

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – OCTOBER 26, 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Community Centre.

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

Visitors: Paul LeBoeuf, Janice LeBoeuf  
Fire Chief Mattas arrived at 7:10 p.m.

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

1. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

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

As Fire Chief Mattas will be arriving late, it was agreed to move forward on the agenda until he arrives.

The Administration and Roads Voucher was reviewed and it was

2. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2020-18 DATED OCTOBER 26, 2020 TOTTALLING \$54,855.63 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of Blandford-Blenheim regarding unlicensed and unmonitored cannabis grow operations was filed.
- b) Township of Oro-Medonte requesting that the Government of Ontario consult with the ski industry with regard to re-opening policy considerations currently impacting the industry was filed.
- c) City of Clarence-Rockland regarding cannabis stores was filed.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Police Services Board (LPSB) – i) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board – July 15, 2020.  
ii) Police Services Board Report – July to September 2020.

Councillor Loan informed Council of Inspector Gordon's retirement following the meeting held on October 16, 2020. The number of calls in the report were discussed. While the numbers are low, there was still a jump from 2019 to 2020 and Council would like Councillor Loan to ask at the next LPSB meeting if there is anything Council can do to be proactive to help reduce the number of calls.

Fire Chief Mattas arrived at the meeting and he was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. There was one First Response call, and one new fire call that came in after the report was submitted, since the last meeting. Fire Chief Mattas noted that Mutual Aid was called for the fire call, as only one fire department member and two first responders attended the call from O'Connor. The farm building was down by the time anyone arrived.

Under Fire Department issues Fire Chief Mattas noted that he is concerned that no one is coming out for training or attending calls at this time. Members continue to be on

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the roster and need to practice to ensure their safety. Recruitment of new members and a possible increase in the stipend was discussed. Clerk-Treasurer Buob will inquire with the other departments in the area, if and how much of a stipend is paid to their members. Councillor Handy volunteered to assist with recruitment. Council would like to see a bi-annual review of members attendance in June and December of each year.

The appointment of a new Alternate Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) was discussed. Administration is recommending that Ms. Laforest, Administrative Assistant be added to the Alternate CEMC list and it was

3. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS BE APPOINTED AS THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S DESIGNATED COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS (CEMC) AS REQUIRED BY THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL PROTECTION ACT.**

**CEMC – LINDA RACICOT  
ALTERNATE CEMC – HENRY MATTAS  
- MORRIS DOUGLAS  
- MONICA BUDISELIC  
- ERIN LAFOREST**

**AND THAT RESOLUTION #2 OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING BE RESCINDED.**

Carried

The removal of non-active members from the O'Connor Fire Department was discussed as noted at the previous meeting with Fire Chief Mattas and it was

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF THE FOLLOWING NAMES FROM THE ACTIVE ROSTER OF THE O'CONNOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND/OR FIRST RESPONSE TEAM:**

1. **JESSE BUOB**

Carried

The Office of the Fire Marshal's Communique from October 6, 2020 regarding Staffing Level and Firefighter Safety deferred from the last meeting was discussed. The Teams attendance was previously discussed and new recruits will continue to be pursued for the delivery of fire protection services.

An email from Ms. Shelley Thorne with regard to an idea to boost community spirit during the pandemic was read. As all indoor social events for Halloween and Christmas will have to be cancelled due to COVID-19 she would like to see a community O'Connor parade. Gifts could be delivered to the children and put inside a mailbox or at the end of the driveway. Non-perishable food items could also be collected for the Blessing Box. Information can be put into the November and December Cornerstone to see if there is any interest and a route could then be planned.

Fire Chief Mattas informed Council that he has spoken with Ms. Thorne and gave approval to use the rescue vehicle but does not want the pumper or tanker trucks used. Council feel that it is a great idea and did not have any issues with this moving forward.

The O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary minutes from the July 14, 2020 meeting were read.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

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Council moved back to Correspondence on the agenda. Councillor Loan provided an update from the October 14, 2020 Lakehead Police Services Board (LPSB) meeting. He informed Council that Mr. Axel Nowak was appointed as the second Provincial appointee for a three-year term. Mr. John Sobolta will be appointed as the Municipal representative, effective January 1, 2021, under the new Agreement. The Board will be responding to the Township of Gillies' letter, with regard to their contribution for the 2019 and 2020 levy, discussed at the last Council meeting. The dates of the 2021 meetings were also provided. The Lakehead Police Services Board Report with regard to the different calls/services that the OPP have provided to the Township from July to September 2020 was read.

- b) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – Executive Director, Kristen Oliver has resigned from the position effective November 6, 2020.
- c) Ministry of the Solicitor General – regarding Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program Review.
- d) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) AMO Policy Update – October 19, 2020 – Ontario Proposes New Blue Box Regulations, Modified Stage 2 Restrictions and Halloween Guidance.  
ii) AMO Policy Update – October 21, 2020 – COVID-19 Liability Protection, Municipal Elections Act; An Ontario Digital Identity; Public Health Orders; and Child Care.  
iii) AMO Policy Update – October 23, 2020 – New Legislation Expedites Provincial Infrastructure, Reduces Red Tape, and Allows Off-Peak Deliveries.

The Clerk-Treasurer also noted that a new email from AMO had come in after the agenda was finalized with regard to the 2020 Provincial Budget Date Announced. The Provincial Budget will be released on November 5, 2020.

- e) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) – Annual Conference – held virtually January 25th-26th, 2021. Registration information for the Conference will be brought to Council at the next meeting.
- f) Tribunals Ontario – Seeking input on the proposed changes to the Assessment Review Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure. Deadline for comments is November 19, 2020.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed the Union Negotiations. The CUPE National Representative is once again asking if Council will consider negotiating virtually as there is no end in sight for the pandemic. Ms. Steenerson is suggesting that proposals be exchanged via email and then a virtual meeting be held between the two groups to negotiate. Council were in agreement and the Clerk-Treasurer was asked to prepare the Council's proposal as discussed in the Closed meetings held previously. She will also discuss possible dates with Ms. Steenerson and a meeting will be set at the November 9, 2020 Council meeting. If the Union's proposal can be sent in time, it will be reviewed by Council, under closed meeting, that evening.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) draft Contract Policing Proposal for the Lakehead Group. Councillor Loan informed Council that the Agreement is very similar to the one that was signed with the four municipalities in 2017. Sergeant Ross is asking for input for finalization including the length of the term. Council would like to see a four year term for the new agreement.
- b) Report to Council regarding changes to the Procedural By-law as per Bill 187 and Bill 197 and questions regarding Council's recommendation. Council was asked for their opinion with regard to allowing participation in a Council meeting virtually and whether or not to accept proxy voting during a meeting. These responses will be included in the draft Procedural By-law presented to Council at an upcoming meeting.
- c) The Royal Canadian Legion Manitoba/NW Ontario Command requesting the Township purchase an advertisement in the 2021 Military Service Recognition Book. It was

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5. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR PURCHASE AN 1/10 PAGE, B/CARD B&W ADVERTISING SPACE FOR \$205.00 IN THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK.**

Carried

Under further new business, it was suggested that perhaps the Fire Services for the Township of O'Connor could be contracted out to another municipality if we cannot get members from our own Township to volunteer. A comparison of current budget costs to what a contract cost could be looked into further.

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

- a) Town of Oakville – copy of letter to Premier Ford and the Minister of Health requesting a target approach as an alternative to ordering full closure of an entire municipality during COVID-19. Council agreed that they would not be submitting a similar letter.
- b) Elections Canada – regarding a Polling Station in the O'Connor Community Centre. As the Federal government is currently in a minority situation, a federal election could be called at any time. Elections Canada is currently confirming facilities that may be available if an election is called. If one is called in the current year it would be held on a Monday. As Council are currently meeting in the O'Connor Community Centre on Monday evenings, the question was asked, if a Federal Election was called would Council be willing to change the date of a meeting to allow for the election to be held in the Community Centre. Council agreed that they would be willing to change the date if need be.

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

It was

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 9, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE IF SITUATION DUE TO COVID-19 REMAINS SAFE.**

**TIME BEING: 8:43 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer