

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, September 28, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Community Centre.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Paul LeBeouf, Janice LeBeouf
Norman Sandberg and Rachelle Davenport, Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Absent: Councillor Handy

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 16 a) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Paul and Janice LeBeouf were asked if they wished to address Council and they replied no.

Mr. Norman Sandberg and Ms. Rachelle Davenport from Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made. Each provided their background information and how they have become involved with NWMO. A slide deck presentation was provided to Council entitled "Implementing Canada's Plan for Used Nuclear Fuel". Their presentation included background information on the process to date, including an explanation of the used nuclear fuel that they are proposing to store, proposed site locations, plans for transportation and their consultation process to date and into the future. Mr. Sandberg also provided information from other countries on how they are handling the same materials, the testing that has been done and an explanation of a Deep Geological Repository, how it would be designed and how it would work. 90% of the nuclear waste in Canada comes from Ontario and the two sites that are still being considered are both in Ontario, South Bruce and Ignace.

They currently have a draft transportation plan out for public comment and they would appreciate Council submitting their comments. Ms. Davenport will forward the link to the Township office and it will be forwarded to Council to make any comment. Currently there is no actual route in the plan as they have not chosen the final location. They do know that it will be rail and/or road. It will not be shipped across the Great Lakes.

Council asked questions following the presentation. It was noted that some of Council have seen, in person, the shipping container they are proposing to use.

The NWMO's primary consideration is safety, to protect the people and the environment during all aspects of used nuclear fuel handling, transport and delivery to the repository.

Mr. Sandberg and Ms. Davenport were thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department Report was read from June 18, 2020 to September 28, 2020. In that time period there were three First Response, three Fire/Co alarms and one Motor Vehicle Collision related calls.

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Council asked Fire Chief Mattas about the “no one responded” comment on a few of the calls. Fire Chief Mattas informed Council that he does monitor all calls. CACC will page three times if no one responds. For a First Response call if no one is responding and he knows the ambulance is on its way, no further action is taken. If there is a Fire Call and no one responds, Mutual Aid is called out.

It was noted that fire training is down because of COVID-19. They have had two meetings in September; however, attendance has been low.

Fire Chief Mattas informed Council of the funding the Fire Department received from Jenny's Heroes program to purchase new radios for the team and provided a background on the former talk show host's generosity. She has been supporting volunteer Fire Departments for the past few years. Fire Chief Mattas received a phone call from Ms. Jones herself informing him of the funding. A thank you and pictures were sent to Ms. Jones.

Fire Chief Mattas informed Council that Jesse Buob has resigned from the Department due to his new employment.

Fire Chief Mattas noted that he is very pleased with the Social Media Policy that was presented at the last Fire Department meeting. It was noted that no one from the team has put their name forward yet to be the Social Media designate for the Fire Department.

Fire Chief Mattas expressed his concern with Councillor Racicot entering the Fire Hall to do a SCBA bottle count on his own and without signing in. It was agreed that anytime someone enters the Fire Hall they are required to sign in.

The members have been doing some work in the Fire Hall with Auxiliary funds. Council will look at these updates during Township Inspection. The Road Employees have also been working on preparing the training area at the Disposal Site for the Fire Department. Fire Chief Mattas has not seen the progress since the work has begun.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for September 28, 2020 was reviewed and it was

2. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2020-16 DATED SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 TOTTALLING \$63,538.11 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of North Glengarry urging the Ontario Government to provide funding to increase full-time positions in long term care homes. It was

3. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY URGING THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO INCREASE FULL-TIME POSITIONS IN PLACE OF CASUAL AND PART-TIME LABOUR IN LONG-TERM CARE HOMES AND REQUESTING THAT THE MINISTRY OF LONG-TERM CARE ACT TO REGULARLY INSPECT ALL LONG-TERM CARE HOMES, AND ENSURE THAT SOUND INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES ARE PUT IN PLACE, BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- b) Township of Wollaston requesting changes to the Municipal Elections Act was filed.

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- c) Town of Amherstburg requesting Amendments to Bill 108 regarding the Ontario Heritage Act was filed.
- d) Town of Amherstburg requesting an AODA Website compliance extension, was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) – Update from the Board – September 23, 2020.
- b) Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) – 2020 NOMA & TBDML levy. The Township's portion is \$255.85.
- c) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – 2019 Audited Financial Statements.
- d) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) – Municipal levy letter. MPAC's pandemic support plan has three elements: controlling MPAC costs, supporting municipal priorities and finding new ways to deliver services. The corporations 2021 operating budget will have a municipal levy increase of 0%.
- e) Ministry of the Solicitor General - Enforcement and Amendments under the Reopening Ontario Act, 2020
- f) Doug Morris – email regarding truck incident on Blaikie Road. This item was deferred to discuss further with Mr. Johnson, Leadhand at the next meeting.
- g) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) AMO Policy Update – September 17, 2020 – New Legislation, Regional Gathering Restrictions, and Pre-Federal Throne Speech Submission
 - ii) AMO Policy Update – September 21, 2020 – Provincial Regional Gathering Restrictions and DC/CBC Regulations
 - iii) AMO Update: September 23, 2020 – 2020 Federal Throne Speech, Expanding Rural Broadband, Improved Housing Access, Child Care and Long-Term Care Standards
- h) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding Parkland Dedication, Development Charges and the Community Benefits Charges Authority.
- i) Tribunals Ontario – regarding Assessment Review Board (ARB) – ARB Changes Status.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Township Inspection set for October 23, 2020 – Councillor Loan requested that the start time be moved ahead by an hour as he has to work in the morning and will not be available at 8:30 a.m. Council agreed and it was

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

THAT THE START TIME FOR THE UPCOMING TOWNSHIP INSPECTION TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2020 BE CHANGED FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 9:30 A.M.

Carried

- b) The O'Connor Community Centre rentals and the request to restart the exercise class was discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer did enquire with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) and they did provide a copy of the Guidance for facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities during COVID-19, which was provided to Council. Council were in agreement, that if nothing changes in this regard, they would allow the group to come back as long as they follow the new strict guidelines set out by the Province of Ontario. The rental rate was also discussed and it was agreed to keep the rate the same and include the extra cleaning as a COVID-19 expense. The group will be required to sign a form to confirm that they will abide by the guidelines.
- c) Municipal Operating Fund Phase 1 – funding for COVID expenses. Council discussed expenses that could be covered under the funding. At this time Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to look further into the purchase of a laptop for the Administrative Assistant who is working from home most days, as well as remote microphones for teleconferencing if we have to go back to virtual meetings.
- d) Discuss the progress of updating of the Township of O'Connor Zoning By-law. The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that the Zoning By-law has not been finalized following the approval of the Official Plan. The progress has been on hold since the

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last discussions due to time restraints and now COVID-19. The Clerk-Treasurer asked Council if they would like her to follow up with Fotenn and get the process moving forward again or wait until the COVID-19 has subsided, as an open house/public meeting is required. Council agreed to continue to wait and asked the Clerk-Treasurer to contact the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to confirm the timelines required to implement the new By-law and ask if there is any mechanism in place if we cannot meet the deadline at this time.

Under New business, Council discussed

- a) Shara Lavallee, Lakehead Police Board Secretary – regarding the OPP Section 10 Contract. In the correspondence from the Ontario Provincial Police, it stated that the group would have to rename when the Township of Gillies leaves at the end of the year. Council did not understand why the name would have to change and asked Councillor Loan to follow up with this at the next Police Services Board meeting. If a name change is required, Council suggested – Lakehead Area One group. Council was also concerned with what will happen with this group if the Township of Conmee's and the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge's proposed amalgamation goes through in January 2021. Will the Township of Conmee also be leaving the group?
- b) Township of Gillies – copy of Letter to the Lakehead Police Services Board regarding the Appointment of Mr. John Sobolta to Lakehead Police Services Board and their financial concerns with regard to the budget process. The letter states that they will not be paying their 2020 levy to the Board and they are requesting a refund on their 2019 payment. This matter will be dealt with through the Board.

Under Further New Business, Council discussed a concern with the number of flies in the community centre this fall. The janitor will be asked to find a way to keep them under control. The Clerk-Treasurer will confirm whether or not Norwest Pest Control was hired to spray for cluster flies last year.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed:

- a) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines – News Release – Ontario Launches Recovery Program for Northern Businesses Impacted by COVID-19. Companies can apply for assistance with projects that help them adjust to the impacts of COVID-19.

For information purposes Building Permits were approved as follows: New home – 595 Highway 595, Storage/Equipment building – 251 Connolly Road.

The visitors and Councillor Racicot left the meeting and it was

5. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 9:00 P.M.

Carried

The Road Employees Union negotiations discussion was continued from the last meeting. The Union Agreement expired on July 31, 2020.

6. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

TIME BEING: 9:45 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

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7. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 13, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE IF SITUATION DUE TO COVID-19 REMAINS SAFE.

TIME BEING: 9:47 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer