

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – FEBRUARY 22, 2010

Minutes of the meeting held on February 22, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas  
Brian Weise, Robin McCabe

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 17 a) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 8, 2010 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Mr. Weise and Ms. McCabe were welcomed to the meeting. They asked if there was any news with regard to the private road that Taranis is trying to get approval for on crown land and their own property. They were informed that Council has submitted a letter to the Ministry of Transportation stating that they are not in favour of Taranis using Mayo road as their entrance to Highway 590. The Township has not heard anything further on the issue. They also asked why the Township is now snowplowing Strom road all the way to the intersection of Fleming road. Council informed them that for liability purposes the sign "no winter maintenance beyond this point" has been removed from Strom road and they will be plowing to the end of the road.

Mr. Wiese also asked about the upcoming election and if a new Council can change the road agreement with regard to hours of operation. Council informed him that the hours of operation were put right into Taranis's pit license and that cannot be changed. Council also informed him that the Township will continue to work on the Ministry of Transportation to allow them their own entrance off of Highway 590 which should decrease the amount of traffic on Strom road. Mr. Wiese thanked Council for their work so far and noted that the noise by-law regarding no use of compression brakes worked well last summer.

Mr. Wiese and Ms. McCabe were thanked for attending.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. The Department has had two fire related calls, four first response calls, one mutual aid and one fire alarm call since the last report December 17, 2009.

The fire department vehicles were discussed. Fire Chief Mattas noted that he has been looking for information on new fire trucks for the department. There are differences if you buy Canadian or American that would have to be considered. Depending on where it is coming from in the United States, it may have to be winterized and the lights and threads are different. Holland's Enterprises can build trucks to your specifications. Dealers have suggested staying away from certain body types. Copies of information with regard to different models from a local dealer were reviewed. This information will be kept on file until budget time.

Fire Chief Mattas also informed Council that he has dropped off drawings to a local contractor for a possible addition to the firehall to get an estimate of costs to build. This information will be kept on file in case funding should become available for fire halls.

The agreement with Bell Mobility and the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge for maintenance service for the communication system for the radio dispatch with the Central Ambulance Communication Centre (CACC) was discussed. Fire Chief Mattas and Clerk-Treasurer Buob attended a meeting in Oliver Paipoonge on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the agreement. Council and Fire Chief Mattas' concerns were

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addressed. If there are any problems with the system the Fire Chiefs will contact the Zone 1 president, Mr. Dale Ashbee, who will then go directly to Bell. Bell Mobility did not want to have an agreement in place with each individual municipality so the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge has agreed to be the lead and has entered into an agreement with Bell and will now enter into an agreement with each individual municipality for administrative services. The Municipality has a plan in place for non-payment if it should happen that a municipality does not pay. The service cannot be cut off.

It was noted that there were some radio communication problems with the O'Connor department during a recent call. Fire Chief Mattas explained to Council how the radio channels work. There are three different Gillies channels and one O'Connor channel and he feels that the proper channels were not being used for the location of the callers. This will be discussed further with the department.

Fire Chief Mattas reported that the light over the main doors of the fire hall has been changed and a fire extinguisher has been installed in the hall. The air compressor filling station was discussed. A fitting will be installed on the hose to ensure that no inside air is getting into the line. Council asked Fire Chief Mattas if the air has been tested on the new compressor and he confirmed that it has and it did pass the test. Council would like the hose to be properly installed before it is used again. Fire Chief Mattas said that it would be done this week.

The appointment of the fire department members by By-law was discussed. Council has never appointed the department members officially and in the departments guidelines it does state that they will be. Council would like to appoint the members by resolution rather than by by-law and during the current review of the guidelines that wording will be changed. A resolution will be presented to Council for approval at another meeting.

The position of Deputy Fire Chief was discussed. Due to the current Deputy Fire Chief's work schedule and his absence from the department, Fire Chief Mattas would like to appoint an Acting Deputy Fire Chief until he has time to speak with Mr. Vern Groop about the position. Fire Chief Mattas would like to recommend that Mr. Mike Styles be appointed to this position. Council will pass a By-law further in the meeting for this position.

Fire Chief Mattas asked for clarification on the fire departments pay for training. The government funding for training is running out. Fire Chief Mattas would like confirmation as to what training the department will be paid for and what training will receive an honourarium. Council agreed that the members will be paid the training rate for core training that is mandated by the Ontario Fire Marshal's office. Refresher course, group training and regular meeting training will use the honourarium system. Mileage will be paid if the members are taking their own vehicle out of the Township for the training. It was recommended that when possible the members car pool.

Driver training and the "Z" endorsement to drive a vehicle with air brakes was discussed. Eric Olson of McKeivitt trucking is offering a "Z" endorsement course and some of the other Fire Departments who have taken the training are recommending it. He will take ten drivers per session. It is \$225.00 per person for all day training. The driver has to be retested every five years. The driver also has to have had their "G" licence for a year to get a "DZ" licence. Fire Chief Mattas will check to see how many members are eligible for their "Z" endorsement. Fire Chief Mattas is looking into getting Mr. Olson qualified through the Ministry of Transportation to be the driver trainer for the Zone One area. This will take sometime.

Probation for fire department members was also discussed. It was agreed that a new member will be on probation for six months to prove that they are reasonably dedicated to the department.

Fire Chief Mattas reported on the current condition of the fire department vehicles based on the appraisals done last fall by Thunder Bay Appraisals. The tanker is starting to show rust and Council would like Fire Chief Mattas to have it looked at and get some quotes on what it will cost to fix. The seat in the tanker was also discussed.

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Fire Chief Mattas was asked to check to see if any of the parts out of the old compactor garbage truck would work for this truck. The pumper truck is in good shape but is a 1984 model.

Fire Chief Mattas reported that all fire reports which are due to the Ontario Fire Marshall are up to date and have been submitted up to the last call.

Jason Fleck of the Conmee department is providing an introduction to IMS training for the department members this evening at the fire hall.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending.

By-laws were reviewed and it was

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2010-04 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AMENDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO WITH REGARD TO THE FEDERAL GAS TAX FUNDING BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

3. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2010-05 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT THE ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE O'CONNOR FIRE DEPARTMENT BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

4. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2010-06 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF OLIVER PAIPOONGE AS IT RELATES TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE BELL MOBILITY INC. RADIO DIVISION AGREEMENT BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

The reserve transfer for the new building, which was done at the last meeting, was discussed. After speaking with the auditors the portion of the holdback expenses should have been included as expenses for 2009, which therefore results in less monies having to be transferred back into the reserve for 2010 expenses. It was

5. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE AMOUNT OF \$8,045.39 BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING RESERVE AS PER DISCUSSION WITH AUDITORS REGARDING THE HOLDBACK SHARE OF THE CURRENT INVOICES EXPENSED IN 2009.**

Carried

The table for the Council chambers in the new building was discussed. The information that was suppose to be coming from the Office Supplier did not arrive and the revised quote from J. Wilkins for a custom built table was discussed. It was

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6. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE QUOTE OF J. WILKINS CONTRACTING TO SUPPLY THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR WITH CUSTOM BUILT MAPLE COUNCIL TABLE AT A COST OF \$2,000.00 + GST BE ACCEPTED.**

Carried

A copy of the letter from the Ministry of Transportation to the Lakehead Rural Planning Board with regard to a recent consent application 1B/01/2010 was read. Council requested a copy of this letter because of the reference to the requirement of permits from the Ministry of Transportation for their entrances including the entrance on Cronk road. Council do not agree with this requirement and would like to meet with the Ministry to discuss this issue. The Clerk-Treasurer will set up a meeting with the Ministry corridor staff and Regional Director to discuss this matter as well as the matter of Taranis's entrance onto Highway 590. Mayor Nelson and Clerk-Treasurer Buob will attend the meeting, as well as Councillor Vezina if his schedule permits.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of West Lincoln requesting that the Province immediately amend the legislation and require that the Ministry of the Environment be responsible for the costs relating to clean up of illegally dumped and/or spilled material was filed.
- b) Town of Richmond Hill requesting the David Dunlap Observatory Site be approved as a National Historic Site was filed.
- c) Prince Edward County requesting that the Ministry of Natural Resources consider an Ontario-wide Coyote/Wolf Control Program was filed.
- d) Town of Gravenhurst petitioning the Premier of Ontario to amend the Ombudsman Act to include hospitals under the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman was filed.

A report from Councillor Schmidt, Thunder Bay DSSAB board representative, was read.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) AMO
  - i) AMO Report to Members on January 2010 Board Meeting
  - ii) Watch File – February 11, 2010
  - iii) Watch File – February 18, 2010
  - iv) Bill 236, an Act to amend the Pension Benefits Act
- b) Superior North EMS 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter levy for 2009. The municipal levy is slightly decreased due to the minor increase in revenue from the Province. In 2010 Superior North EMS will negotiate two new collective agreements with their paramedics which will have an impact on future municipal levies.

Councillor Racicot reported that when we receive the Public Access Defibrillator for the community centre it will have an alarm box with it.

- c) LRCA –
  - i) regarding Clean Water Act, 2006: Draft Source Protection Plans Regulation
  - ii) Lakehead Source Protection Committee – Notice of Municipal Review and Comment
  - iii) MOE Consultation Session in Thunder Bay regarding Draft Source Protection Plan Regulation
- d) Moving Forward – regarding Updates in Mental Health & Addiction Services at St. Joseph's Care Group
- e) Robert Hornung – regarding Effects of Wind Energy Projects on Real Estate Values Report. The full report is available on their website.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) TBDML regarding the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference –
  - i) draft agenda
  - ii) email requesting donation and volunteers.

Councillor Racicot has volunteered to help with breakfast and it was

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7. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT A HISTORY BOOK BE DONATED TO THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE 93<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE.**

Carried

- b) NOMA – AGM in Marathon April 21 – 24, 2010 attendance was discussed. It was

8. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERON/S ATTEND THE NOMA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN MARATHON ON APRIL 21 TO 24, 2010.**

**REGISTRATION: \$200.00**

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

Carried

Councillor Garbutt expressed her interest in running on the NOMA board as the municipal representative again this year. Council feel that the Township has had members on the board for several years and that it should be time for another municipality to step forward. There are six board meetings a year and extra sub-committee meetings throughout the year.

- c) Karen Honan e-mail regarding information for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual NODN workshop. Mayor Nelson has been registered for this meeting.  
d) By-law Enforcement Officer job description was discussed. It was decided that due to the nature of the position and the fact that we now have a POA Municipal Enforcement Officer that we could change the title of this position to Animal Control Officer. The Clerk-Treasurer was asked to contact some of the other Municipalities to see if they have a job description for this position.

Under New Business, Council discussed:

Councillor Racicot left the table.

- a) IAPA session on Safe at Work Ontario Strategy. It was

9. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE IAPA SAFE AT WORK ONTARIO STRATEGY SESSION TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON FEBRUARY 25, 2010.**

**REGISTRATION: \$11.00 + GST**

**LEADHAND KELLY JOHNSON  
HEALTH & SAFETY REP ROSS CHESSELL  
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT**

Carried

The Clerk-Treasurer will see if there is still room for them all to attend.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- b) AMO 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference – Early Bird Registration. No one will attend the conference this year.  
c) Municipality of Neebing regarding the Neebing Economic Development Town Hall Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. No one will attend.

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- d) Jerry J. Ouellette, MPP requesting feedback and comments concerning legislation, regulations and the organizational responsibilities of the Conservation Authorities. Council do not have any comments.
- e) Doug Shearer, Councillor for the Town of Colbalt requesting that the northern communities take a more proactive and aggressive approach with the Provincial government and are asking for participation in the Fight For the North Rally. Council will not be participating at this time.
- f) The outdoor skating rink was discussed. Mr. Johnson has recently found a vulgar note left by some skaters with regard to the length of time that the lights are on. The outdoor lights turn on switch was also broken off and now on a separate night three scrapers and one shovel have gone missing. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to contact the Ontario Provincial Police and ask them to stop by some evenings to check on the rink and let the users know that they are around.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed:

- a) Norm Gale, Chief of Superior North EMS regarding an error in a story in the Chronicle Journal. Mr. Gale wanted to clarify that 100 EMS jobs have not been transferred to the DSSAB as reported in the article.
- b) Dennis Brown regarding Woodland Caribou Consultations – Stakeholder Workshops. Councillor Garbutt has been going to these meetings for the past two years and she may possibly be attending the meeting as the NOMA representative. Council will not be sending any representatives to the meeting.
- c) Kathy Dallaire, Manager Court Services regarding the 2010 POA draft budget. The Township share of the revenue is estimated to be \$6,519.00.
- d) Thunder Bay DSSAB regarding 2010 Budget. The 2010 municipal share of the total budget represents a decrease of 11.73% over the 2009 budget due to Provincial uploading. The Township of O'Connor's total levy for 2010 is \$96,980.00.

It was

- 10. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD  
ON MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 9:10 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer