

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 10, 2014

Minutes of the meeting held on February 10, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Mr. Rick Bodnar

Absent: Councillor Garbutt, Councillor Vezina

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in items 16 c) and 16 c)ii) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

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

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
JANUARY 27, 2014 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

The visitors were asked if they wished to address Council on any other matter other than what they were on the agenda for and they replied no.

Mr. Rick Bodnar was welcomed to the table. Mr. Bodnar expressed his displeasure with the continued property tax increases each year. He does not want this trend to continue. Mr. Bodnar reported to Council that in June 2013 when he received his final tax bill he emailed the Clerk-Treasurer asking for details for the tax increase. The information was provided and Mr. Bodnar thanked the Clerk-Treasurer for this information. He has reviewed the 2013 budget and 2012 comparisons actual to budget. He would like to receive a copy of the 2013 actuals to budget when they become available. Mr. Bodnar described some of his own personal household expenses and how they have also increased including emergency equipment in case of a power outage. He asked Council if the Township had an emergency plan in place to help our residents in an emergency such as a large or lengthy power outage. Council did inform Mr. Bodnar that the Township does have an emergency generator which will power the Township garage, fire hall, community centre and office in case of a power outage and that the Community Centre is designated as a reception centre for our residents in an emergency. Mr. Bodnar requested that this information be forwarded to the residents of the Township and Council agreed that it should be included in the monthly newsletter each fall and throughout the winter to inform our residents of this. The Township also has an emergency surveys for our residents to fill in, which is kept on file so we have an idea of who might need assistance in an emergency.

Mr. Bodnar continued to ask questions with regard to different line items on the budget and requested an explanation for the different accounts. The disposal site attendant building at the site was discussed and Mr. Bodnar asked why it was there when they don't use it. Council informed Mr. Bodnar that for health and safety purposes it has to be available to the employees. Mr. Bodnar also explained about the cost of running the equipment on the Township roads and wanted to ensure that the employees are not doing make work projects with the equipment if it is not required. Mr. Bodnar also asked who scrutinizes the expenses of the employees. Council explained the procedures and informed him that Council does review all the expenses at the Council meetings. He also expressed his concern with the cost of replacing the bridge on Broome road, with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) costs and the use of SUVs and trucks which have high maintenance and fuel costs, why are they using them. Mayor Nelson informed Mr. Bodnar of the new OPP billing model which, if it is implemented, will increase the Township's OPP billing by approximately \$50,000.00. Mayor Nelson has been appointed to sit on a steering committee to address this issue.

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Mr. Bodnar noted that he is not criticizing Council but this trend has to stop, residents cannot afford to continue to pay these continued increases. Mr. Bodnar was informed that Council do take the budget seriously and informed him that they do control what they can but the Province does mandate expenses and services that we have no control over and thanked him for attending.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand was welcomed to the table. The Monthly Road Department report was read from January 11 to February 7, 2014. Roadwork in general was discussed. The road department have been doing mechanical work on the equipment and scratching the roads with the grader to remove the washboard. They have also done some trimming of trees on Connolly road to allow better line of site for the wood contractor pulling out onto the road in the area and they will also be doing some brushing on Flint Road.

Mr. Johnson noted that his cell phone is currently not working and he would like to purchase a new one. The cell phone plan is in Mayor Nelson’s name and does not allow for a free phone. The Clerk-Treasurer will look further into the purchasing of a new phone and Mayor Nelson will get it programmed.

Council asked Mr. Johnson about his supply of sand and salt for the year and he noted they are doing alright at this time. Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending.

The road and administration voucher and bills to be paid were passed around the table and it was

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR JANUARY 31, 2014 TOTTALLING \$115,778.00 BE APPROVED AND PAID.
Carried

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR FEBRUARY 2014 BE PAID. THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE FEBRUARY 2014 ROAD AND ADMINISTRATION VOUCHER.

CK#12049	HOLLAND ENTERPRISES	\$88.14
CK#12050	BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES CENTRE (EFAP)	38.50
CK#12051	PAUL S. HEAYN, AMCT	500.00
CK#12052	TBAYTEL (TELEPHONE)	<u>375.97</u>
		\$1,002.61

Carried

By-laws were reviewed as follows:

- a) The agreement with Ornge for the maintenance of the helipad was reviewed and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2014-04 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH ORNGE AS IT RELATES TO THE MAINTENANCE FUNDING OF THE HELIPAD BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- b) By-law Number 2012-09, being a by-law to establish a Code of Conduct for Council was reviewed. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that an Integrity Commissioner has not been appointed and is referred to in the by-law. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to contact Mr. Ian Robson, By-law Enforcement Officer to see if he would be interested in this position.

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The Well Certificate of Approval for Consent Application 1B/17/13 for Martha Kramer was reviewed and it was

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

WHEREAS THE APPLICATION FOR CONSENT NUMBER 1B/17/13 FOR THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS CON 6, PT N ½ LOT 10 AND PT N ½ LOT 11, O'CONNOR TOWNSHIP, OWNED BY MARTHA KRAMER, WAS CONDITIONALLY APPROVED ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2013 BY THE LAKEHEAD RURAL PLANNING BOARD,

AND WHEREAS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL WAS THAT THE RETAINED AND SEVERED LOT(S) CAN BE ADEQUATELY AND SAFELY SERVICED BY PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY AND PRIVATE SANITARY SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS, AS PER THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION 2.3.2 (A),

AND WHEREAS A WELL CERTIFICATE FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTY HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY NWO WELL SERVICES LTD. AND DOES INDICATE THAT THE WATER WELL LOCATED ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY WAS PUMP TESTED AT THE RATE OF FOUR(4) GALLONS PER MINUTE FOR ONE HOUR SUCCESSFULLY, WITH ONE HALF (1/2) GALLONS PER MINUTE RECOVERY RATE.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR DOES HEREBY ACCEPT THAT THE SUPPLY OF WATER FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTY DOES COMPLY WITH SECTION 2.3.2 (A) OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S OFFICIAL PLAN.

Carried

The final decision letter from the Lakehead Rural Planning for this application was also reviewed.

Quotes for the construction of the barrier free access in the O'Connor Community Centre were reviewed. Two applications were received and it was

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

THAT THE QUOTE OF PER HOL CONSTRUCTION LTD. FOR THE SITE PREPARATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE BARRIER FREE PLATFORM LIFT IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE AS PER DRAWINGS PROVIDED AT A COST OF \$28,960.00 PLUS HST BE ACCEPTED.

Carried

A resolution for endorsement from the Municipality of Neebing with regard to the 2014 budget request for Superior North EMS was read and it was filed.

A letter was read from the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB), Jennifer Lible, Manager of Client Services, with regard to their recent visits to the municipality to bring services to our residents. Their employee made four visits to the Township and only had one request for information during this time. The letter is informing the Clerk-Treasurer that they will be unable to allocate a staff member to continue to attend to our Township. Council would like a reply letter sent to Ms. Lible informing her that Council would like this service to continue and if they do not feel the service is warranted that the Township see a reduction in their DSSAB costing. A copy of the response letter will also be sent to Mayor Kevin Holland, the Township of O'Connor's TBDSSAB representative.

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Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watch File – January 30, 2014
ii) Watch File – February 6, 2014
iii) AMO Report to Members Highlights of the January 2014 Board Meeting
iv) AMO President's letter regarding the OPP's billing model
v) OPP Policed Communities: Update 1. Mayor Nelson reported that he has been asked to sit on the AMO OPP Billing Steering Committee.
vi) Remuneration and expenses of council appointees.
vii) Recent Developments in Joint and Several Liability – Municipal Action Needed. Council directed the Clerk-Treasurer to submit a letter to the Attorney General as per AMO's request.
 - b) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – February Newsletter. Councillor Loan reported that a Community Policing Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting has been set for February 20th and he will be able to attend.
 - c) Lakehead Rural Planning Board – 2013 Honourarium for member
 - d) AMCTO the Municipal Experts – AMCTO Legislative Express
- The balance of the correspondence were passed around the table

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) The forming of a building committee for the construction in the O'Connor Community Centre for the platform lift and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S BE APPOINTED TO SIT ON THE BUILDING COMMITTEE FOR THE BARRIER FREE ACCESS RENOVATIONS IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE.

MAYOR NELSON, COUNCILLOR VEZINA, CLERK-TREASURER BUOB
Carried

- b) Thunder Bay District Municipal League – 2014 Annual Meeting and Spring Conference – March 21 & 22 in Schreiber was discussed and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE MEETING TO BE HELD ON MARCH 21 & 22, 2014 IN SCHREIBER.

REGISTRATION: \$110.00

MAYOR NELSON, COUNCILLOR RACICOT, VEZINA, CLERK-TREASURER BUOB

Carried

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- c) Public Services Health & Safety Association – Upcoming training
ii) Workplace Safety & Prevention Services - Health & Safety Certification Part One course – March 4 & 5, 2014 in Thunder Bay. It was

- 9. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by Ron Nelson

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE HEALTH & SAFETY CERTIFICATION TRAINING PART 1 TO BE HELD ON MARCH 4 – 5, 2014 IN THUNDER BAY.

REGISTRATION: \$405.00

**KELLY JOHNSON – LEADHAND
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT**

Carried

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Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- d) Heart and Stroke Foundation - regarding Partnering for Healthy Kids. No events will be held at this time due to the hall renovations but the Clerk-Treasurer will look into the program further for possible future activities.
- e) Ministry of Consumer Services – requesting feedback on proposals to refine regulations of propane transfer facilities. No comments will be provided.
- f) A date for O'Connor Day planning meeting was discussed and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR AN O'CONNOR DAY PLANNING MEETING – MARCH 25, 2014 AT 7 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Carried

If construction does not allow for the meeting to be held in the Community Centre it will be moved to the Council Chambers.

This date will be advertised in the March Cornerstone and on the Township website.

Under further new business, Council discussed ways of increasing the interest for our readers of the monthly newsletter the Cornerstone. It was suggested that we include a recipe section in the newsletter each month asking our residents to submit their favorite recipe and share them with the neighbours.

A brief discussion was also held with regard to access for our first response members to be able to reach an individual on snowmobile trails in an emergency.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed were read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee – copy of letter submitted to Bill Mauro, MPP and Michael Gravelle, MPP with regard to the Committees Social Services proposal. The next meeting of this committee is set for Thursday, February 13, 2014 and Mayor Nelson is unable to attend. It was agreed that Councillor Racicot would attend in his place.
- b) The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) 4th Quarter Report for the Township of O'Connor was read.
- c) Ontario Power Authority regarding large renewal procurement engagement was read. The discussion paper is available on-line.

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

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 10:02 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer