

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – OCTOBER 15, 2024

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Sobolta, Torkkeli
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Road Superintendent

Absent: Councillor Rea

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

1. Moved by J. Sobolta
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 J. Sobolta
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE NOTES FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 AND THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mr. Johnson was asked if he wished to address Council on any personal matters and he replied, no.

Mr. Johnson, Road Superintendent, was welcomed to the table. A Road Department update and roadwork in general was discussed. Two more culverts will be installed on Connolly Road and ditching on Garbutt Road will be done this year once the Township receives approval for the line locates from Ontario One Call. The Road Department employees have been doing Disposal Site cleanup and equipment repairs, preparing for winter. The new generator should be connected in the next couple of weeks, as soon as the electrician is available. The older backup diesel generator was discussed. As it is no longer needed by the Township, it was agreed to declare it surplus and sell it. It was

3. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HEREBY DECLARES THE 25KW GENERATOR WITH DEUTZ 4 CYCLINDER ENGINE, MODEL F4L92 SURPLUS. THE GENERATOR WILL BE PUT UP FOR SALE.

Carried

The North of Superior Public Works Association meeting to be held on October 16, 2024, was discussed. Mr. Johnson has not confirmed his availability to attend. Council agreed that if he was available, they would approve his attendance.

The Clerk-Treasurer provided an update regarding the garbage compactor insurance claim. Intact Insurance has made an offer of settlement; however, the broker does not believe it to be a fair settlement and has contacted a Claims Advocacy on the Township's behalf.

Mr. Johnson noted that he will be hauling the burnt compactor, as well as the spare parts compactor, also located at the Disposal Site, to the scrap yard.

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An email from the Disposal Site Caretaker, expressing her concerns that some resident contractors may be bringing demolition trash from their job sites from outside of the Township, was read. These trailers are not being sorted properly and they are throwing everything into the garbage hole, rather than recycling.

She also addressed her concern about not having a compactor, as space is filling up quickly in the hole and the bears seem to make a bigger mess ripping open the bags.

Council discussed the issues and would like to have a Disposal Site Permit blitz for two Saturdays in November to make sure that only residents are attending the site, as well as to confirm that the garbage is only being generated in the Township of O'Connor. A blitz will also identify how many residents do not have a permit. For those who don't have one and are confirmed residents, they can be directed to the Township Office to purchase a replacement permit. Regarding the issue with trailers, Council would like to have signage posted that all trailers must see Attendant prior to dumping. This will allow the Attendant to identify and keep track of who is dumping trailers and ensure that the products are sorted properly. It will also identify if anyone continues to bring in possible contract work from outside the Township. If the attendants have any issues with compliance, they will be asked to attempt to get a picture or licence plate number of the vehicle for future reference.

This updated information will be included in the next issues of the Cornerstone.

Mr. Johnson was asked about the shouldering of driveways on Loghrin Road following the paving of the road. Mr. Johnson noted that the driveways have been shouldered, however some may need additional work next year. Funding has run out for this year.

A copy of the Structural Inspection for the Township's three bridges and two culverts, just completed, was made available for review.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for October 15, 2024, was reviewed and it was

4. Moved by C. Torkkeli
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2024-17 DATED OCTOBER 15, 2024 TALLING \$76,919.65 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Revenue and Expenditures to August 31, 2024, were unavailable.

A By-law to Appoint the Deputy Treasurer was reviewed, and it was

5. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2024-28 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT A DEPUTY TREASURER BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) regarding the future of Billy Bishop Airport in Toronto and it was

6. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION REGARDING THE FUTURE FOR BILLY BISHOP AIRPORT BE ENDORSED.

Carried

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- b) Ontario's Big City Mayors Caucus correspondence regarding the SolvetheCrisis.ca Campaign was read and filed.
- c) The Township of Conmee resolution supporting the Township of O'Connor's resolution regarding funding for the purchase of Fire Trucks was read.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Ontario Provincial Police regarding the 2025 Annual Billing Statement package. There is an increase of \$13,219.00 over 2024 for the Township of O'Connor.
 - b) Ministry of Infrastructure regarding Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund Formula-Based Component – 2025 allocations.
 - c) Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) – Update from the Board October 10, 2024. Ken Ranta, has been appointed the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
 - d) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) regarding i) email cover page. ii) Board Meeting Summary Report for September 25, 2024. iii) Copy of letter to the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission. iv) Copy of letter to Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training & Skills Development regarding addressing Northern Ontario Labour Market needs through the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program. v) 5th Learning Morning Agenda. No one will attend.
 - e) Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce News Release regarding Ontario Connecting People in Thunder Bay to Addictions Support.
 - f) Ministry of Natural Resources regarding new government funding for Ontario imagery. The Ontario Government will now fully fund the collection of aerial imagery across the province.
 - g) Ministry of Transportation regarding Ontario Transit Investment Fund (OTIF). Applications for the OTIF will be accepted on an ongoing basis, with the programs expected to begin in 2025.
 - h) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness i) regarding New Agricultural Workforce Equity and Diversity Initiative to help minority groups start and grow businesses in the agri-food sector. ii) Investing up to \$1.5 million over four years to support international agri-food workers in delivering access to services. Initiative intake will open October 8 to November 19, 2024.
 - i) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding the Waasigan Transmission Line Project amended Environmental Assessment – Notice of Approval.
 - j) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) i) AMO President's Update – October 2024. The new President is Robin Jones, Mayor of the Village of Westport.
- The balance of the correspondence was passed around table.

No Old Business was discussed.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Ministry of Municipal Affairs regarding i) Northern Planning Workshop – October 23 & 24, 2024 in Thunder Bay. No one will attend. ii) 14th Annual Northern Treasurers' Forum – November 21, 2024. The Forum will be held virtually and the administrative staff will participate if available. iii) Provincial Planning Statement 2024 on demand training. No one will attend.
- b) Report from Clerk-Treasurer regarding Junior Volunteer Firefighter Program and overnight trailers. Council reviewed the information provided by the Insurance Company on both items and agreed that the Township will not permit overnight camping on the Community Centre property. In regard to the Junior Volunteer Firefighter Program, Council would like the information and concerns received from the Insurance Company, forwarded to the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department and request that they provide additional information to Council as to what they would like to see in the program, if allowed. A clear policy would have to be written providing direction as to how the program would be run. This will be discussed further with the Fire Chief.
- c) ROMA 2025 Annual Conference – January 19 – 21, 2025 in Toronto. No one will attend.

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For information purposes, one building permit was approved for a shed at 1084 Highway 588.

It was

- 7. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
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: 8:40 P.M.

Carried

The Union Negotiations meeting was discussed and an application for Dog Control Officer was reviewed.

- 8. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

TIME BEING: 9:15 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

- 9. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT ALEXANDRA CHALIFOUX BE APPOINTED AS DOG CONTROL OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O’CONNOR.

Carried

A by-law for the official appointment will be brought to the next meeting for approval.

- 10. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by J. Sobolta

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY CONTROL GROUP (MECG) MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE O’CONNOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

TIME BEING: 9:17 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer