

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – APRIL 27, 2015

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, April 27, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

1. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE NOTES FROM THE ROAD DEPARTMENT BUDGET MEETING HELD ON APRIL 13, 2015 AND THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Fire Chief Henry Mattas was welcomed to the table.

The Fire Department Report dated April 23, 2015 was read. The First Response team responded to 2 medical related calls since the last report.

Fire Chief Mattas expressed his gratitude for Council nominating him for the Volunteer Service Award for forty (40) years of service in the fire service. The award ceremony is to be held on Thursday, May 7th at the Valhalla Inn and both Mayor Nelson and Clerk-Treasurer Buob will be in attendance.

Fire Department issues were discussed. Fire Chief Mattas commented that the Auxiliary has purchased a new generator for the department to replace the existing one and a new pump has also been purchased. Fire Chief Mattas asked Council if they would like to sell surplus equipment, including the generator, and it was decided that an ad will be placed in the June issue of the Cornerstone asking for the submission of bids of the various items. Fire Chief Mattas will write a list of items with descriptions that will be included in the ad. Sealed bids will be accepted at the municipal office and Council will open the bids at a Council meeting yet to be determined.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Bills to be paid were passed around the table and it was

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by B.J. Loan

THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR APRIL 2015 BE PAID. THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE APRIL 2015 ROAD AND ADMINISTRATION VOUCHER.

CK#12895	JIM VEZINA (REIMBURSEMENT)	\$ 58.75
CK#12896	TBAYTEL (TELEPHONE)	\$ 374.78
CK#12897	RON NELSON (HONOURARIUM)	\$ 800.00
CK#12898	RON NELSON (HONOURARIUM)	\$ 670.00
CK#12899	HYDRO ONE	\$ 697.72
		\$ 2,601.25

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to January 31, 2015 was reviewed. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot commented that the Property Tax module that was purchased does not provide the information required to reconcile with the current accounting software that is being used. It was decided that the Cash Receipts module

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and the General Ledger module will be purchased at a cost of approximately \$595.00 each along with the annual maintenance fee of \$210.00 for each module.

A resolution for endorsement was read from the from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit regarding the First Nation Evacuation/Relocation Process and it was filed.

An E-mail from Mr. Ian Angus on behalf of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) requested that Council pass a resolution regarding the future ownership of Hydro One and it was

3. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by K. Foekens

WHEREAS the public electricity system in Ontario is a critical asset to the economy; and

WHEREAS much of the economy of the province, including Northwestern Ontario, hinges on a solid, sustainable and reliable electrical transmission and distribution system, and

WHEREAS Hydro One Networks has recorded profits of \$2.297 Billion over the last three years and paid dividends to the Province of Ontario in the amount of \$588 million in 2012 and 2013 combined, and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has announced that it will begin selling up to 60% of the value of Hydro One starting this fall, and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has projected that it will receive \$9 billion as a result of the sale and that \$5 billion will go towards reducing outstanding debt and \$4 billion will be allocated towards transit, transportation and other priority infrastructure projects across the province, and

WHEREAS the amount of \$4 billion represents less than 13% of the amount the Province has committed to investing in infrastructure over the next 10 years, and

WHEREAS the Province will have to borrow in order to pay for much of the remaining infrastructure costs, and

WHEREAS it has been estimated that Hydro One Networks see a return on investment in the range of 9 to 11% per year, and

WHEREAS the Ontario Government is paying less than 3% on current borrowing, and

WHEREAS it does not make sense to turn over 60% of its profits of 9% to 11% to the private sector when it could retain 100% ownership of Hydro One Networks, and borrow at less than 3% to pay for necessary infrastructure with a life span of 20 to 40 years, and

WHEREAS the privatization, partial or whole, of electricity has led to higher rates and less control; and

WHEREAS both Progressive Conservative and Liberal Government have in the past cancelled plans to sell all or parts to electrical infrastructure, and

WHEREAS the selling of all or part of Hydro One Networks to relieve a temporary fiscal shortfall is a short-sighted one time fix that will have a detrimental effect on the Citizens of Ontario forever,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of O'Connor call on the Government of Ontario to stop the sale of any part of Hydro One, and maintain Hydro One Networks as a wholly owned public asset for the benefit of all Ontarians; and

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That this resolution be forwarded to the Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, Hon. Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance, Northwestern Ontario MPPs, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Carried.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding the Spring flooding season and the role of the Ministry's Surface Water Monitoring Centre
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario
 - i) Watchfile dated April 16, 2015
 - ii) Watchfile dated April 23, 2015
 - iii) AMO Communications - Ontario Premier Announces Cap and Trade System to Reduce Greenhouse Gases
 - iv) AMO Communications - Government Announces Consultation to Update Ontario's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy
 - v) AMO Communications - Release of Premier's Advisory Council on Government Assets Reports
 - vi) AMO Communications – What Happened in Waste this Week – draft waste diversion motion. Also included was a note from Beth Stewart of the Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML)
 - vii) Federal Budget Provides New Public Transit Fund, Limited Housing Support
 - viii) 2015 Steward Obligation for Blue Box
 - ix) 2015 Ontario Budget Highlights
- c) AMCTO – 2015 Ontario Budget Highlights
- d) Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) – Government of Ontario Announces new connecting links program. Council would like this looked into further when more information is available about the program.
- e) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – May Newsletter. Council would like the Safe Boating Week information and the Victoria Day Long Weekend Safety Message included in the May issue of the Cornerstone.
- f) MPAC – 2014 Annual Report and Financial Statements.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old business, Council discussed

- a) Grant Thornton, LLP's 2014 Financial Statements for the Township of O'Connor.
- b) E-mail from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs regarding the 2015 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) formula allocation. Approval has been given by the Ministry to proceed with the culvert replacements that will be done with the funding.
- c) E-mail from the OPP regarding the announcement of the expansion of the citizen self-reporting program. Council would like the information included in the May issue of the Cornerstone.
- d) A memo from Clerk-Treasurer Buob regarding Council's request for information on the right to refuse work. The Clerk-Treasurer provided Council with the section of the Occupational Health and Safety Act pertaining to the right to refuse work and the Health and Safety Policy of the Township.

Councillor Racicot left the meeting.

Under New business, Council discussed

- a) AMCTO's Annual Conference to be held from June 7th to June 10th. Attendance at this meeting was discussed and it was decided to wait until the budget meeting to make a decision as to who will attend.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- b) An invitation from the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) to attend an Information Session on Regulatory Role and Plan Input and Review. The information session has been scheduled for May 13, 2015 which is the same night as the scheduled Budget meeting. The Deputy Clerk-Treasurer will contact the LRCA and ask that someone come out to a Council meeting to share the information.
- c) The Thunder Bay Public Library's request to provide service to residents of O'Connor at a cost of \$7.50 per tax roll number. Also included was a memo from the Clerk-Treasurer explaining the added cost of the service to the ratepayers. Council decided that they would not contract for services with the Thunder Bay Public Library.

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- d) An E-mail from Ernie Hardeman, MPP Oxford regarding an update on the Housing Services Corporation Accountability Act and requesting support for this bill. Council were in agreement to file the request.

Under further new business, Councillor Racicot brought up the possibility of installing an underground tank that could be used to flood the skating rink. Council asked Councillor Racicot to look into the feasibility of this project further and bring it back to Council at a later date.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) E-mail from the Mr. Edward Unger, Logistics Chief, Provincial Emergency Operations Centre, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services regarding hosting communities in the case of emergency evacuations. The Township is in no posting to host evacuated communities.
- b) Minister of Energy, Bob Chiarelli, regarding the sale of Hydro One was read.
- c) AMO Communication regarding the release of the Policing Modernization Report was read.
- d) 2015 Government Funding vs. Mandatory Government Programs. A report regarding the funding provided through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) and the costs associated with the mandatory government programs was reviewed.

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

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
ON MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.**

TIME BEING: 8:10 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer