

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – OCTOBER 25, 2021

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, October 25, 2021 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Community Centre and virtually.

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

Visitors: Greg Biloski, Mike Carli, Paul LeBoeuf
Fire Chief Mattas – virtually
Erin Laforest, Administrative Assistance – virtually at 7:04 p.m.

Absent: Councillor Racicot

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Moved by Jerry Loan
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 Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

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

Michael Carli was invited to the meeting to accept a certificate for ten years of Service on the Fire Department and First Response Team. Mayor Vezina presented the certificate to Mr. Carli and thanked him for his service.

The Fire Department Report dated October 24, 2021 was read. There was one First Response call since the last meeting. Meeting attendance and training was also noted in the report.

Under Fire Department issues, Fire Chief Mattas noted that they are trying to get more training done. Members do not seem to be doing the online training. The hope was for them to do the online portion from home and then do the practical portion at the meetings. They are hoping that things will get going in the near future.

The November 10, 2020 Auxiliary meeting minutes were read. Fire Chief Mattas noted that the team is very appreciative of all the work that the Auxiliary does. They are one of the best he has ever seen in all his years with a Fire Department.

Council was reminded that the Fire Department will be incorporating the Wildfire Community Preparedness event with Halloween. Treats, prizes and Fire Smart information will be distributed at the Fire Hall from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on October 31, 2021.

The Administration and Roads Voucher to October 25, 2021 was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2021-18 DATED OCTOBER 25, 2021 TOTTALLING \$28,615.58 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

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The Dog Control Officer position was once again discussed. Margaret Foster and Joyce Posthumus will be sharing the position and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2021-15 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT A DOG CONTROL OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of Enniskillen i) regarding Cannabis growing operations, requesting more communication and enforcement from Health Canada and requesting a comprehensive study of the Cannabis Act was filed.
ii) requesting that the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs re-evaluate their position regarding the classification of Cannabis as an agricultural product was filed.
b) Municipality of Leamington regarding the Long-term care homes and endorsing the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)'s recommendations for action submitted to the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission and it was

5. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEAMINGTON ENDORSING THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION SUBMITTED TO THE LONG-TERM CARE COVID-19 COMMISSION AND URGING THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING INSTITUTING HIGHER STANDARDS WITH INCREASED FUNDING TO HOMES TO IMPLEMENT THOSE STANDARDS, AND ADVOCATING TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ENHANCE FEDERAL HEALTH CARE FUNDING TO THE PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES, SPECIFICALLY DEDICATING FUNDING TO LONG-TERM CARE, AND TO UNDERTAKE FURTHER EFFORTS TO PROTECT, PROMOTE AND RESTORE THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING OF LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS OF CANADA, BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – Minutes from September 21, 2021 meeting.
b) Lakehead Police Services Board – OPP July, August, September 2021 Report for O'Connor. Calls are down for this period compared to 2020.

Councillor Loan also informed Council, with regard to the question arising from the OPP Annual Billing Statement presented at the last meeting, that while the Lakehead Police Services group had a slight overpayment, the Township of O'Connor's 2020 reconciliation resulted in a shortfall.

- c) Ministry of Finance regarding the 2022 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) allocations. The Township of O'Connor will receive an increase of \$2,600 over the 2021 allocation.
d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario – i) Policy Update October 21, 2021 - OMPF Allocations and LTC Development Call. While the total OMPF funding envelope remains the same, funds are being redistributed.
e) Ontario Good Roads Association Call for Nominations to the 2022-2023 Good Roads Board of Directors. No one will put their name forward at this time.
f) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Decision on the Proposed Land Use Compatibility Guideline. During the consultation period, the Ministry received over 500 comments and in response to these comments have decided to not move forward with this version of the proposed Land Use Compatibility Guideline.

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- g) Solicitor General thank you to all municipalities who have submitted their local Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) plans. The Township of O'Connor's Plan has been submitted.
- h) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) regarding the 2022 Provincial Municipal Levy Announcement. The MPAC Board of Directors has approved the 2022 operating budget with a total municipal levy increase of 0%.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table. The Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario Command - Military Service Recognition Book – Volume 12 was available for review. It will be displayed in the Township office. As well, it was agreed to setup the Township's wreath in the office on Remembrance Day.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Reserve balances and comparison of loan vs borrowing from reserves to cover the cost of the grader transmission repairs. The Clerk-Treasurer explained the options and it was

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

THAT THE AMOUNT OF \$58,344.00 BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE OPERATING AND THE ROAD EQUIPMENT RESERVES EVENLY TO OFFSET THE COST OF THE GRADER TRANSMISSION REPAIRS FOR THE ROAD DEPARTMENT.

Carried

The repayment of the monies borrowed from the reserves will be repaid through the budget and over the next five years.

- b) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – Council member survey request regarding strategic plan priorities. Each member of Council was reminded to complete the survey.

Mike Carli left the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

- c) O'Connor Cemetery By-law Notice of Filing update. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the By-law Number 2021-14 being the Cemetery By-law and the Notice of Filing have been posted as of October 21, 2021. They are posted at the cemetery, on the Township's website and are available in the Township office. It has also been forwarded to the local monument suppliers. The Notice of Filing will also be posted in the November issue of the Cornerstone. Once the Cornerstone is complete, all the required information will be forwarded to the Registrar, Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, for final approval.
- d) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) – 2022 Virtual Conference attendance January 24-25, 2022. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE RURAL ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON JANUARY 24 – 25, 2022.

REGISTRATION: \$400.00 PLUS HST

**COUNCILLOR HANDY
COUNCILLOR CRANE**

Carried

Mayor Vezina briefly asked Council about his concerns with regard to the proposed policy for free cemetery plots for Council and staff. It was agreed to discuss this further with full quorum.

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Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) regarding a Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) course to be held on November 29 and 30, 2021 in Thunder Bay. Ms. Laforest, one of the Township's Alternate CEMC's, would like to attend the course, if possible. As the course priority is for primary CEMC's, availability for alternate CEMC's will be given if there is still room. It was agreed to register and await the result of availability. It was

8. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR (CEMC) EM300 COURSE TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 29 AND 30, 2021

REGISTRATION: N/C

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT LAFOREST
Carried

- b) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) regarding an upcoming Discussion to Inform Northwest Electricity Planning. Mayor Vezina noted that he will be attending as a member of NOMA.
c) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) – i) Northern Municipal Services Office – 2021 Planning Workshop to be held virtually on November 24 in the afternoon and on November 25 in the morning. It was

9. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES OFFICE-VIRTUAL 2021 PLANNING WORKSHOP TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 24 AND 25, 2021.

REGISTRATION: N/C

**COUNCILLOR CRANE, COUNCILLOR HANDY
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT LAFOREST**
Carried

- ii) Enhanced COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate with QR code and Verify Ontario App available for download. The App can be downloaded onto a cell phone and does not need a special device, however the only cell phone the Township has is for the sole use of the Road Department Leadhand and it would not be available for checking QR codes. Council agreed that as proof is required in the O'Connor Community Centre the participate can continue to show their proof without using the QR code.
iii) Municipal Delegation Request for the 2022 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Annual Conference are now open, with a submission deadline of November 15, 2021. Council agreed that they will not submit their own delegation requests but will participate in the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) delegations.
d) Clerk-Treasurer report regarding the potential purchase of new Council Chamber chairs. There are currently chairs on sale for half price that would allow for proper sanitation. Council reviewed the chair details and would like to ensure that the height is adjustable and agreed that administration move forward with the purchase using the COVID-19 funding.
e) i) Employee Recognition presentations of Employee Years of Service certificates. There are four employees due to receive Years of Services recognition in 2021 and as the Township has been unable to host the annual Christmas party, where these presentations would normally take place, Council was asked how they would like to proceed. As all four employees will be present at the Tabletop Exercise to be held on November 29, 2021, Council agreed to make the presentations at that time.

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- ii) The retirement of Equipment Operator #1 – Brent Dennhardt was briefly discussed and it was agreed to bring this item back to the December 6, 2021 meeting.

For information purposes three building permits were approved since the last meeting, #2021-10 for a carport addition at 224 Cronk Road, #2021-11 for a new home at 25 Whittaker Road and #2021-12 for a chicken coop at 26 Whittaker Road.

As the meeting was moving into the closed session, Mr. Biloski and Mr. LeBoeuf were asked to leave the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

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

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: 8:25 P.M.

Carried

Council discussed the application for the Casual Disposal Site Caretaker, as well as the applications for the Internship program for Equipment Operator #1 position.

11. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**TIME BEING: 9:10 P.M.
THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried

12. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT STACEY TYANCE BE HIRED AS THE CASUAL RELIEF FOR THE DISPOSAL SITE CARETAKER POSITION. RATE OF PAY WILL BE THE ENTRY WAGE AS SET FOR 2021.

Carried

13. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT INTERVIEWS BE SET FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021 AT 7:15 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M. FOR THE INTERN POSITION OR THE NEXT ALTERNATE DATE AVAILABLE BY ALL PARTIES.

THE INTERVIEW COMMITTEE WILL CONSIST OF FULL COUNCIL. MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7:00 P.M.

Carried

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

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE, IF CONDITIONS WITH COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ALLOW.
TIME BEING: 9:13 P.M.**

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer