

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – NOTES  
COMMUNITY POLICING PROBLEM SOLVING EXERCISE - JULY 4, 2011

Notes of the Community Policing Problem Solving Exercise meeting held on Monday, July 4, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Present: Mayor Nelson  
Councillors: Garbutt, Loan, Vezina  
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Leadhand Kelly Johnson, Ian Robson Municipal Enforcement/POA Officer, Staff Sergeant Dan Peters Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Sergeant John Reppard OPP, Darren Henderson -Taranis Contracting Group, Leah Dick, Brian Wiese, Robin McCabe.

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

Introductions were made.

Mayor Nelson informed those present that this was meeting number two, a follow up of the Community Policing Problem Solving Exercise held on May 4, 2011, to see how things have progressed with regard to the concerns of truck traffic on Strom road.

Mayor Nelson turned the meeting over to Staff Sergeant Dan Peters, OPP. Staff Sergeant Peters informed those present that following the last meeting, near the end of May, one of his officers was at the Taranis scale handing out a pamphlet to the truck drivers for a couple of hours. The pamphlet included information on the Township's By-law with regard to the non-use of compression brakes, speeding and littering. They have also spoken with Mr. Darren Henderson about a speed sign. Currently the models have to be hard wired but there is a possibility of a solar model coming soon.

Staff Sergeant Peters reported that since the last meeting no trucks have been charged for speeding, one driver has been charged with impaired driving. Mr. Henderson clarified that the driver was not charged with impaired but there was criminal offense in which he was charged. The OPP have however charged residents with speeding. The OPP have not received any complaints with regards to the truck traffic from the area residents. They do plan on doing another session of handing out pamphlets in the future.

The residents were then asked if they had any comments. Mr. Wiese said that it has been pretty good. The Taranis trucks are not speeding however there are red trucks that are still using their compression brakes and the workers in their personal vehicles are speeding when going to and coming from the pit. He does see an improvement. The new road is looking good. He noted that they were working on it on Sunday and he did not have a concern with this if it is to get the road completed sooner. Mr. Henderson noted the trucks are using the new road when exiting the pit however it still needs work.

Ms. Dick agreed that the trucks have slowed down but the red trucks are still speeding. The no use of compression brakes sign has been posted on Strom road and seems to be working.

Ms. McCabe stated that if she has a problem and she cannot get a hold of Darren she contacts Rick, the Foreman at the pit, and he addresses the situation right away rather than her contacting the OPP. She also commented that the trucks are still using the compression brakes on Highway 590 and the sign being moved to Strom road is good and is easy to ready at this location.

The use of compressions brakes on the Highways was discussed. There is no Provincial law that states that compression brakes cannot be used on the Province's Highways. As the Province has the jurisdiction over Highway 590 not the Township, the non-use of compression brakes is not enforceable.

Mr. Henderson forwarded an email to the person in charge of the red trucks informing them of the concerns and asking for cooperation from their drivers.

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It was noted that the crusher seems to be a bit quieter and more muffled this year. Mr. Henderson confirmed that it is a new larger crusher with a different sound.

Ms. McCabe asked if once Taranis has the new road open if they will get a guarantee that Taranis will not be using Strom road anymore. It was agreed that Taranis will not have to give up their rights to use the road. Something could happen with their road and they would not have access to the pit and they will still need to use Strom. Also their permit with the Ministry of Natural Resources to use the land is not guaranteed forever and if the permit was withdrawn they would then be land locked. Mr. Henderson stated that it would be inconvenient to use Strom road now that the scales have been moved and their own road has no restrictions to when they can haul. It was confirmed that Strom road will never be back to the way it was when they first started hauling. If the pit is sold in the future the pit license still holds the hours for hauling. It was also noted that there is still Strom pit, owned by the Ministry, which could have trucks hauling from it.

Mayor Nelson asked if there were any other concerns. Mr. Henderson noted that they have had theft occurring in their pit. Someone has stolen, on different occasions, lumber, first aid kits, etc. and they are concerned with all their expensive equipment in the pit. The traffic is coming off of Mayo Road and off the Thunder Bay Adventure trail using quads and 4 x 4 trucks to gain access to their pit. Taranis would like to keep the vehicular traffic off of their road. Mr. Henderson asked if it would be possible to block off these access roads by putting up a berm or a ditch to try to keep the traffic out of the pit. It was agreed that ditches would not be used as they could pose a safety hazard as you cannot see them at night. They would possibly also like to put up orange and black reflective dead end signs. Currently there is a No Exit sign at the beginning of the Mayo road. The Clerk-Treasurer will look into this matter further to see legally what the Township's jurisdiction is with regard to Mayo road and the crown land involved.

The OPP would be willing to do some surveillance working with Taranis staff and possibly increasing patrols in the area but they will not act as their personal security patrol.

Mr. Henderson was asked when the new road would be fully operational for both in and out traffic and he informed those present that they are currently working on soft spots, ditching to drain the water and the road needs to then be topped with rap and granular A material and he is hoping to have it complete in the next couple of weeks. It was suggested that No Hunting signs be posted in the fall on the new road as the property is on crown land.

Mayor Nelson thanked everyone for the cooperation and patience in this matter. The Township has a good working relationship with the Ministry of Transportation which helped to resolve this issue. Mr. Henderson was thanked for Taranis's devoted effort to get the issues resolved and Mayor Nelson asked that he also take this thank you back to his staff. It was agreed that no further follow up meeting would be required. If there are any concerns the residents will attend a regular Council meeting to inform Council of their concerns.

Ms. McCabe thanked Council for their support in this matter.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer