

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Community Centre and virtually.

Present: Mayor Vezina  
 Councillors: Crane, Handy, Loan, Racicot  
 Clerk-Treasurer Buob  
 Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot  
 Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand  
 Randy Turk, Janet Turk  
 Stephen Wiebe, Virtually  
 Robert McKessock – arrived Virtually at 7:08 p.m.  
 Erin Laforest, Administrative Assistant – arrived Virtually at 7:11 p.m.

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

1. Moved by A. Crane  
 Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.**

Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 16 b) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

2. Moved by Jerry Loan  
 Seconded by W. Handy

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Visitors were asked if they wished to address Council and they replied no. Mr. Wiebe was acknowledged as being in attendance virtually.

Mr. Randy Turk was welcomed to the meeting. Council invited Mr. Turk to attend the meeting to receive the 2021 Senior of the Year Award. Mayor Vezina presented a certificate to Mr. Turk and he was thanked for his dedication and commitment to the community and his volunteer contributions.

Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the meeting. Roadwork in general was discussed. Mr. Johnson informed Council that he has taken the grader into Thunder Bay for transmission work. The issues previously discussed were getting worse and repairs were required as soon as possible to prevent additional damage or damage to the core. Additional minor maintenance was performed while it was apart. It could be ready for pickup tomorrow. Oliver Paipoonge was called upon to grade a couple of miles of road in the meantime. Council asked what the warranty on the new transmission is. Mr. Johnson noted that there is a three year or 5,000 hours warranty and the Township would not put that many hours on the grader, so the warranty will be for three years.

The Summer Student position is complete. The student was very pleasant to work with and did good work, with a lot of painting, grass cutting and maintenance completed.

The Road employees are currently changing the sink in the garage washroom. More culverts will be changed out before winter and once the grader is back the roads will be getting graded.

A site visit will be held at the Township garage September 14, 2021, with architects, for the preparation of design and drawings for the Shop B replacement project.

The Intern application was discussed and the Township should receive confirmation of the results in the near future.

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

A possible Township inspection was discussed. It was agreed that Council would like to proceed with having one this year and it was

3. Moved by A. Crane  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR A TOWNSHIP INSPECTION  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 AT 9 A.M.**

Carried

Mr. Johnson will arrange for a vehicle and was thanked for his update.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for September 13, 2021 was reviewed and it was

4. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2021-15 DATED  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 TOTTALLING \$66,548.62 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to August 31, 2021 were reviewed. No concerns were acknowledged and no questions were asked.

The draft Cemetery By-law was discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer reported to Council on additional changes made after the draft was included in the Council package on Friday. The succession of Interment Rights has been clarified in this draft and will be established as tenants in common. It was noted that the By-law was missing information with regard to disinterment. This may have been removed in error during the drafting process and will be added back in. It was also noted that the purchase price of the plots will have to be increased to accommodate the new Care and Maintenance requirements, effective January 1, 2022. These prices will also be adjusted for the final draft.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. McKessock and Ms. Laforest left the meeting at approximately 7:44 p.m.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) City of Hamilton regarding noise concerns and request for expiry of extended construction hours was filed.
- b) County of Perth directing their staff to research and prepare a report in anticipation of the province's request for input with regard to their relationship with MPAC was filed.
- c) Municipality of Chatham-Kent regarding Support for Affordable Internet was deferred to the next meeting following the Federal Election.
- d) City of Brantford regarding the Year of the Garden 2022 was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) copy of Rural Action Plan – August 2021.
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Policy Update – August 19, 2021 – MTO Regulatory Amendments, Changes in Municipal Act, 2001 and Rowan's Law Timing.  
ii) Policy Update – August 23, 2021 – Draft Resolution for Municipal Recognition of September 30th as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and New Municipal Resource Materials.  
iii) Policy Update - September 1, 2021 – Proof of Vaccination Certificates.
- c) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding Site Plan Control Guide.
- d) Prime Minister's office – i) reply to Council endorsed resolution regarding rising cost of building materials.  
ii) reply to Council endorsed resolution regarding the PSA testing for men.

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

- e) Gravel Watch Ontario regarding their response to the request for comments on the Proposed Land Use Compatibility Guideline, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (March 2021) ERO 019-2785.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) ICIP COVID-19 Team regarding the Integrated Bilateral Agreement (IBA) for the Investing in Canada Program (ICIP). The federal and provincial government have recently amended the IBA to include flexibilities under the COVID-19 Resilience stream to allow for a two-year extension for all projects. The Township of O'Connor has been awarded approval for the garage, Shop B project, under this funding.
- b) Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy regarding follow up from deputation and next steps. Council would be willing to share their information in the monthly newsletter, and do feel that food security and local food growth are important to the rural communities.
- c) Municipality of Shuniah update regarding the Thunder Bay Detachment of the OPP Framework Proposal as of September 2, 2021. Mr. Greenwood, CAO, has reached out to the Solicitor General and discussed the draft board framework proposal that was submitted in July 2021, with regard to Detachment Board structure. He has not yet heard back from the five Chiefs of First Nations in this regard and is recommending that the member municipalities of the Detachment submit a final proposal.

Council discussed the proposal and agreed that they have not changed their decision with regard to the resolution that was passed at the July 12, 2021 Council meeting. Mr. Greenwood will be notified that Council agree with the submission as was previously presented.

- d) The sale of the surplus cooler was discussed. Council agreed to sell a cooler to Noah Loan in September of 2020 and Mr. Loan has informed the Clerk-Treasurer that he is no longer interested in purchasing it, however Mike and Carolyn Huber, other residents from the Township would be. Council was asked if they are still interested in selling this cooler and if the previously agreed upon price was still acceptable. Council agreed that they will sell the cooler as previously planned to the new purchasers at the same price.

Under further Old Business, Council asked the status of the policy with regard to cemetery plots for Council members and employees. The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that they will be working on it in the near future.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Province of Ontario – i) News Release – Ontario to Require Proof of Vaccination in Select Settings. As of September 22, 2021, Ontarians will need to be fully vaccinated and provide their proof along with photo ID to access certain public settings and facilities. This includes meeting and event spaces, and sports and fitness facilities.
- ii) The O'Connor Community Centre event requirements under this new legislation was discussed and how the Township will move forward. Council would like to see the renter be responsible for ensuring all guests/participants are vaccinated and have them sign off that they will do this.
- iii) Staff and volunteer requirements under this new legislation were also discussed. The Administration staff will look further into the requirements and provide a draft policy for Council's review. Mayor Vezina will be attending a Thunder Bay District Health Unit Board meeting this week and if more information is provided, he will forward it on to Council and staff.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- b) AMCTO – 2021 Zone 9 Fall Meeting and Election training workshop – September 21 and 22, 2021 was discussed and it was

5. Moved by Jerry Loan  
Seconded by W. Handy

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES ON ONTARIO (AMO) ELECTIONS TRAINING WORKSHOP TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2021.**

**CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT LAFOREST**  
 Carried

6. Moved by W. Handy  
 Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE AMCTO ZONE 9 FALL MEETING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY SEPTEMBER 22, 2021.**

**CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**  
**DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT LAFOREST**

**REGISTRATION: N/C**

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- c) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) regarding appointments to the Board and new Conservation Authorities Act. The current members of the Board will have their term expire at the end of 2022. In 2022, after the municipal election, municipalities will appoint members to the LRCA Board. The new legislation has made changes to the current method of appointment and if Council would like to have a citizen appointee rather than a Council member, they must request and be granted an exception from the Minister. At this time Council would like to continue to appoint a member of Council and will not be making a request.
- d) Ontario Trillium Foundation – Community Building Fund – Capital Stream – funding for community sport and recreation sectors. Council discussed possible projects for this funding and they would like to consider applying for a heated shed with a well for flooding the outdoor rink and replace the current asphalt surface with concrete. Administration will work on an application for the deadline of September 29, 2021.
- e) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – Rural Economic Development (RED) Program regarding the next application intake. Council will not be making an application under this funding.

Under Further New Business Council discussed the possibility of purchasing a new recycle bin for the disposal site. A second bin could be used as a backup when the active one becomes full during the day or one bin could be used for paper and cardboard and the other for the other types of recycling. It was recommended that staff look into the cost of a new bin and confirm if Canada Community Building Fund, formerly known as the Federal Gas Tax Fund, would cover the cost.

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

- a) Applications for the Casual position of Disposal Site Caretaker were due to be submitted today, September 13th. No applications were received. The Clerk-Treasurer asked Council how Council would like to proceed. It was suggested that perhaps people are not interested due to the limited number of hours. It was also suggested that perhaps we should have two employees at the site and if one could not make it in the other was still available. Mr. Ehn would also be able to mentor the new employee. Staff will provide Council with the cost of hiring a second employee to be at the site during all openings and bring back to a future meeting. In the meantime staff will also check with the Townships of Conmee and Gillies to see if they have an alternate and inquire as to how they staff their disposal sites.

Council asked if there was any movement with regard to hosting, as was previously discussed, a Hazardous Waste Day. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the LRMC have not discussed it further at this time and she has not received a cost estimate from the

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

supplier, if we moved forward on our own or with a neighbouring Township, but will follow up on the matter.

For information purposes a building permit was issued for a new residence at 818 Highway 595.

Randy and Janet Turk and Stephen Wiebe left the meeting and it was

- 7. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by A. Crane

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LITIGATION OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION, INCLUDING MATTERS BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS, AFFECTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF LOCAL BOARD; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239 (2)(E) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.**

**TIME BEING: 9:06 P.M.**

Carried

Council discussed a potential litigation matter with regard to the O'Connor cemetery.

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

**TIME BEING: 9:30 P.M.**

**THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried

- 9. Moved by W. Handy  
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE TOWNSHIP INSPECTION TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M. STARTING IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE, IF CONDITIONS WITH COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ALLOW.**

**TIME BEING: 9:32 P.M.**

Carried

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk-Treasurer