

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – FEBRUARY 25, 2008

Minutes of the meeting held on February 25, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Mattas arrived at 7:45 p.m.

Acting Mayor Nygard called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Garbutt declared an interest in item 17b) as Mr. Larry Garbutt is her spouse. Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 17a) as his spouse is an employee of the township.

1. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

2. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT MAYOR NELSON BE MARKED ABSENT DUE TO WORK.

Carried

Mr. Lada Malek of Lakehead University was unable to attend to do his presentation with regard to the land use project. Council is willing to reschedule this presentation when he is available.

The quotes for the painting and the minor renovations of the municipal building, requested in the February Cornerstone, were due for this meeting. No quotes were received. It was suggested that we look at this again in the summer.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) NOMA requesting endorsement of the City of Thunder Bay's application to the Ministry of Culture and Immigration to establish an Immigration portal for Northwestern Ontario. It was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM NOMA SUPPORTING THE CITY OF THUNDER BAY'S APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH AN IMMIGRATION PORTAL FOR NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- b) Town of Amherstburg regarding lead testing mandated by the Province for municipal drinking water was filed.
- c) Town of Newmarket regarding the misuse of disabled parking permits and parking spaces was filed.
- d) Western Ontario Wardens Caucus i) regarding Farm Tax Rebate and ii) Letter from the Chair of the Caucus regarding the Farm Tax Rebate were deferred to the next meeting. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to calculate how the transition from the Farm Tax Rebate Program to the agricultural property tax rate reduction program has affected the Township of O'Connor.
- e) Township of Machar and Village of South River regarding funding of rural schools. It was

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4. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR AND VILLAGE OF SOUTH RIVER PETITIONING THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO PROPERLY FUND ENGLISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NORTHERN ONTARIO AS A SPECIAL INTEREST, TO THE EXTENT NEEDED TO KEEP THEM OPEN AND OPERATIONAL IN SAFE REPAIR BE ENDORSED.

Carried

A letter from the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board requesting support in welcoming participants to the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association Annual General Meeting was read. Council discussed a donation and it was

5. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR GIVE A DONATION OF O'CONNOR TOWNSHIP PINS TO THE NORTHERN ONTARIO SERVICE DELIVERERS ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON APRIL 14 TO 16, 2008.

Carried

Correspondence were read as follows

- a) AMO – i) Province Reviewing More than 450 Applications for MIII Funding.
ii) Premier Announces Additional Infrastructure Funding for Municipalities
iii) Federal Gas Tax Municipal Communications Toolkit available
- b) NOMA – regarding interim Executive Vice President of NOMA position. Ron Nelson has been appointed as interim Executive Vice President of NOMA until April 2008.
- c) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – 2008 interim budget, levies information and 2008 calendar of events. The Township of O'Connor's levy has increased from 2007 by \$72.00.
- d) Thunder Bay Detachment of the OPP – 2007 4th quarter report for The Township of O'Connor.
- e) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing News Release - Province to consult on Fire Sprinklers, proposed changes to the Building Code that will require fire sprinkler systems in newly constructed multiple-unit residential buildings higher than three storeys.
- f) Township of Manitouwadge - letter of support for the Municipality of Shuniah's resolution with regard to funding of the Northwestern Campus of the Ontario Fire College.
- g) Michael Gravelle, M.P.P. – copy of letter sent to the Honourable Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Community Safety & Correctional Services regarding the Northwestern Campus of the Ontario Fire College.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Memo from the Clerk-Treasurer regarding the request for a defibulator from the Paterson Foundation for the community centre. The foundation is currently developing a wish list and are looking at expanding their program. They will be looking at this in about six months and they will get back to us. Council will defer to the budget whether or not one should be purchased out right.
- b) Thunder Bay District Municipal League
 - i) annual meeting and conference agenda
 - ii) resolutions, proposed amendments to the By-law and Memorandum regarding the Margaret R. Sideen Memorial Award
- c) By-law Enforcement position – The Township of Dorion has accepted services for this position from a retired Nipigon OPP officer and will no longer be included in the local search.

Under new business, Council discussed

Councillor Racicot left the room

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a) AMCTO – Planning for Non Planners workshop – April 18, 2008 in Thunder Bay. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE AMCTO – PLANNING FOR NON PLANNERS WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON APRIL 18, 2008.

REGISTRATION: \$189.00

CLERK-TREASURER BUOB

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

Councillor Garbutt left the room.

b) Disposal Site key renewal for Mr. Larry Garbutt was discussed. Council do not have any concerns with Mr. Garbutt renewing his disposal site key agreement for 2008.

Councillor Garbutt returned to the meeting.

The key agreement with Mr. George DeCorte was also discussed. Council also do not have any concerns at this time with Mr. DeCorte's agreement being renewed. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact both Mr. DeCorte and Mr. Garbutt to come into the office to sign a new agreement and waiver.

c) Disposal site vehicle licence for the compactor truck was discussed. It was decided not to renew the truck licence sticker for the compactor truck at this time as it does not leave the site. If it does need to be moved options will be looked at.

d) Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services letter acknowledging that in 2007 the Township of O'Connor fulfilled the municipal requirements of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. The letter also requested that May 4 to 11th is Emergency Preparedness Week and they are asking that the township emphasis personal preparedness as a priority in our community.

e) NOMA – 2008 Annual General Meeting and Conference – April 16-19, 2008 in Thunder Bay. It was

7. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE NOMA – 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY FROM APRIL 16 TO 19, 2008.

REGISTRATION: \$175.00

COUNCILLOR GARBUTT, RACICOT AND VEZINA

Carried

This information will be brought back to the next meeting to see if Mayor Nelson will be attending.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed

a) NOMA – calling for applications for two committees established under Ontario's Endangered Species Act. No names will be put forward.

For information purposes a building permit was approved for Mr. Jean LaForest for renovations to his home.

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Fire Chief Mattas arrived and was welcomed to the table.

The fire department report was read. There was one fire related response and 2 first response calls since the last report. A copy of a local fire department survey from Fire Chief Tim Beebe of the Upsala Fire Department was reviewed.

Fire Chief Mattas presented Council with information with regard to the MTO Overweight permit. The tanker will have to have a permit as it is heavy. Fire Chief Mattas will make arrangements to have this done. They will also get the pumper weighed but it should be okay. Once a permit is issued it will be good until 2017.

An email from the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs requesting funding from the Province for Fire Departments was read.

A copy of information with regard to the Ontario Fire College SCBA practice effective 2008 was discussed. Effective April 1, 2008, all student-learners attending Ontario Fire College courses requiring SCBA are required to bring their own SCBA and 2 cylinders. This could prove to be a problem for small departments who would be taking them away from the department. If a call were to come in they would be short for the fire fighters. They would also not be able to take this equipment on the airplane if they are flying to the training.

Next Monday the fire department members will have fit testing completed for their SCBA. Mr. Prystanski from Superior Safety will be coming to the fire hall to do the testing.

The Ontario Fire College course schedule for 2008 is out. A couple of department members will be attending the Volunteer Fire Fighter Module A course held May 1st to 4th in East Gorham.

The Fire Fighters competition will be held on June 7, 2008 here in O'Connor. Fire Chief Mattas noted that the Fire College is also hosting a training course in the area at the same time. As well the Neebing department is hosting their family day events that day.

Fire Chief Mattas reported that Volunteer member David Wassenaar has been doing the department training and is signing off all members as required.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending.

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

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008
AT 7:00 P.M.**

TIME BEING: 8:07 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer