

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Community Centre.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Loan, Racicot
Councillor Handy arrived at 7:15 p.m.
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Paul and Janice LeBoeuf

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 17 b) as his spouse is an employee of the Township. Councillor Loan declared an interest in item 14 f) as the interested party is his grandson.

1. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

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

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. Mr. Johnson provided an update on the road department and roadwork in general was discussed. They are currently finishing up the jobs for 2020. The approaches to the bridge on Blaikie Road were paved last week. Next week they will be finishing the two road resurfacing projects on Earl Road and Chambers and Kershaw Roads. The culvert installation on Sitch Road was completed and the cable system will be installed once LH North completes their Highway 588 project. A question was asked with regard to the installation of culverts on Smart Road. Mr. Johnson noted that they are installing a new culvert and needed to purchase another section of culvert. It will be completed tomorrow.

Councillor Loan informed Mr. Johnson that a section of Luckens Road on the hill and in the corner is washing out. Mr. Johnson informed Council that this section of the road is in Oliver Paipoonge and they are responsible for the maintenance. He will check it out and if there is a problem, will notify them.

Council discussed whether or not to hold a Township Inspection this year. Council agreed that they would still like to hold an inspection. Dates were discussed and it was

2. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR A TOWNSHIP INSPECTION OCTOBER 23, 2020 AT 8:30 A.M.

Carried

Mayor Vezina noted that he would not be able to attend. A van will be rented for the inspection.

Health and Safety Reports from December 2019 to August 11, 2020 were reviewed. It was noted that on July 27, 2020 all employees met to discuss the Policy for Mandatory Use of Masks or Face Covering as well.

Council requested additional information with regard to the air quality monitors for the garage. Currently the employees are purging the garage when needed. There are "Warning Exit Building" signage posted. CO detectors are going to be purchased this year which will advise the employees if there is a problem.

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Councillor Crane noted that the entrance on Loghrin Road and Highway 590 is wearing away and there is a hole. Mr. Johnson will check it out and contact Emcon if there is an issue.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for September 14, 2020 was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2020-15 DATED SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 TOTTALLING \$71,123.71 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to August 31, 2020 was reviewed. Council asked for clarification on the Taxes Receivable balances, which was provided by the Clerk-Treasurer.

By-laws and Policies were discussed as follows:

- a) A By-law to appoint the municipal auditors for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. A resolution to accept their quote was accepted at the June 8, 2020. It was
4. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2020-17 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT THE MUNICIPAL AUDITORS FOR THE TOWNSHIP BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- b) The draft Social Media Policy was brought back to Council for approval. Council were satisfied with the policy as presented and it was

5. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY, DATED SEPTEMBER 14, 2020, BE APPROVED AND ENTERED INTO THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR POLICY BOOK.

Carried

Mayor Vezina will attend an upcoming Fire Department meeting to discuss the policy with the members so that they may setup a Facebook page as requested. The members can then determine who they would like to be their designate and bring back to the next Council meeting to discuss further if they would like.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the City of Owen Sound regarding Emancipation Day which was deferred from the last meeting. Notes from Janice LeBoeuf, providing additional information with regard to the importance of Emancipation Day in Canada, were also read. Council thanked Ms. LeBoeuf for the additional information and it was

6. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT AND THE CITY OF OWEN SOUND SUPPORTING THE PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL PUT FORWARD BY MAJID JOWHARI; SUGGESTING THAT AUGUST 1

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OF EVERY YEAR BE DESIGNATED AS “EMANCIPATION DAY” IN CANADA BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- b) Township of Puslinch regarding COVID-19 Funding Support Resolution for local social cultural, service clubs and children/youth minor sporting organizations. It was

7. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH SUPPORTING THE CITY OF OSHAWA’S RESOLUTION THAT THE FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT HELP LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES ASSIST LOCAL SOCIAL CULTURAL, SERVICE CLUBS AND CHILDREN/YOUTH MINOR SPORTING ORGANIZATIONS WITH CLEAR AND DEFINITIVE RELIEF FUNDING PROGRAMS DIRECTED TO HELP SUSTAIN THESE GROUPS AFFECTED BY THE AFFECTS OF COVID-19 BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- c) City of Port Colborne regarding the Endorsement of Bill 164 – Protecting Vulnerable Persons in Supportive Living Accommodation Act, 2019. It was

8. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF PORT COLBORNE SUPPORTING PRIVATE MEMBER’S BILL 164: PROTECTING VULNERABLE PERSONS IN SUPPORTIVE LIVING ACCOMMODATION ACT, 2019 AT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- d) Municipality of West Grey regarding anti-racism and anti-oppression. It was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF WEST GREY WORKING TOWARDS ANTI-RACISM AND ANTI-OPPRESSION AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- e) Municipality of Tweed regarding medical cannabis licensing and it was

10. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF TWEED REQUESTING IMMEDIATE ACTION BE TAKEN BY ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS LICENCING TO FOLLOW SIMILAR REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES AS ALL OTHER PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) regarding the 2019 Annual Report. The full report is available on their website.
b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) AMO Policy Update – August 11, 2020 – Court Security Funding Review, CCTV Grant Program, Windsor-Essex Goes to Stage 3.
ii) AMO Policy Update – August 12, 2020 – Municipal Emergency Fiscal Relief, Quarter 1 Fiscal and COVID-19 Action Plan Updates.

