

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – APRIL 13, 2015

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Present: Mayor Nelson
Councillors: Foekens, Racicot, Vezina
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Leadhand Kelly Johnson

Absent: Councillor Loan

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 15c) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mr. Johnson was asked if he wished to address Council on any personal matters and he replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table.

A Monthly Road Department Report from March 24 to April 10, 2015 was read. Roadwork in general was discussed. The road employees have been working on the budget, keeping the water flowing by steaming culverts were needed and they have started to grade the roads where required.

The Workplace Safety North – Working at Heights Safety Training was discussed and it was

2. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT KELLY JOHNSON AND BRENT DENNHARDT ATTEND THE WORKING FROM HEIGHTS TRAINING WORKSHOP TO BE HELD ON JUNE 9, 2015 IN THUNDER BAY.

REGISTRATION: \$125.00 + HST.

Carried

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – 2015 LRCA Flood Warning System contact booklet and minutes from the Annual Spring Melt meeting were available for review.

The usage of the Township's steamer was discussed. Mr. Johnson explained to Council the process of using the steamer, what has been done to the steamer to ensure that it is safe to use and explained how they have gone above and beyond what is essential for it safe use. The employees have no issue with running the steamer and the recent safety meeting held with the road employees and the health and safety representative ensured this. The Clerk-Treasurer will check into whether or not there is a written policy on its usage, as well if there is a policy in place with regard to refusing to work if an employee does not feel safe with a piece of equipment.

Mr. Johnson was asked if he was interested in the old office photocopier for the garage and he replied no. Council was then asked how they would like to dispose of the copier. A for sale advertisement will be put into the May issue of the Cornerstone to see if anyone would be interested in purchasing it.

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

The Administration and Roads Voucher for March 2015 was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR MARCH 31, 2015 TOTTALLING \$130,074.80 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

A resolution for endorsement was read from the Township of Madawaska Valley with regard to the rising hydro rates in the rural areas and it was

4. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF MADAWASKA VALLEY CALLING ON PREMIER WYNNE AND THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PREVENT RATE INCREASES FROM BEING IMPLEMENTED AND BRING THE RATES DOWN TO A REASONABLE LEVEL BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Mayor Lucy Kloosterhuis, Area One representative on the Thunder Bay District Social Services Board provided a copy of the resolution passed by the Board on March 15, 2015 with regard to the Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee's letter addressing the committee's concerns with the Board. A copy of the Board's reply letter to these concerns was also read. The committee will be determining their next steps to these concerns now that they have an official response from the Board.

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board 2015 Cost Apportionment for the participating Municipalities was reviewed. The Township of O'Connor's levy will increase by \$1,150 over 2014.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watchfile – March 26, 2015.
ii) Watchfile – April 2, 2015.
iii) Watchfile – April 9, 2015.
iv) Ministry of Education Releases New Process for School Closures. It was noted that one of the significant changes to the newly revised Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines is that the school boards must formally consult with municipal government.
- v) AMO Report to Member Municipalities Highlights of the March 2015 Board Meeting.
- vi) AMO Policy Update - Recent Development Regarding Housing and Homelessness Prevention. It was noted that the AMO Board directed the AMO President to follow-up with the Minister of Community and Social Services on the need for full financial compensation based on actual costs incurred with regard to the short and long-term problems with the new Social Assistance Management System (SAMS). The local Thunder Bay DSSAB will be receiving monies for their problems incurred.
- b) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – Thunder Bay OPP April Newsletter. Information with regard to stopping for the red flashing lights of a school bus will be included in the next issue of the Cornerstone.
- c) Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure regarding Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005 compliance requirements for 2015.
- d) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – NOMA pleased with Northern Industrial Energy Rebate Announcement.
- e) Stewardship Ontario – regarding the March payment for Municipal Blue Box Recycling for the 2014 Program Year. This payment represents the Township's allocation for the final payment for 2014 obligation.

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- f) Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport – regarding the 2015-16 Library Operating Grant program. Changes are being made to the program. The application will be available starting mid-August 2015.
- g) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – Wine tasting event will be held on May 14, 2015 at the Whitewater Golf Course. The information will be included in the May issue of the Cornerstone.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old business, Council discussed

- a) Thunder Bay District Municipal League – regarding the Community Schools Alliance. A group has been formed to address the issues with regard to the local school board process to consider school closures. Mayor Kloosterhuis of the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge and Mayor Holland of the Township of Conmee have both put their names forward to sit on this alliance. They are still looking for others from Northwestern Ontario to sit on this board. No one from the Township of O'Connor will do so at this time.
- b) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association – second call for nominations. To date a nomination for President has been submitted by Mayor David Canfield from the City of Kenora and Mayor Phil Vinet from the Municipality of Red Lake for Executive Vice President. If Mayor Canfield is elected as President, Mayor Nelson will remain Past President on the Board for another term.

Under further Old Business the Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that the upcoming meeting with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the surrounding municipalities Council members, with regard to the new Billing Model will be held in the O'Connor Community Centre on April 27, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

Under New business, Council discussed

- a) Ontario Provincial Police – 2014 Reconciled Policing Costs and 2015 Statement of Adjustment. The 2014 reconciliation results and 2015 Adjustment total is -\$2,826.00. This credit will be put towards the Township's 2015 policing costs.
- b) Ministry of Finance - regarding Education Property Tax Rates. The education rates for the residential property class will be 0.195%, reduced from the rate of 0.203% in 2014.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- c) Municipality of Neebing – invitation to participate in USTI Training: Week of June 15, 2015. The Township in O'Connor has recently purchased the USTI tax program and the Clerk-Treasurer would be interested in the training. The Municipality of Neebing will be notified and once they receive the total number of trainees and what training is required a new cost per person will be determined.

Councillor Racicot returned to the room.

- d) A request for an addition to an existing accessory use building was discussed. Mr. Cuthbertson, Chief Building Official, did not see anything in the Township's Planning Documents clearly stating whether or not such an addition would be permitted and requested Council's opinion. Council do not have any issues with an addition being made to this structure.
- e) Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) – Celebrating New Investment in Ontario. The Clerk-Treasurer will inquire into a possible application to the OTF for an underground water tank and pump house for the outdoor rink and possibly storage trailers for the O'Connor Day equipment and tables, etc. to see if these projects would be eligible under this program.
- f) Kathy Dallaire, Court Services - City of Thunder Bay regarding adding outstanding defaulted fines to the Tax Roll. The City is presently testing four cases to add to the City's tax roll and once the processes have been defined, should any outstanding fine from the municipality come about they will contact the Township to discuss the possibility and process of adding this amount to the tax roll.
- g) Sylvia Jones, MPP regarding private member's bill, Bill 36 the Respecting Private Property Act. Ms. Jones is requesting Council's comment on the Bill. No comment will made.

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- h) Lisa Thompson, MPP regarding Bill 66 – Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015 requesting feedback on the Bill. Council do not have any comment at this time.

Under further new business, Council discussed the upcoming culvert replacements on both Highway 590 and Highway 595 by the Ministry of Transportation. Council would like a representative from the Ministry to attend an upcoming Council meeting to discuss what their plans are for closing the roads or detours onto the Township roads. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact the Ministry to arrange for this.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Municipal Risk Services Limited – regarding Liability claims for playing fields was read. A guide is available for purchase. Council are not interested in purchasing this guide at this time.

- 5. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015 AT 6:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 8:45 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer