

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – OCTOBER 28, 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, October 28, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Handy, Loan, Racicot
Clerk-Treasurer Buob
Visitors: Fire Chief Mattas

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 MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019 AND THE NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP INSPECTION HELD ON OCTOBER 18, 2019 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. There was one fire related call and one First Response call since the last report.

Fire Chief Mattas informed Council that Paul Phillips has been promoted to Acting Captain as of September 24, 2019. Council would like this included in the next issue of the Cornerstone. Mr. Phillips and Brendan Byers have also recently completed a three-day Rural Firefighting Course put on by the Fire College.

The report from the Central Ambulance Communication Centre (CACC), from January to September for all the municipalities they provide paging services for, was reviewed. It was suggested that perhaps when the final report comes in January for the full year, that it be included in the Township newsletter to inform the residents of the total number of calls that are being responded to by the volunteer departments. The Township of O'Connor to date has responded to 14 medical calls and 0 fire related calls from January to September 2019.

The purchase of additional AED's for the First Response Team was discussed. It was suggested that the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary be contacted to see if they would consider purchasing them through their fundraising. The Township currently does have an AED in the O'Connor Community Centre and in the First Response vehicle.

Fire Chief Mattas noted that the Municipality of Shuniah is purchasing two new fire trucks for their department.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for October 28, 2019 was reviewed, and it was

2. Moved by B. Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2019-14 DATED OCTOBER 28, 2019 TALLING \$72,788.17 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

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

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) County of Lambton with regard to Public Health Care and it was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

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THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON CALLING ON THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TO HALT THE CLOSURES OF, MERGERS OF, AND CUTS TO OUR LOCAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES INCLUDING PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS, LAND AMBULANCE SERVICES, HOSPITALS AND LONG-TERM CARE HOMES BE ENDORSED.

Carried

b) Town of Ingersoll supporting the continuation of mandatory and non-mandatory programs of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and it was

4. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF INGERSOLL SUPPORTING CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAMS OF THE UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY, BOTH MANDATORY AND NON-MANDATORY AND THAT NO PROGRAMS BE WOUND DOWN AT THIS TIME AND REQUESTING THAT THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND PARKS GIVE CLEAR DIRECTION AS TO WHAT PROGRAMS ARE CONSIDERED MANDATORY AND NON-MANDATORY AND HOW THOSE PROGRAMS WILL BE FUNDED IN THE FUTURE BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- c) Township of Springwater with regard to the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority levy was filed.
- d) County of Lennox & Addington regarding the review of the IJC Plan 2014 was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) – i) Letter to Heads of Council announcing the release of the 2020 OMPF allocations.
ii) OMPF 2020 Allocation Notice. The Township of O'Connor's allocation will once again be decreased by 10% for a total decrease of \$17,600 in funding for 2020.
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) AMO Watchfile.
ii) AMO Partners with Barrier Free Web Solution Provider.
iii) 2020 OMPF Allocations Announced.
iv) Announcement by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The Honourable Minister Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing made several key announcements of interest to municipal governments across Ontario. One of the announcements was that there will be no forced amalgamations.
- c) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) – i) Minutes of the September 19, 2019 meeting.
ii) Draft Mission Statement for the LRMC for review and comment. No comments were made at this time.
iii) Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy – presentation to the LRMC.

It was noted at the LRMC meeting held on October 24, 2019 that no names came forward to take over the secretarial services for the LRMC upon Ms. Evans retirement from the Municipality of Neebing. Discussion is on going as to how much it would cost to hire Ms. Evans to take on the position as a non-employee of one of the six municipalities of the LRMC and how this cost could be distributed. This information will be brought back to another meeting prior to her retirement.

Councillor Handy also noted that she has put her name forward to volunteer to be on the LRMC's Rural Action Plan (RAP) sub-committee to prepare an updated version of the document for the upcoming Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference in January 2020. Attendance at this conference will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) and the formulas used to determine the funding allocation for the LRMC municipalities is one of the groups main concerns. The Clerk-Treasurer has volunteered to look further into the Township files to find information on how this fund was originally intended to offset the Provincially mandated program costs, so that they can use this in their document.

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- d) Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy – Join our Executive Committee. No one will be putting their name forward at this time.
 - e) Office of the Premier – News – Ontario Investing \$765 Million to Build New Public Safety Radio Network. Bell Mobility has been selected to rebuild core components of the aging Public Safety Radio Network.
 - f) Northern Policy Institute – i) Revitalizing Governance and Economic Development.
ii) Building a Home for Newcomers.
 - g) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) – Insider: 2020 Conference, Liability Reform and More. Highlights of this issue included the addition of the ROMA Zone 10 for Northwestern Ontario.
 - h) Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation – regarding the “Our Hearts at Home Cardiovascular Surgery Campaign” – Media Release. Council will look at this further at budget time.
 - i) Paro Centre – Invitation to PAROBiz25th Event & Awards Gala featuring Buffy Sainte-Marie. No one will attend.
 - j) Lakehead Social Planning Council – Invitation to Kairos Blanket Exercise featuring Anna Chief and Jerri-Lynn Orr, Office of Aboriginal Initiatives, LU. No one will attend.
- The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) The Township of O'Connor has purchased a 2017 Chevy Silverado truck for the Road Department Leadhand. At the last meeting the financing of the truck was discussed, and it was agreed to get a loan for the purchase. The Clerk-Treasurer has since attended the Treasurer's Forum where information with regard to financing was discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer is recommending that the Township take the money from the Road Equipment Reserve and in the next three years budget to repay the reserve the amount equal to what a loan payment would be and not pay interest on a loan. Council agreed that the money to purchase the truck will be borrowed from the reserve account and it was

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

THAT THE AMOUNT OF UP TO \$38,950.00 BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE ROAD EQUIPMENT RESERVE TO OFFSET THE COST OF THE 2017 CHEVY SILVERADO C2500 FOR THE ROAD DEPARTMENT.

Carried

- b) As a new truck has now been purchased for the Road Department, the old truck can now be declared surplus and put up for sale. It was

- 6. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded Bishop Racicot

COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HEREBY DECLARES THE 2006 FORD F150 TRUCK S/N 1FTVX14576NB51880 AS SURPLUS AND AGREE TO THE SALE OF THIS ITEM TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER AS IS, WHERE IS.

Carried

- c) The Investing in Canada Fund – Community Culture and Recreation Stream (CCR) application was discussed. Possible projects suggested by Administration were for improvements to the outdoor rink and/or playground equipment. The Township's contribution to the project would be 26.67% of the total cost. Council do not feel that the cost associated with the suggested project would be affordable with all the new cuts coming from the Provincial government and it was agreed that no application will be submitted at this time.

The Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) 102nd Annual Meeting and Conference held on October 25 & 26, 2019 was briefly discussed. Council found the presentations excellent this year. It was noted that the attendance was low. The Board is considering changing the dates from Friday and Saturday next year to Thursday afternoon and Friday to allow for more convenient travel time and less nights in a hotel to help lower the costs for the out of town communities. It was noted that at the Board

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meeting a comment was made that no report has been coming to the municipalities from the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) representative from the TBDML. This was addressed and a report has been requested for the future.

Under New Business, the following items were brought forward by Council for discussion:

It was suggested that Fire Chief Mattas look into whether or not the Fire trucks being replaced by the Municipality of Shuniah will be put up for sale and if so would they be suitable for the Township of O'Connor to purchase to update our fleet.

Council discussed renting a van to attend the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) Conference to be held in April 2020 in Fort Frances. It was agreed that this would be a saving to the Township and be more convenient for the Council members attending. Mayor Vezina noted that he will still have to bring his own vehicle due to work. Rooms have been booked already.

The Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce Leaders Luncheon to be held on November 7, 2019 was briefly discussed. Councillor Handy asked if anyone was interested in attending as she may attend.

On June 20, 2019 the Township of O'Connor sent an invitation to Minister Greg Rickford, MPP of the Kenora – Rainy River District and the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and the Minister of Indigenous Affairs. To date the Township had not received a response from the Minister. Mayor Vezina informed Council that at a recent funding announcement in Kenora, he spoke to Minister Rickford with regards to the invitation. He was informed that he would not be able to attend as the MPP's do not cross lines into other MPP's jurisdiction.

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

- a) Hydro One – Waasigan Community Roundtable establishment. The Roundtable's purpose is to reflect public perspectives, facilitate an effective information channel and develop relationships between Hydro One and community and industry stakeholders. It was

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

**THAT MAYOR JIM VEZINA PUT HIS NAME FORWARD TO JOIN THE
WAASIGAN COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE.
ALTERNATE COUNCILLOR BISHOP RACICOT.**

Carried

- b) Minister of Infrastructure regarding the First Intake of funding under the Green Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program will open on October 28, 2019 and close on January 22, 2020. Eligible projects will include water, wastewater or stormwater infrastructure assets to improve critical health and safety issues in small communities. This item will be brought back to the next meeting to be discussed further with Mr. Johnson, Leadhand.
- c) Public Sector Digest (PSD) – funding update. The document included several funding announcements made by the Ontario Government over the past week directly impacting municipalities.

- 8. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO
BE HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.
TIME BEING: 8:55 P.M.**

Carried