

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

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

Present: Mayor Nelson  
Councillors: Garbutt, Loan, Racicot, Vezina  
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot  
Leadhand Kelly Johnson

Visitors: Staff Sergeant Dan Peters of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Darren Henderson of Taranis Contracting Group, Leah Dick, Ray Montgomery, Brenda Holowanky, Eric Andersson, Gary Allan, Rod Allan, Rodney Jacobson, Brian Wiese, Robin McCabe.

Mayor Ron Nelson welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief summary of the purpose of the exercise. The exercise was called in order to address the issues with truck traffic on Strom Road.

Staff Sergeant Dan Peters was introduced. Staff Sergeant Peters provided a handout entitled "Ontario's Mobilization and Engagement Model of Community Policing". The handout provides information as to how the OPP deal with issues from enforcement and crime suppression to community safety and consultation. Staff Sergeant Peters also commented that the situation on Strom road should have more community involvement than police involvement. One of the purposes of the exercise tonight was to come up with some strategies on how to deal with the issues on Strom Road.

Mayor Nelson welcomed Mr. Darren Henderson of Taranis Contracting Group.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor to anyone wishing to speak on the issues or concerns they may have regarding Strom Road.

Ms. McCabe and Mr. Wiese raised three concerns regarding the truck traffic on Strom Road. Their first concern was regarding speeding. Currently the speed limit is posted at 40 km/hr. Their second concern was the use of compression brakes on Strom Road and also on Highway 590 at Pool Road. Their third concern was the amount of garbage that is being tossed onto the road and in the ditch.

Mr. Andersson raised the same issue of speeding and the use of compression brakes and also the noise created by the truck tailgates as they travel the rough road. He also asked how long they will be hauling out of the pit. Mr. Henderson commented that there is quite a bit of material in the pit and they will be hauling for a few years.

It was recommended by Staff Sergeant Peters that a flyer be created that would outline the set fines for littering, the use of compression brakes and any other pertinent information. This information can be handed out by an OPP officer at the scale while at the same time talking to the drivers about the issues. Mayor Nelson suggested that Mr. Ian Smith of the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) also be contacted and that they be provided with the same flyer that can be distributed to drivers hauling from the MTO pit on Strom Road.

Ms. McCabe also inquired about the sign, prohibiting the use of compression brake, that was to be installed on Strom Road. Leadhand Johnson commented that Council will be discussing the placement of the sign when they do their Township Inspection which is scheduled for Friday, May 6, 2011. The current sign that is located under the "Welcome to O'Connor" sign will be removed and placed on Strom Road and a larger sign will be looked into and placed on Highway 590.

Mr. Wiese also raised the concern that the value of his property will decrease because of the trucking issues on the road.

Mr. Andersson inquired as to the cost of paving the road. The cost of paving would be too expensive and the option of using a chip and seal method would also be costly and it would not solve the noise issue.

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Ms. McCabe inquired about the road that Taranis will be building that would exit onto Highway 590 in Mark's Township. Mr. Henderson commented that they now have MTO's approval for the entrance on Highway 590 and that the permits are in place to build the road. They have started working on the road, however Mr. Henderson could not comment as to when road will be complete and that it is a timely and costly project that Taranis will be incurring the total cost of.

Ms. Leah Dick also raised concerns regarding the use of compression brakes and the amount of dust created by the trucks. Mr. Henderson commented that putting water on the road is not an option at this time due to the amount of frost still in the road. Leadhand Johnson was asked about the application of calcium and he assured them that Strom and Loghrin Roads have first priority and they will start applying it once the frost is out of the road.

Ms. McCabe commented that when they have called Taranis with complaints of trucks speeding and using the compression brakes, Taranis has dealt with the issues right away.

Councillor Loan inquired as to what measures are being taken by Taranis when dealing with drivers who they have received complaints about. Taranis do have two employees who deal with the drivers, one of which is a Trucking Leadhand who works with the truckers. When a complaint is received the driver is given a warning. Repeat offenders are written up and can be dismissed. Drivers who are charged by the OPP can also have the Commercial Vehicle Operating Registration (CVOR) number included on the ticket which is then entered into a database for tracking. This is similar to the demerit system for driving offences. If enough are reported then the company's CVOR can be suspended. It is in Taranis' best interest to ensure that their drivers are following the rules. Taranis is also looking into installing GPS units in some of their trucks to be able to track drivers. Mr. Henderson also commented that brokers hire drivers to haul material out of the pit and that these drivers are not under Taranis' CVOR.

It was also commented by Ms. Dick that it is not only the gravel truck drivers but also the employees at the pit that are speeding when going to and from work.

Mayor Nelson suggested that the OPP be contacted when the brokers start hauling from the pit, which will be in about three weeks. The information flyer will be distributed at the scale to all drivers hauling gravel from the Taranis pit.

A follow up meeting was discussed and it was decided that Monday, July 4, 2011 was a suitable for all parties concerned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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Mayor

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Deputy Clerk-Treasurer