

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Council Chambers and virtually. Meeting rescheduled due to no quorum on Monday, September 12, 2022.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Loan, Racicot
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot
Administrative Assistant Laforest

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Matthew Henny, John Sobolta, Jon Hari (virtual)

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

1. Moved by Jerry Loan
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.

The visitors were asked if they wished to address Council on any personal matters. Mr. Henny, attending in place of Mrs. Sarah Henny who was scheduled on the agenda, indicated that he was in attendance to address any issues or concerns regarding his consent application. Council invited Mr. Henny to the table and item 11 a) was moved forward on the agenda.

Consent application decision from the Lakehead Rural Planning Board (LRPB) for Application #1B/25/22 was read. It was noted that there had been a 99 year lease, signed by the original owner of the property in 1997, that permitted the installation of a dry hydrant on the property for use by the Fire Department as a water source. Council asked Mr. Henny if there would be any issue in entering into a lease with the new owner and he indicated that the new owner was aware of the lease and had no issues with entering into a new one. It was

3. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE CONSENT APPLICATION 1B/25/22 FOR SARAH AND MATTHEW HENNY FOR THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS CONCESSION 6, N PT LOT 3 PCL 5250 DFWF FOR 4.04 HECTARES BE APPROVED.

Carried

Mr. Henny was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

Mr. Kelly Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. Roadwork in general was discussed. Brushing has been done at the corner of Blaikie Road and Diana Road to address school bus issues with road visibility. Culverts have been installed on Strom Road. Mr. Johnson was asked if planned culvert installation for 2022 were still on track and he replied yes. Update on Shop "B" construction project was given. They will be installing the footings and pouring the concrete pad next week weather permitting. Brushing and Ditching projects will be done this fall.

The Health and Safety Report dated August 12, 2022 was reviewed. Council had no questions or comments.

The sale of the Township dump truck was discussed. As Council is currently in Lane Duck, as three quarters of the current Municipal Council will not be returning in the new term, the decision to sell the truck will be made by new Council.

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The Federal Government has proclaimed Monday, September 19, 2022 as a Statutory Holiday to observe the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. The Union Agreement and the Administrative Benefit Policy states that any day proclaimed as a holiday by the Federal, Provincial or Municipal Government will be recognized. Council agreed that the Municipal Office and Garage will be closed on September 19th.

Item 12a), Tenders and Quotes, was moved forward on the agenda to discuss with Mr. Johnson. Council was informed that no tenders were received for drilling a well for flooding the outdoor rink. Two tenders for the retrofit of the outdoor rink and rink shack were received, one from Syncor Contracting Limited in the amount of \$86,150.00 plus HST and one from Torkcon Contracting Ltd in the amount of \$109,700.00 plus HST.

The expense of \$88,200.00 for the retrofit of the outdoor rink and rink shack was included in the 2022 budget, therefore the acceptance of quote is not subject to the restrictions outlined in the Municipal Act while we have a Lame Duck Council so it was

4. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE TENDER OF SYNCOR CONTRACTING LIMITED BE ACCEPTED FOR THE RETROFIT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR RINK AND RINK SHACK AT A COST OF \$86,150.00 + HST.

Carried

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for September 14, 2022 was reviewed and it was

5. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2022-15 DATED SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 TOTALLING \$105,553.94 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenses to August 31, 2022 were reviewed. It was noted that we have received both the first year and second year funding for Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS). As per the budget the first-year funding had been moved to deferred revenue to be used in the 2023 project to resurface Loghrin Road. As the second-year funding was not budgeted, it was recommended by administration that the amount be deferred as well. A motion to defer the funding will be brought to the next meeting of Council.

By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

- a) 4.24 Policy for Mandatory Use of Mask or Face Covering was reviewed and it was

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT POLICY 4.24 FOR MANDATORY USE OF MASK OR FACE COVERING BE RESCINDED IN ITS ENTIRETY WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT CAN RE RE-ENACTED AS NEEDED.

Carried

- b) 4.25 Pandemic Risk Management and Prevention Policy was reviewed and it was

7. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT POLICY 4.25 FOR PANDEMIC RISK MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS: REMOVE APPENDIX "A" AND BE REPLACED WITH THE REVISED "APPENDIX A".

Carried

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- c) 4.26 Pandemic Risk Management and Prevention Policy – O'Connor Community Centre was reviewed and it was

8. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT POLICY 4.26 FOR PANDEMIC RISK MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION – O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE BE RESCINDED IN ITS ENTIRETY WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT CAN BE RE-ENACTED AS NEEDED.

Carried

- d) 4.30 Policy for COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing was reviewed and it was

9. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT POLICY 4.30 FOR COVID-19 RAPID ANTIGEN TESTING BE RESCINDED IN ITS ENTIRETY WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT CAN BE RE-ENACTED AS NEEDED.

Carried

- e) By-law Number 2022-17, being a By-law authorizing the execution of a Grant Contract was reviewed and it was

10. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-17 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CANADA HEALTHY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE, FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, AND THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR FOR THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FOR THE ACCESSIBILITY RAMP REPLACEMENT BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Town of South Bruce Peninsula regarding Mandatory Firefighter Certification and it was

11. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF SOUTH BRUCE PENINSULA SUPPORTING AMO'S RECOMMENDATIONS CALLING ON THE SOLICITOR GENERAL OF ONTARIO TO WORK WITH AMO, MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS AND FIRE CHIEFS ACROSS ONTARIO TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS RAISED REGARDING THE ONTARIO FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION PROCESS SO THAT MUNICIPALITIES CAN CONTINUE TO OFFER HIGH QUALITY SERVICES TO THEIR COMMUNITIES BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- b) Town of Wasaga Beach regarding the Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act was filed.
c) Municipality of Brighton regarding Change to Healthcare Connect System – Canadian Forces Members and it was

12. Moved by A Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF BRIGHTON REQUESTING THAT THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT CHANGE THE ACCESS

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RULES TO HEALTHCARE CONNECT TO PERMIT THE REGISTRATION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL INTO THE HEALTHCARE CONNECT SYSTEM ONCE CANADIAN FORCES MEMBERS ARE PROVIDED WITH A RELEASE DATE IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE THE CURRENT HEALTHCARE GAP BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- d) City of Kenora Action Required: Federal Electoral Boundaries was reviewed. A report from the Director of Corporate Services for the City of Kenora was read. In the report was a resolution which was brought to their Council meeting held on September 13, 2022. Council decided that they will pass a similar resolution under new business.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition Minutes of the Meeting held on May 17, 2022.
 - b) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) regarding the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 2022 Conference and NOMA's discussing issues facing Northwestern Ontario.
 - c) AMO i) regarding Municipal Waste Update – AMO Releases Draft Discussion Paper to Expand Producer Responsibility.
 - ii) Policy Update – Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act
 - iii) Policy Update – Throne Speech and Budget
 - iv) Policy Update – Provincial Health News from a Municipal Lens.
 - d) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) regarding the introduction of the proposed Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act on August 10, 2022.
 - e) AMCTO regarding Advocacy Update – Standing Up for Municipal Professionals at Standing Committee on Bill 3: Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act.
 - f) Ministry of Health – Sharing Success Stories from Municipalities: New Patient Care Models for Select 9-1-1 Medical Patients.
 - g) Marcus Powlowski, MP's Office reply to Council's endorsed resolution regarding rural physician shortage.
 - h) City of Thunder Bay Staff Announcement – Retirement of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Chief Wayne Gates.
 - i) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) regarding New Requirements under the Conservation Authorities (CA) Act: Training for CA's and Municipalities.
- The balance of the correspondence was passed around table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Canada Healthy Communities Initiative Announcement of Funding for the Township of O'Connor Accessibility Ramp Replacement project.
- b) Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) Community Engagement webinar registration for continued discussion with Municipalities regarding meeting Ontario's Future Electricity Needs. Mayor Vezina is registered for the webinar.
- c) Discussion of upcoming meeting dates and attendance. Councillor Loan indicated that he should be able to attend the next Council meeting scheduled for Monday, September 26th. The October 24th Council meeting was discussed. As the meeting is scheduled on Election Day, Council agreed to reschedule the meeting for Tuesday, October 25th and it was

13. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022 AT 7 P.M. BE CHANGED TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022 TO ACCOMMODATE THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

Carried

The Council meeting to be held on Monday, November 14th was discussed. As the new term of Council begins on Tuesday, November 15th, Council agreed to change the date and it was

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14. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. BE CHANGED TO TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022 TO ACCOMMODATE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEW TERM ON NOVEMBER 15, 2022.

Carried

Under New business, Council discussed

- a) The Clerk-Treasurer's report to Council regarding Lame Duck Council. As of Nomination Day, August 19, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. the Council of the Township of O'Connor has become Lame Duck as three quarters (3/4) of the current Municipal Council will not be returning in the new term. In this situation there are certain actions which are restricted, one of which is the disposal of real or personal property of the Municipality exceeding \$50,000.00 or making any expenditures or incurring any other liability that exceeds \$50,000.00. It was decided, earlier in the meeting that the sale of Truck #7 or Truck #9 will be deferred to the new term of Council.
- b) AMCTO Zone 9 Fall Meeting and Conference attendance was discussed and it was

15. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE AMCTO ZONE 9 FALL MEETING AND CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON SEPTEMBER 27 AND 28, 2022.

CLERK-TREASURER BUOB, DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT, ADMIN ASSISTANT LAFOREST.

REGISTRATION: \$100.00

Carried

It was noted that Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot won a free registration for this conference at the AMCTO 2022 Spring Conference.

- c) Forum North Health & Safety Conference & Trade Show attendance was discussed and it was

16. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND FORUM NORTH TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON NOVEMBER 1 & 2, 2022.

ADMIN ASSISTANT LAFOREST, EQUIPMENT OPERATOR #1 CAREN, EQUIPMENT OPERATOR #1 PAYETTE.

REGISTRATION: SUPER EARLY BIRD RATE BY SEPTEMBER 30TH - \$339.00 + HST.

Carried

- d) The date for the Emergency Management Program Committee (EMPC) was discussed. Council agreed to hold the meeting prior to the regular Council meeting that will be held on Tuesday, October 25th and it was

17. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE AND TIME BE SET FOR AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 25, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Carried

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The date for the Emergency Tabletop Exercise was discussed. Council agreed that Councillors Elect will be invited to the exercise and it was

18. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR A TABLETOP EXERCISE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD
IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

Carried

- e) Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) Annual Conference attendance was discussed and it was

19. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT
MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN THUNDER
BAY ON SEPTEMBER 22 & 23, 2022.**

**MAYOR JIM VEZINA, COUNCILLOR CRANE, COUNCILLOR LOAN,
COUNCILLOR RACICOT, ADMIN ASSISTANT LAFOREST.**

REGISTRATION: \$195.00 PER PERSON

Carried

- f) Ontario Connects – Accelerated High-Speed Internet Program (AHSIP) Onboarding. As Clerk-Treasurer Buob completed the AHSIP Readiness Questionnaire on August 18, 2022, Council would like this item brought back to the next Council meeting for discussion with her.
- g) North Superior Workforce Planning Board invitation to the Made in the North: Collaborative Transformation Event. No one from Council will be attending.
- h) Municipal Finance Officers' Association's (MFOA) Northern Call To Action: Long Term Financial Planning upcoming session was discussed and it was

20. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MUNICIPAL FINANCE
OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION – LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING TO BE
HELD LIVESTREAM ON NOVEMBER 23 – 25, 2022**

CLERK-TREASURER BUOB

REGISTRATION: \$75.00

Carried

Under Further New Business Council discussed the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario's proposal of a new electoral map that would cut the number of federal election districts in Northern Ontario from ten to nine and it was

21. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**WHEREAS THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION FOR THE
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO HAS PROPOSED A NEW ELECTORAL MAP THAT
WOULD CUT THE NUMBER OF FEDERAL ELECTION DISTRICTS IN NORTHERN
ONTARIO FROM TEN TO NINE; AND**

**WHEREAS THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA REQUIRES THAT THE FEDERAL
ELECTOR DISTRICTS BE REVIEWED EVERY TEN YEARS; AND**

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WHEREAS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE WOULD SEE THE TWO LARGEST RIDINGS IN THE FAR NORTH, KENORA AND TIMMINS-JAMES BAY, AMENDED AND COMBINED INTO ONE MASSIVE RIDING CALLED KIIWETINOONG-MUSHKEGOWUK, SPANNING FROM THE MANITOBA BORDER TO QUEBEC, AND THUNDER BAY-RAINY RIVER'S CURRENT RIDING BOUNDARY READJUSTED DRAMATICALLY AND COMBINED WITH KENORA WITH FURTHER SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE THUNDER BAY-SUPERIOR NORTH AND ALGOMA-MANITOULIN-KAPUSKASING BOUNDARIES; AND

WHEREAS THE LAND MASS SIZE OF THE NEW KENORA-THUNDER BAY-RAINY RIVER RIDING WOULD MAKE IT VIRTUALLY UNGOVERNABLE, AND ULTIMATELY INFRINGE ON THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF NORTHERNERS; AND

WHEREAS OUR REGION HAS DIVERSE AND UNIQUE INTERESTS WHICH ARE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM ONE ANOTHER AND DESERVE ADEQUATE DIVERSE REPRESENTATION IN OTTAWA; AND

WHEREAS THE LEGISLATION WOULD IN FACT SUPPORT, ACCORDING TO THE POPULATION QUOTA TO BE APPLIED BY THE COMMISSION, A REDUCTION OF TWO, BUT THE COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED ONE;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR STRONGLY OPPOSES THE PROPOSED REDUCTION OF NORTHERN RIDINGS AND REPRESENTATIVES; AND FURTHER

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR CALLS UPON THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION TO CONSIDER THE VAST LAND MASS THAT ALREADY EXISTS WITHIN OUR ELECTORAL BOUNDARY AND REFRAIN FROM EXTENDING ANY BOUNDARY WHICH REDUCES NORTHERN RIDINGS AND REPRESENTATIVES; AND FURTHER

THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE UNIQUENESS OF NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO, ESPECIALLY SMALLER MUNICIPALITIES IN THE NORTH AND THAT EXPANDING THIS BOUNDARY PROVIDES FOR FURTHER IMPERILLED AND UNDERREPRESENTATION BY SO FEW SEATS; AND FURTHER

THAT COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO MARCUS POWLOWSKI, MP THUNDER BAY-RAINY RIVER, PATTY HAJDU, MP THUNDER BAY-SUPERIOR NORTH, KEVIN HOLLAND, MPP THUNDER BAY-ATIKOKAN, LISE VAUGEOIS, MPP THUNDER BAY-SUPERIOR NORTH, THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION FOR ONTARIO, THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION, AND THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE.

Carried

For information purposes: A Demolition Permit was approved for the removal of a garage at 212 Cronk Road.

22. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIRTUAL.

TIME BEING: 8:48 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer