

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, September 23, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Ms. Katrina Kim, Hydro One Community Relations, Mr. Steven Mantifel, Manager, Special Projects, Hydro One,
Ms. Shelly Thorne.

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 9a), 14d) and f) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

Mayor Vezina asked if Ms. Thorne wished to address Council on any other issue other than what she had requested to speak to Council at tonight's Council meeting. She replied no.

1. Moved by B.J. Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Ms. Katrina Kim and Mr. Steven Mantifel representing Hydro One were welcomed to the table. Ms. Kim and Mr. Mantifel had requested a deputation in order to update Council and Staff on the Waasigan Transmission Line Project. This project has been initiated by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) who has asked Hydro One to begin development work for a new 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that will run between Thunder Bay and Dryden. Potential corridors for the project include the possibility that it will run along the northeast border between the Township of Conmee and the Township of O'Connor.

Council expressed concerns regarding secured project funding, health and safety for individuals living in and around the proposed corridor area and consultations with First Nations in the area. The Ontario Energy Board would need to approve the funding before the project can begin, corridors that are currently being looked at would not impact residential areas and thirteen First Nations have been and will continue to be involved in the discussions.

Ms. Kim and Mr. Mantifel where thank for attending the meeting.

Ms. Shelly Thorne was welcomed to the table. Ms Thorne had requested to be on tonight's agenda to seek approval of the installation of a Blessing Box on the municipal grounds. The boxes are made by a local group, Giant Hearts, and are given free of charge to people who apply and are approved for them. Blessing Boxes are an outreach support for those struggling to have essentials in their homes. There is no charge for items in the box and Ms. Thorne will maintain the stock when required. Giant Hearts does add items to the boxes however they encourage the communities around the boxes to also support if able.

Council had no issue with installing a box at the Community Centre and a letter of support will be sent to Giant Hearts.

Ms. Thorne was thanked for attending the meeting and left the meeting along with Ms. Kim and Mr. Mantifel.

Fire Chief Henry Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was reviewed. Between June 20th and September 19th, the First Response Team responded to three medical related calls. This year four members of the department attended the 2019 FireCon session held in Thunder Bay in September. The Fire Department's

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tanker and the pumper will be brought in for the annual safety inspection shortly and the pump test on the pumper has already been done.

The Fire Department Auxiliary will be applying to Jenny's Heroes, a program that supplies grants to small volunteer fire departments in Ontario. The Auxiliary will be applying for grant money to purchase new radios for each department member.

Volunteer attendance was discussed. A letter will be drafted that will be sent to volunteer fire and first responders that are currently on the roster but have not been attending training sessions, meetings or responding to calls.

The Fire Department equipment was discussed. It was suggested that a Five-Year Plan for the replacement of equipment be developed. This issue will be brought back during 2020 budget deliberations.

Chief Mattas was thanked for attending the meeting.

The Administration and Roads Voucher was reviewed, and it was

2. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER 2019-12 DATED
SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 TOTTALLING \$39,671.64 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**
Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to August 31, 2019 were reviewed.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

Council discussed the implementation of a Recognition Policy for staff. Council would like administration to draft a report on the financial implications of adopting a recognition policy and have it available for the next meeting of Council. Mr. Gordon Cuthbertson's retirement was discussed, and it was agreed that a \$100.00 gift certificate be presented to him.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Municipality of Chatham-Kent regarding Provincial Funding Cuts to Legal Aid Ontario was filed.
- b) Township of Zorra supporting the continuation of the programs of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) or of the other Conservation Authorities in Ontario and it was

3. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA SUPPORTING
THE CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAMS OF THE UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (UTRCA), BOTH MANDATORY AND NON-
MANDATORY, AND THAT NO PROGRAMS OF THE UTRCA OR OF THE
OTHER CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES IN ONTARIO BE "WOUND DOWN"
AT THIS TIME, AND THAT THE MINISTRY OF THE 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 Larder Lake requesting that the Ministers and the Premier offer electronic delegations to small and rural Municipalities, and it was

4. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Jerry Loan

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF LARDER LAKE REQUESTING THAT THE MINISTERS AND THE**

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PREMIER OFFER ELECTRONIC DELEGATIONS TO SMALL AND RURAL MUNICIPALITIES THAT DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT BUDGET TO ATTEND CONFERENCES BE ENDORSED.

Carried.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) President regarding the Federal Gas Tax surplus administration of funds. The Township of O'Connor will receive \$812.69.
- b) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) minutes of the June 27, 2019 meeting.
- c) Office of the Prime Minister acknowledging receipt of Council's endorsed resolution regard the water levels of Lake Ontario.
- d) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding Review of Draft Forest Management Plan: Information Centre Lakehead Forest 2020-2030 Forest Management Plan.

Under Old Business, Council discussed:

- a) Forum North registration and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND FORUM NORTH TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON NOVEMBER 5 & 6, 2019.**ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT ERIN LAFOREST****LEADHAND KELLY JOHNSON****REGISTRATION: SUPER EARLY BIRD RATE BY OCTOBER 15TH – \$329.00 + HST**

Carried.

- b) LHNorth regarding Design Build for Proposed Detour Service Agreement and the addition of Sitch Creek in Hymers and Highway 595 closure. Council did not have any issues with the addition of the Sitch Creek project and the resulting extension of the road closure by 10 days. Council did want it made clear that maintenance will be done on Garbutt Road to Highway 590 during the closure.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) The Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy requesting letters of support for a proposed research project looking at food waste valorization. Council agreed to send a support letter.
- b) The Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) regarding the upcoming 102nd Conference and Meeting and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO AT THE PRINCE ARTHUR WATERFRONT HOTEL AND SUITES ON OCTOBER 25TH AND OCTOBER 26TH, 2019. COUNCILLORS JERRY LOAN, WENDY HANDY, ALEX CRANE, BISHOP RACICOT AND CLERK-TREASURER BUOB.**REGISTRATION: \$175.00**

Carried.

Councillor Loan commented that the TBDML board has discussed possibly changing the time of year for the Annual Conference and to ask their respective Councils for input. Council were in agreement to keep the timing of the Conference the same.

- c) Ontario Power Generation regarding the Dam Safety Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan meeting and it was;

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

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THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MEETING OF ONTARIO POWER GENERATION'S DAM SAFETY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN (EPRP) FOR THE KAMINISTIGUIA RIVER SYSTEM TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019 AT THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, BRANCH 225 IN KAKABEKA FALLS, ONTARIO

REGISTRATION FEE – N/C

MAYOR JIM VEZINA, CLERK-TREASURER BUOB, FIRE CHIEF HENRY MATTAS

Carried.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

d) Municipal Finance Officers Association (MFOA) regarding the Live Stream Reserve and Reserve Fund workshops and it was;

8. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S PARTICIPATE IN THE MUNICIPAL FINANCE OFFICERS OF ONTARIO (MFOA) LIVE STREAM WORKSHOP, RESERVE & RESERVE FUNDS IN ONTARIO TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019 AND THE WRITING RESERVE & RESERVE FUND POLICIES TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019

CLERK-TREASURER BUOB

REGISTRATION: \$589.00 + HST

Carried.

Councillor Racicot returned to the room.

e) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) update from the September 19, 2019 meeting. The LRMC would like a representative from each municipality to attend the City of Thunder Bay's Council meeting to be held on Monday, October 7, 2019. They will be voting on the Truck Diversion By-Law that will divert truck traffic through Kakabeka Falls. It was recommended that Councillor Racicot attend the meeting.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

f) Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot's work schedule was discussed. Council had no issue of concerns with the proposed work schedule.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

g) A date for the Emergency Tabletop Exercise was discussed and it was:

9. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR A TABLE TOP EXERCISE, NOVEMBER 19/19 AT 7:00 PM. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Carried.

h) A date for the Emergency Management Program Committee (EMPC) meeting was discussed and it was;

10. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE AND TIME BE SET FOR AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING, NOVEMBER 26, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Carried.

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i) A date for the Senior and Elected Officials Workshop was discussed and it was;

11. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE AND TIME BE SET FOR A SENIOR AND ELECTED OFFICIAL WORKSHOP FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, NOVEMBER 26, 2019 FOLLOWING THE EMPC MTG. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Carried.

Under further new business Council discussed having an equipment report for the Fire Department, similar to what the Roads Department prepares for Council on an annual basis. The report would detail the condition of the fire trucks and any necessary repairs.

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

- a) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) regarding a Web-Based Focus Group asking to provide input into MPAC's Municipal Engagement Strategy was read.
- b) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry proposed changes to the Aggregate Resources Act. Council would like to provide comment with regard to Municipal By-Laws having consideration when enforcing the Act.
- c) Lucy Kloosterhuis, Chair, Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) regarding the position of the secretary for the LRMC vacancy effective March 2020. Council had no comment or recommendations.
- d) The Ontario Aggregate Resources Corporation regarding Licence Fee Disbursement under the Aggregate Resources Act. The Township of O'Connor has received \$6,035.16 as its share of the licence/permit fees collected from aggregate producers in the Township. The payment is based on payments received since the most recent regular disbursement in March 2019.
- e) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition invitation to participate in the upcoming Indigenous 101 Training that is being offered by Mayor Wendy Landry of Shuniah and it was

12. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S PARTICIPATE IN INDIGENOUS 101 TRAINING OPPORTUNITY TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CONMEE COMMUNITY CENTRE LOCATED AT 19 HOLLAND ROAD IN CONMEE TOWNSHIP.

MAYOR VEZINA, COUNCILLORS LOAN, HANDY, CRANE, RACICOT, CLERK-TREASURER BUOB, DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT, ADMIN ASSISTANT LAFOREST.

REGISTRATION: N/C

Carried.

It was

13. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 9:45 P.M.

Carried.