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- iii) AMO Policy Update – August 14, 2020 – New Recreational Facility Guidance, Canada Healthy Communities Initiative, and 2021-22 Connecting Links Program.
- iv) AMO Policy Update – August 24, 2020 – Orders Extended, New Direction regarding Facilities.
- v) AMO Policy Update - September 4, 2020 – Emergency Exercise Exemption, Child Care, and Great Lakes Investments
- c) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – i) regarding Sustainable Growth: Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy.
- ii) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – regarding Amendments to Ontario Regulation 244/97 and the Aggregates of Ontario Provincial Standards under the Aggregate Resources Act.
- d) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – regarding Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2020.
- e) The balance of the correspondence was passed around table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) The appointment of the Township of O'Connor's representatives on the Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) Board as per Councillor Loan's notification of stepping down from the Board at the last meeting. Mayor Vezina thanked Councillor Loan for everything he has done while on the board. Mayor Vezina is currently the alternate and also agreed to step down to allow the new members on Council to get more involved. It was

- 11. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT COUNCILLOR HANDY BE APPOINTED TO SIT ON THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE AS THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S REPRESENTATIVE AND COUNCILLOR CRANE BE APPOINTED AS THE TOWNSHIP'S ALTERNATE FOR THE BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL TERM 2020, 2021 AND 2022, AS PER COUNCILLOR LOAN AND MAYOR VEZINA STEPPING DOWN FROM THE POSITIONS.

Carried

The purchase of name tags for representatives of the Township of O'Connor were discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer provided an estimated cost per tag and confirmed with Council what information would be included on the tag. It was agreed to purchase name tags for Council and staff as required.

Under further old business, Council asked about the Norwest Community Health Mobile Unit and if they would be returning to use the O'Connor Community Centre. It was confirmed that they have been in contact with the Clerk-Treasurer and will be returning on September 24th, and will be following the Provincial guidelines and Township's policies with regard to COVID-19.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Superior North EMS regarding their Strategic Plan Virtual online meeting to be held on September 29, 2020. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S PARTICIPATE IN THE UPCOMING ON-LINE SESSION, FOR THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY MUNICIPALITIES, WITH PERFORMANCE CONCEPTS CONSULTING, FOR INPUT ON THE SUPERIOR NORTH EMS'S UPDATE OF THEIR STRATEGIC PLAN, TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M.

**MAYOR VEZINA
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

Carried

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Paul and Janice LeBoeuf left the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

- b) Ministry of Solicitor General regarding Amendments to Ontario Regulation 380/04 under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) – Exempting the requirement to conduct an annual emergency exercise in 2020.
- c) A Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) program committee meeting and training date was discussed. While a full exercise is being exempted in 2020 a committee meeting and training is still being recommended. It was agreed to set a date later in the year and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE AND TIME BE SET FOR A MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY CONTROL GROUP (MECG) PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING AND TRAINING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Carried

- d) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding the Municipal Operating Fund Phase 1 – funding for COVID expenses. The Township of O'Connor will be receiving \$35,700 to support the Township's COVID-19 operating costs and pressures. The municipality is accountable for using this funding for this purpose and will be expected to report back to the province.
- e) Ministry Energy, Northern Development and Mines - Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre – regarding COVID19 Technology Adoption Fund (CTAF). The Township will not be making an application to this fund.

Councillor Loan left the room.

- f) A memo was read from the Clerk-Treasurer with regard to a request from Noah Loan asking if Council would consider sell one of the Township's coolers in the basement. The coolers were originally purchased for food supplies for O'Connor Day celebrations. Council discussed the current need for the coolers and it was agreed that the Township could sell one of the coolers and it was

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

COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HEREBY DECLARES ONE OF THE DOUBLE DOOR COOLERS AS SURPLUS.

Carried

Councillor Loan returned to the meeting.

Under further New Business

Councillor Racicot noted that he had requested a price for a new truck while in Sudbury. An email was sent to the office and the price was similar to the one Mr. Johnson had received earlier from a Thunder Bay dealer.

Councillor Crane noted a concern that Mr. Ehn, Disposal Site Caretaker, had mentioned to him at the site on Saturday, with regard to a resident attending the site with a trailer full of construction materials and refused to sort it. He did leave with the material. Council agreed with Mr. Ehn's response.

The Clerk-Treasurer also informed Council that a Casual Disposal Site Caretaker has been hired. Mr. Jon Hari attended the site for training with Mr. Ehn on September 1st.

Compliments were made with regard to the Groundskeeper's work this summer.

The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that she has received a request from the exercise group to come back to the O'Connor Community Centre. Council was asked if we would

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be willing to open up the centre to all groups with restrictions. Council discussed the current COVID-19 situation and agreed that we would be willing to consider the opening as long as they follow restrictions as outlined by the Province and the Township. Mayor Vezina will be attending the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) Board meeting on September 16th and the Clerk-Treasurer will be participating in a TBDHU meeting with the Clerk-Treasurer/ CAO on September 21st and further information on this will be requested. This item will be brought back to the next meeting for a final decision.

Council also discussed whether or not the wearing of masks during the Council meeting was required if we are social distancing. Mayor Vezina will also discuss this further with the TBDHU.

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

- a) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding a Notice of Proposal to modernize the Environmental Assessment Program. Council will consider this proposal and make comments.

For information purposes a building permit for a garage was approved at 197 Holomego Road.

15. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

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 OR LOCAL BOARD; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(E) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001. AND TO DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 9:02 P.M.

Carried

A letter, including a cheque request was read with regard to an insurance policy deductible.

Councillor Racicot left the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Union Negotiations were discussed for the Road Employees. The current Agreement expired on July 31, 2020. Reference materials were provided for discussion.

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

**TIME BEING: 10:00 P.M.
THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried

17. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE IF SITUATION DUE TO COVID-19 REMAINS SAFE.
TIME BEING: 10:02 PM.**

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer