 2019.
- f) At the September 9, 2019 Council meeting it was suggested that the Township of O'Connor become a Sister Municipality with Gander, Newfoundland. Information with regard to Sister Cities was provided to Council including the history of why and with who these partnerships were made. The two municipalities do not have similar industry or business connections, nor are they similar in size or population so it was agreed to not move forward with this suggestion.

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- g) At the September 9, 2019 Council meeting, a suggestion with regard to holding only one Council meeting during the month of December was discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer was asked to provide information with regard to the previous December meetings. Information was provided as to the length of the length of these meetings for the past four years, including the number of deputations. It was agreed that the Procedural By-law will not change in this regard for 2019 meetings, however Council will again discuss the matter in January 2020.

Under further Old Business, Council asked about the speed indicator sign on Cronk Road. The traffic reports will be made available at the Township Inspection, October 18, 2019.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) The Lakehead Police Services Board – resignation of one of the members. This matter will be discussed at the next Board meeting.
- b) The Township of Gillies – Copy of the letter to the Chair of the Lakehead Police Services Board. The Township of Gillies has given notice that as of December 31, 2020 they wish to terminate its membership to the Board. It was noted that if Gillies does terminate, the Board would no longer exist with the remaining three Municipalities as they must be adjoining.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- c) OMERS – e-Access Employer Workshop. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERON/S ATTEND THE OMERS – E-ACCESS EMPLOYER WORKSHOP TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 11, 2019 IN THUNDER BAY.

REGISTRATION: N/C

DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- d) Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy request for funding for 2020. Council will discuss this request further during Budget discussion in 2020.

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

- a) The purchase of a new truck for the Road Department Leadhand. Mr. Johnson has found a 2017 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD 4 x 4 Crew cab truck with an 8' box that he would like to purchase. The sale price is close to what was budgeted in the 2019 budget. Council was asked if they wished to proceed with a loan for the purchase as was budgeted and if so for what term or take some monies from the Road Equipment Reserve. Council agreed to get a 36-month term loan for the purchase without taking any funds out of the reserve.
- b) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) – Request for Nominations for the Board of Directors for the newly created Zone 10. The position will be elected at the 2020 ROMA Annual Conference. It was noted that Mayor Holland from the Township of Conmee will be putting his name forward. No one from the Township of O'Connor Council will put their name forward.
- c) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC), Rosalie Evans requesting agenda items to be discussed with the Ministry of Transportation during the upcoming annually meeting with the LRMC Municipalities. Council would like to ask if there is any planned maintenance for Highway 595, including roadside right-of-way clearing as per the 1970 standard.

Council was reminded of the Township Inspection scheduled for Friday, October 18, 2019 and it was

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8. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE TOWNSHIP INSPECTION TO BE
HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2019 AT 8:30 A.M.**

TIME BEING: 8:44 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer