

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – FEBRUARY 24, 2014

Minutes of the meeting held on February 24, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas

Absent: Councillor Garbutt

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m..

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

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

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report from January 23, 2014 to February 20, 2014 was read. There were two First Response calls since the last report.

Under Fire Department issues Fire Chief Mattas reported that two of the member's bunker suits have been returned after alterations and another should be back any day. The suits do now fit the members properly and to their satisfaction.

Two of the Fire Department members have had their medicals for driver training. They must have this done before they can take the training course for their DZ licence. Fire Chief Mattas has contacted Taranis Training and is awaiting a response as to when the classroom training will be available. The medicals are good for one year. One more member is waiting to see when the training will be held in order to determine if he will be able to take it at this time.

Fire Chief Mattas reported that he has provided the office with information on fire safety during power outages and a plan for safety during severe winter weather for the Cornerstone newsletter. This information will be included with the Township's Emergency Plan information as was discussed at the previous meeting.

Norwest Community Health Centres – Concept sheet for the Future of the Rural Health Fair was read. Currently the Rural Health Fair is held in August. Norwest Community Health Centres, at the Health Fair, creates a venue for municipalities to inform residents about their role in emergency preparedness while helping them to get better prepared. They are looking for feedback on the possibility of moving the date of the Health Fair to May as a part of Emergency Preparedness Week. Agencies involved in emergency preparedness can collaborate to offer knowledge, distribute tools and information while raising awareness on the personal responsibility to be prepared. Council agreed with the concept but felt that to change it for this year 2014 would be a very busy commitment and would recommend that it change for 2015 and it was

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

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUPPORT THE NORWEST COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO MOVE THE RURAL HEALTH FAIR FROM AUGUST TO MAY 2015 TO COORDINATE WITH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK AND THE TOWNSHIP WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE EVENT.

Carried

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Council reminded Fire Chief Mattas that he should be starting to work on his 2014 budget.

Councillor Loan will be meeting with Staff Sergeant Jim Graham from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) with regard to any concerns the Township may have. He will be inquiring into why there was no incident report produced by the OPP with regard to the vehicle fire on the corner of Highway 595 and 590 on January 10, 2014. Without this report the Township cannot make a claim to the Ministry of Transportation for the Fire Department services on the Highway. Councillor Loan requested additional information from Fire Chief Mattas on this issue.

Fire Chief Henry Mattas was thanked for attending.

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

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

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

CK#12053	C. EARL	\$ 124.29
CK#12054	MINISTER OF FINANCE	2,372.00
CK#12055	NORTH OF SUPERIOR PUBLIC WORKS	70.00
CK#12056	RECEIVER GENERAL	16.50
CK#12057	LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES	606.76
CK#12058	HYDRO ONE	692.50
CK#12059	RUSSELL FOOD EQUIPMENT LTD.	10,129.89
CK#12060	KGS GROUP CONSULTING ENGINEERING	3,361.75
CK#12061	PIPER DOON	5,000.00
CK#12062	DAVID BELLUZ	438.24
CK#12063	SIFTO CANADA CORP.	4,471.18
CK#12064	DATAMARK SYSTEMS	380.40
CK#12065	STAPLES CANADA	32.02
CK#12066	LOWERY'S	15.00
CK#12067	TBAYTEL	20.48
		<u>\$27,731.01</u>

Carried

Resolution for endorsement were read as follows:

- Municipality of Neebing requesting that the Province of Ontario take back the Policing costs for small municipalities under 10,000. As Council had endorsed a similar resolution at their previous meeting this resolution was filed.
- Town of Atikokan in Support of the new OPP Billing Model was filed.
- Town of Arnprior regarding the increase in electricity rates was filed.
- Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria regarding the roll out of mandatory on-site septic system inspections was filed.
- Township of Terrace Bay with regard to Superior North EMS 2014 Proposed Budget was filed.

A copy of a letter from the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Honourable Ted McMeekin, to Mayor Holland and the Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee members with regard to social service delivery in our communities was read. The Minister acknowledged the hard work and commitment that has gone into the development of the proposal but believe that the issues detailed in the Report would be best addressed at the Board level, amongst the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) members, to find a mutual solution.

A meeting with the Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee (LRMC) will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 in Conmee to discuss where to go from here. As per discussions from the previous LRMC meeting, the Clerk-Treasurer will contact Mr. Tinsley from Janzen's Pharmacy to see if he will be available on that date to make a presentation to the committee on possible prescription services in the rural area.

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Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Ontario Provincial Policing Bureau regarding the OPP Municipal Policing update.
Additional information on this matter can be found on their website at www.opp.ca
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario – i) OPP Policed Communities. Mayor Nelson sits on this committee and will be attending a meeting in Toronto on Friday, February 28, 2014.
ii) Prime Minister announces additional Building Canada Fund details. The New Building Canada Fund will continue to be application-based with categories available to both large and small municipalities. The new funds's Small Communities Fund will set aside \$1 billion nationally over ten years to fund local projects to communities under 100,000 in population. Federal funding for all projects will be limited to one-third.
iii) AMO Update to Members – 2014 Federal Budget
iv) AMO Watchfile – February 13, 2014
v) AMO Watchfile – February 20, 2014
vi) Prompt Payment Act, 2013 – Immediate Municipal Action Required regarding Bill 69, The Prompt Payment Act, 2013. Council asked the Clerk-Treasurer to send a letter as provided by AMO to Mr. Bill Mauro, MPP.
- c) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation – reply letter to Council's resolution supporting the Township of Mulmur's resolution with respect to property assessment changes.
- d) The Premier of Ontario – reply letter to Council's resolution regarding funding of public libraries.
- e) Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario – regarding the Federal Budget 2014.

The balance of the correspondence were passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Notes from the Pre-Construction meeting held on February 11, 2014 for the installation of the platform lift in the O'Connor Community Centre.
- b) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – Notice of the Hearing for the Broome Road Bridge application.
- c) Appointment of Integrity Commissioner as per By-law Number 2012-09 – i) reply from Ian Robson stating that he would be interested in become the Township's Integrity Commissioner.
ii) Samples of duties of the Integrity Commissioner were reviewed.

A By-law to appoint Mr. Robson as Integrity Commissioner and duties for this position will be drafted for an upcoming meeting.

Under New Business Council was informed that Councillor Robert Rydholm from the Township of Conmee passed away, as well as former resident Mary Jane Chambers at the age of 106. Mrs. Chambers was born in O'Connor the same year it was incorporated. Both funerals will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2014.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Ministry of Natural Resources – a letter regarding the proposed two-year pilot that would include a limited early bear hunting season was read. The Township of O'Connor is located in the pilot area. The Ministry is now seeking comments from the public on the proposed pilot.
- b) Kakabeka Legion – News Release regarding the Street Fair meeting March 8, 2014. No one will attend on behalf of the Township.
- c) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – i) Announcement of the new 2014 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS).

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- ii) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Planning Workshop scheduled for March 27, 2014 was discussed and the registration will be brought back to the next meeting when Council can confirm if they will be available to attend or not.
- iii) Provincial Policy Statement 2014 – Regional Training Session for New PPS Policies March 26, 2014 in Thunder Bay in conjunction with the Planning workshop. This will also be brought back to the next meeting.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

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d) OMERS UPDATE – 2013 OMERS Investment return continues to challenge plan sustainability.

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

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
ON MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.**

TIME BEING: 8:50 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer