

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – DECEMBER 20, 2010

Minutes of the meeting held on December 20, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Bill Mauro, MPP, Thunder Bay - Atikokan
Mike Styles, Deputy Fire Chief
Marilyn Loan

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared and interest in items 13g), 15e) and g) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE NOTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF COUNCIL AND THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mayor Nelson asked the visitors if they wished to address Council. They replied no.

Bill Mauro, M.P.P. - Thunder Bay-Atikokan was welcomed to the meeting. Council's concerns and priorities were discussed. The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) was discussed. Item 15a) i), the letter from the Ministry of Finance and the 2011 Allocation Notice and item 15a) iii) a comparison spreadsheet from 2000 to 2011 was presented to Mr. Mauro. This spreadsheet showed the Township of O'Connor's CRF/OMPF Revenue and the offsetting expenses for these years. In the last three years the government has reduced the Township of O'Connor's funding by \$69,900.00. The mandatory government expenses have only been reduced by \$15,000 in the last two years. The 2011 expense amounts are not all in yet. The formula the Province is using is not working for small municipalities while other local, slightly larger, municipalities are seeing increases in their funding. Different options of how the formula may work better for the Township were discussed. A base amount needs to be set. The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) will be contacted to see how other municipalities in the District are being affected and Mayor Nelson will get back to Mr. Mauro with the results.

Funding for Fire Department's equipment, fire fighter gear and training was discussed. Mr. Mauro also had a very successful meeting with the local Fire Chiefs on this issue. The Province continues to mandate the training and the turnout gear requirements and does not offer any support. Mr. Mauro informed Council that he has brought this subject up in caucus and will continue to pursue the matter.

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and the service they provide was discussed. Mr. Mauro informed Council that they are an arms length organization of the government and they only set the criteria, they do not manage them and possibly NOMA could address any concerns they may have with MPAC.

The winter maintenance of Highway 595 was briefly discussed. Mr. Ian Smith, Regional Director of the Ministry of Transportation, will be at the January 10, 2011 Council meeting. Mr. Mauro would like to hear the results of this meeting.

The Highway 11/17 four laning route planning between Kakabeka Falls and Shabaqua corners was briefly discussed. Mr. Mauro informed Council that the project will not be shelved. It is a safety issue and the best option will have to be chosen. He will be meeting with the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge in the new year. This project will be economically good for the area. Council will also discuss this issue further with Mr. Smith from the Ministry of Transportation.

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The Integrated Power Supply plant was also discussed. There was no communication with the municipalities about the decisions they have made. The Little Jackfish project was not included in the plan. Mr. Mauro clarified some of the concerns and confirmed that if a smelter was located in Northern Ontario the Province will ensure that the power supply would be available. The Province will do whatever it takes to get the full economic impact of the Ring of Fire in Northern Ontario.

The announcement of the Northern Growth Plan has been post-poned until January.

Mr. Mauro would like to see a list of Council's top three infrastructure projects. There has been a commitment by the Minister of Infrastructure that funding will continue to be made available to the municipalities.

Mr. Mauro was thanked for attending the meeting.

Deputy Fire Chief, Mike Styles was welcomed to the table.

The Fire Department report was read. There was one First Response call since the last report. Mr. Style informed Council that there was a concern with this call. The Conmee ambulance took 35 minutes to respond. This was not a life threatening call but if it were this could have been an issue. Mr. Gale, Chief of Superior North Emergency Medical Services will be contacted about this issue.

Protective clothing turnout gear for the fire fighters was discussed. The Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) fact sheet was read. This is one of the standards for the quality and performance requirements for fire fighters protective clothing. Currently all but two of the Township of O'Connor's suits must meet these requirements. The newer suits are required to meet the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) requirements.

A second document from the Ministry of Labour was read with regard to the Regulation 714/94 and Ontario Regulation 480/10 from the Occupational Health and Safety Act with regard to fire fighting protective clothing with an effective date of January 1, 2011. Deputy Fire Chief Styles has been looking into this with the Office of the Fire Marshal to see what is required of the municipality by January 1, 2011. Mr. Welyki, Fire Protection Officer was not aware of this information at the time. Council would like a formal letter sent to Mr. Brad Welyki asking for clarification on the Townships requirement.

The Fire Department sent one of the department's bunker suits to SaniGear for testing and cleaning. The suit failed the moisture barrier test. The jacket and pant's moisture barrier was replaced on this suit so that it would meet the CGSB standard. The cost of doing this along with the shipping cost is almost the same price as purchasing a new suit. Council asked Deputy Fire Chief Styles to look into how long it would take to get four new suits, as a start to the possible changes, if the new regulations requires. One new suit was just purchased and picked up today.

Council informed Deputy Fire Chief Styles that they would like him to be more involved with the budget process this upcoming year. Fire Chief Mattas will be informed that they work on the budget together to ensure that all necessary purchases are being included.

The new fire truck was discussed. There are still a couple of things that need to be put in place on the truck. The current setup for the ladder covers has the possibility of them to fall out. Council informed Deputy Fire Chief Styles to do the necessary repairs immediately to make the truck safe.

Item 15i)ii) The Workplace Inspection report for the Fire Department was discussed. The extension cords running along the floor are an issue along with the use of the exhaust fan. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to contact SAE Electric to have them come and install a timer on the exhaust fan and a reel to hang the cords from the ceiling.

A notice was read from the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs with regard to Carbon Monoxide (CO) By-laws. The Ontario Building Code requires the installation of a CO in all new residences, however there is no legislated requirements in existing building.

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They are asking municipalities to establish a municipal By-law to require the installation and maintenance in all residential buildings. Council decided not to pass a by-law at this time.

Deputy Fire Chief Styles was thanked for attending.

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

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR DECEMBER 2010 BE PAID – THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE DECEMBER 2010 ROAD AND ADMINISTRATION VOUCHER.

CK#9882	THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT	\$1,164.00
CK#9883	JML ENGINEERING (BRIDGE STUDY)	9,266.00
CK#9884	L. BUOB (MILEAGE)	45.00
CK#9885	L. RACICOT (MILEAGE, MEAL)	46.02
CK#9886	K. JOHNSON (MEDICAL/DENTAL)	56.00
CK#9887	B. DAVIS (MILEAGE)	94.50
CK#9888	H. MATTAS (HOTEL – MANITOBA)	128.73
CK#9889	PETTY CASH	26.02
CK#9890	WILSON'S BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	126.77
CK#9891	TBAYTEL (TELEPHONE)	372.13
CK#9892	RECOOL CANADA INC.	339.00
CK#9893	CENTRAL CANADA FUELS	212.67
CK#9894	KAKABEKA ESSO	68.00
CK#9895	NAPA THUNDER BAY	29.33
CK#9896	B.M.R. MFG. INC.	68.44
CK#9897	STRONGCO	295.04
CK#9898	HACQUOIL CONSTRUCTION LTD.	1,988.80
CK#9899	SPECTRUM TELECOM GROUP LTD.	28.19
CK#9900	R. NELSON (HONOURARIUM)	135.00
CK#9901	G. GARBUTT (HONOURARIUM)	110.00
CK#9902	J. LOAN (HONOURARIUM)	110.00
CK#9903	B. RACICOT (HONOURARIUM)	220.00
CK#9904	J. VEZINA (HONOURARIUM)	<u>110.00</u>
		\$15,039.64

Carried

By- laws were discussed and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2010-29 BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW NUMBER 2006-04 AND THE POLICY FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE, BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2010-30 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT A PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Grant Thornton – i) Engagement letter
ii) Independence letter – This letter was signed by Mayor Nelson and will be sent back to Grant Thornton.
- b) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Announcing the new Regional Director of Northwestern Municipal Services Office – Joe van Koeverden

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- c) Councillor Alana Bishop, Shuniah – copy of letter and report sent to the Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health & Long-Term Care with regard to the Thunder Bay Regional Hospital Gridlock.
- d) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation – 2010 Enumeration Update
- e) Association of Municipalities of Ontario – i) Watch File – December 9, 2010
 - ii) Watch File – December 16, 2010
 - iii) Auditor General on Ontario Releases 2010 Annual Report
 - iv) AMO Report to Members on November 2010 Board Meeting
 - v) AMO Breaking News – Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) Allocations Announced
- f) The Premier of Ontario – reply letter to Council's endorsed resolution with regard to the position of Amethyst Sector Field Officer.

Councillor Racicot left the room

- g) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding Annual Planning Workshop. The planning session will be held on March 23 and 24, 2011 in Thunder Bay. This item will be brought back to a table when an agenda is provided, to see if anyone will attend.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old business, Council discussed

- a) Appointments – i) Acting Head of Council

- 5. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT ACTING HEAD OF COUNCIL SHALL BE APPOINTED ON A ROTATING ALPHABETICAL ORDER OF COUNCIL FOR EACH MONTH OF THE YEARS. DECEMBER 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 AND 2014 AS FOLLOWS:

**COUNCILLOR GARBUTT: MONTHS OF JANUARY, MAY, SEPTEMBER
COUNCILLOR LOAN: MONTHS OF FEBRUARY, JUNE, OCTOBER
COUNCILLOR RACICOT: MONTHS OF MARCH, JULY, NOVEMBER
COUNCILLOR VEZINA: MONTHS OF APRIL, AUGUST, DECEMBER**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT IF THE ACTING HEAD OF COUNCIL IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR MEETINGS, EMERGENCIES, ETC., THE COUNCILLOR FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH WILL BE APPOINTED ACTING HEAD OF COUNCIL IN HIS/HER STEAD.

Carried

- ii) Council appointments to the local board

Item 16a) a letter from the Township of Conmee with the appointment to the Thunder Bay District Health Unit was moved forward on the agenda. The letter requested the Township of O'Connor allow the Township of Conmee to continue in the seat on the board for the next term. They also asked that Council look at the possibility of splitting the term of seat to a two year term. Council agreed that they would like to continue with the rotation as it is currently set in agreement with 2011 to 2014 being the Township of O'Connor's seat. Councillor Garbutt will supply regular reports to their Council. It was

- 6. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT APPOINTMENT FOR THE YEARS 2011, 2012, 2013 AND 2014 BE MADE AS FOLLOWS:

**LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
LAKEHEAD RURAL PLANNING BOARD
THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT**

**JIM VEZINA
BISHOP RACICOT
GWEN GARBUTT**

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THUNDER BAY DISTRICT VETERINARY COMMITTEE	JIM VEZINA
	JERRY LOAN
THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE	GWEN GARBUTT
	ALT. JERRY LOAN
EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION	RON NELSON
	ALT. BISHOP RACICOT
THUNDER BAY COMMUNITY POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE	JERRY LOAN

Carried

- h) Township of Conmee – Reeve Kevin Holland seeking support to sit on the Superior North EMS new Governance Committee. This issue will be brought up at the Thunder Bay District Municipal League meeting and Council will make their decision as to who they would like to see on the board at that time.
- i) Dog Control Officer – Job Description as amended. Changes were made as per Council's requests at the May 25, 2010 meeting.

Ms. Davis has mentioned to Clerk-Treasurer Buob that she would prefer not to have residents come to her home to pick up dogs after they have paid for their impoundment at the office, in case she is not home at the time. She would prefer that the office contact her to notify when the payment has been made and she will then return the dog to its owner. If it has been delivered to Thunder Animal Services then the owner will have to pick up the dog there. Council were in agreement with this and this will be implemented immediately.

Council would like to have the Dog Control Officer, the Provincial Offenses Officer and the Chief Building Official to attend a meeting in the upcoming year to meet Councillor Loan and to discuss any issues they may have.

- j) Future four-laning of Highway 11/17 between Kakabeka Falls and Shabaqua Corners.
- i) Letter from Julia Miles – Chair of the Highway Committee
 - ii) Maps of study area, with the Township of Conmee's financial and social impact on the back of each map. The Township of O'Connor will stay neutral on this issue at this time. Councillor Loan will continue to collect information and attend meetings as they become available to see what if any impact it will have on the Township of O'Connor. This issue will also be discussed with Mr. Ian Smith, Ministry of Transportation at our next meeting.
- k) Christmas Party
- i) Quote from Rose Valley
 - ii) Quote and information from the Kakabeka Hotel. The previous quotes from the Metropolitan Moose were also considered and it was

7. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HOLD A 2010 CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR COUNCIL, STAFF, FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRST RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS AT THE KAKABEKA HOTEL ON JANUARY 29, 2011. SPOUSES AND GUESTS WILL PAY FOR THEIR OWN DINNER.

Carried

The Clerk-Treasurer will send out invitations and collect the guests money.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Ministry of Finance – i) Release of the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) allocations for 2011 and the 2010 allocations for comparison.
- ii) OMPF 2011 Technical Guide – showing how the numbers are calculated
 - iii) Funding Comparison sheet from 2000 to 2011.
- These items were previously discussed with Mr. Mauro. Council would also like to have the rate percentage increases for each of these years. The Clerk-Treasurer will have these for the next meeting.
- b) Thunder Bay District Health Unit – Notice of Public Health Levy for 2011. The Township of O'Connor's levy will increase by \$134.00 in 2011.
- c) Township of Conmee – copy of letter to the Thunder Bay District Municipal League with regard to the appointment of Mayor Nelson to the NOMA Board.

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d) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – regarding the Lakehead Conservation Foundation Fundraising Dinner tickets and donations. It was

8. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE LAKEHEAD
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER TO BE
HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2011.
DINNER TICKET: \$50.00
COUNCILLOR VEZINA**

Carried

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- e) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding the 2011-2012 Ontario Municipal Internship Program. At this time the Township will not submit an application.
- f) Memo regarding - Plaque for Councillor Nygard. The clock plaques are currently on back order for our current engraver until the new year. Council agreed to stay with the same item and wait to make the presentation at a later date.
- g) Certified General Accountants of Ontario – Improving Your Chances for Government Application success workshop – January 20, 2011 in Thunder Bay. It was

9. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE WORKSHOP IMPROVING
YOUR CHANCES FOR GOVERNMENT APPLICATIONS SUCCESS TO BE
HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON JANUARY 20, 2011.**

REGISTRATION: \$50.00

**DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the table.

- h) The 55th Annual Meeting and Training Sessions of the Ontario Building Officials Association requesting donation Participation and Sponsorship Opportunities. The Township of O'Connor will not be making a donation toward this annual meeting and training session.
- i) Monthly Workplace Inspection Report for the i) Administration was read. Mr. Johnson will be asked to look at the sink issue in the hall. The other items will be addressed.
- ii) Fire Department was discussed with Deputy Fire Chief Mike Styles earlier in the meeting.

Under further new business, Councillor Loan presented Council and staff with date log books from the Township of King as his wife is an employee of this Township.

Item 16a) from the Township of Conmee was previously discussed.

It was

10. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.
TIME BEING: 10:30 P.M.**

Carried