

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JANUARY 10, 2011

Minutes of the meeting held on January 10, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Mike Styles, Deputy Fire Chief
Mr. Ian Smith, Regional Director and Mr. Dave McColl, Manager-Contracts,
Northwestern Region, Ministry of Transportation

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Vezina declared an interest in item 17 e) as his business advertises in the monthly newsletter. Councillor Racicot declared an interest in items 17c), 18b), d) and 20a) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

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

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
DECEMBER 20, 2010 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

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

Mr. Ian Smith and Mr. Dave McColl from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) were welcomed to the table. Introductions were made. Several issues were discussed.

Mr. Smith reported on the current status of Rock Solid Holdings' entrance permit application from their property in Marks Township onto Highway 590. An issue in which Mayor Nelson, Clerk-Treasurer Buob and Leadhand Johnson met with Mr. Smith over in the fall. A permit was submitted to the MTO by Rock Solid after that meeting and it has been approved by the MTO. The permit also allows access through the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) property to Rock Solid Holdings' pit in Conmee Township providing that the owner meets the MNR requirements when building and using the road. This will eventually move the truck traffic off of Strom road. Mayor Nelson thanked Mr. Smith for his assistance in this matter.

Council had inquired into the possibility of purchasing material from Strom pit on Strom road for Township purposes. Mr. Smith reported that the MTO lease this pit from the MNR. It is considered a Provincial wayside pit only and the material can only be used for Provincial highway use. Council asked that if this pit should ever become available for use or purchase that the Township be notified.

Winter Maintenance of Highway 595 was discussed. Mr. McColl explained the classifications of the highway system. The Township of O'Connor has three Highways within its jurisdiction, Highway 590, 595 and 588. Highway 590 and 588, east of Highway 595, within our Township are Class 3 Highways, while Highway 595 is a Class 5. Class 3 Highways must be bare within 24 hours after the storm, Class 5 Highways must be snow packed within 24 hours. These standards are set across the Province and one of the criteria's is the traffic count. To move from a Class 5 to Class 3 the traffic count must be more than 400 vehicles per day. The MTO does the traffic counts and they do approximately one-third of their network each year. Class 3 Highway's receive salt and Class 5 Highway's receive sand with a small percentage of salt if normal conditions. The Ministry does monitor the contractor's performance and the contractor can receive financial penalties if they do not meet the standard. Each Council member then commented on his or her concerns with the maintenance of Highway 595. The main concerns were based on the ice packed and rutted road and the safety of traveling this Highway in the winter. Brushing of the Highway was also discussed. It was noted the number of school buses which travel this road daily with children, the deer population and the narrowness of the road are a major concern with the ice packed ruts and potholes that pull the vehicles around. Council asked that

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Highway 595 be maintained more diligently. Safety is their main concern and currently the Highway is not safe to be driven on.

Mr. Smith was informed that the Highway sign on Highway 590 marking the O'Connor/Marks Townline heading East has O'Connor spelt incorrectly. They will have this sign corrected. It was also noted that there is no sign heading West.

Council inquired into what has to be done through the MTO with regard to the moving of the "Welcome to O'Connor" sign, as the property in which the sign currently sits is being sold and a possible home will be built on the property. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact Ms. Dale Willis for further information on this matter.

The Highway 11/17 four laning issues was briefly discussed. Council enquired into when the decision will be made on which route it will use. Mr. Smith informed Council that there is an Environmental Assessment (EA) process which considers all routes. Consultants work through the process in a fair manner. The contract was extended to allow the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge time to respond. There is one more public meeting in early February. They are anticipating a final report in March. Whichever route is selected all access to and from the Township of O'Connor will remain the same. The Highway will not be built for at least ten years. Councillor Loan will continue to pursue this issue on behalf of Council. Mr. Smith informed Council that there is a mailing list that anyone can add their name to for updates.

Council thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. McColl for attending and asked that they sit down with their people to work on the issues discussed.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. Timesheets for November 27 to December 10, 2010 and December 13 to 24, 2010 were read. Roadwork in general was discussed. Some of the Township roads need to be scratched and more winter sand will be needed. Mr. Johnson reported that the grader is working well on the roads. The chains were used when the Township received the rain and the machine had lots of power. Blaikie road hills are choppy and will be graded soon.

The Township equipment rental rates were reviewed and it was agreed that the rates will remain the same for 2011.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending.

Mr. Styles, Deputy Fire Chief, was welcomed to the table. He provided Council with an update with regard to the bunker suits. Mr. Welyki has informed him that Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) guidelines do still apply for suits manufactured prior to March 1, 2007 as long as the suit is deemed safe. Any suits manufactured after March 1, 2007 must be sent away every year for testing and are only good for ten years. Currently the Township has two sets of newer gear. Council asked Mr. Styles to have the sets of suits used by the core members tested as soon as possible but first go through the suits in storage to see if they can be fitted for them while their equipment is away in case there is a fire. This will be done Tuesday night at their meeting. If repairs are needed and the cost is the same as a new suit they will not be repaired. This year they will need to decide how many new suits are required immediately. Bunker gear will now have to be a line item on the budget each year.

A comparison of costs for the recently repaired bunker gear and the newly purchased suit was reviewed. There is only \$150.00 difference between purchasing new and repairing the one suit when you include all expenses. Repairs could be different with each suit.

Mr. Welyki is scheduled to attend the January 24, 2011 Council meeting however Mayor Nelson will not be able to attend that meeting. Council asked the Clerk-Treasurer to contact him to see if he would be available to attend the second meeting in February instead so that Mayor Nelson could be in attendance.

Deputy Fire Chief Styles has done the necessary repairs to the truck to make it safe as requested at the last meeting.

Deputy Fire Chief Styles was thanked for attending.

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

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR DECEMBER 31, 2010 TOTTALLING \$80,002.71 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR JANUARY 2011 BE PAID – THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE JANUARY 2011 ROAD AND ADMINISTRATION VOUCHER.

CK#9932	A.M.O. (2011 MEMBERSHIP)	\$581.95
CK#9933	A.M.C.T.O. (2011 MEMBERSHIPS)	\$779.70
CK#9934	O.G.R.A. (2011 MEMBERSHIP)	\$506.66
CK#9935	MUNICIPAL WORLD INC. (SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL)	\$ 62.15
CK#9936	ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS	\$214.70
CK#9937	R. CHESSELL (CO/SMOKE DETECTOR-HALL)	\$ 76.48
CK#9938	RELIANCE HOME COMFORT	\$ 43.36
CK#9939	H. MATTAS (JANUARY HONOURARIUM)	<u>\$350.00</u>
		\$2,615.00

Carried

By-laws were reviewed and it was

4. Moved by B. Jerry Loan
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2011-01 BEING A BY-LAW TO IMPOSE LATE PAYMENT CHARGES FOR THE NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES OR ANY INSTALLMENT BY THE DUE DATE BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

5. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2011-02 BEING A BY-LAW TO PROVIDE FOR AN INTERIM LEVYING AMOUNT BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2011-03 A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE BORROWING OF MONIES BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

A resolution from the Town of Fort Frances with regard to the Ontario Provincial Policing Costs was read and was filed.

An invitation from the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board to attend the launch and consultation with respect to the draft Housing Strategy was read. No one from Council will attend.

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Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Treasurer's Itemized Statement of Remunerations & Expenses paid to Council in 2010 was reviewed.
- b) Thunder Bay District Municipal League – i) regarding appointment to the League board of directors. The Clerk-Treasurer has notified Mr. Taniwa of the Township's representatives.
 - ii) Reminder of Board Meeting January 8, 2011 and requesting possible program items for Annual Meeting and Conference. The meeting has already taken place and Councillor Garbutt gave an update report on the meeting. The league now has a new member. The Township of Horne Payne has joined. Three members have been appointed to the Superior North Emergency Medical Services governance committee. Councillors Bev Dale, Shuniah, Gino Leblanc, Terrace Bay and Terry Fox, Marathon. A letter from the Township of Conmee with regard to the process that was used to appoint Mayor Nelson to the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) board was also discussed. President MacEachern noted that nominations were taken from the floor and no other members stepped forward. There will be a Clean Water training session in the morning and a new Councillor training session held in the afternoon on the Thursday, prior to the start of the upcoming spring Municipal League meeting.
 - iii) Ways and Means Committee Report from November 19 & 20, 2010 meeting was read
 - iv) 2011 Budget was reviewed. The Township's levy will increase by \$1.26.
- c) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – Information regarding NOMA's updated resolution process.
- d) Emergency Measures Organization Quarterly Report – Oct., Nov. & Dec., 2010 submitted by John Coupland.
- e) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watch File – December 22, 2010
ii) Watch File – January 6, 2011
- f) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – regarding Notice under O.Reg.287/07 Source Protection Plan preparation for Drinking Water Source Protection in the Lakehead Source Protection Area.
- g) Statistics Canada – regarding 2011 Census. The 2011 Census and the new National Household Survey (NHS) will be held in May 2011. They are seeking the municipality's support in the campaign to encourage participation of all residents. They are also asking for help in raising awareness of available jobs in the census. Council agreed to promote their information in the upcoming Cornerstones and on the bulletin boards in the office and community centre. Also if the information can be forwarded in time it could be included in the interim tax billing sent out in February.
- h) Stewardship Ontario – regarding Industry funding for Municipal Blue Box Recycling for 2010 Program Year. The Township has received the third installment payment.
- i) Royal Canadian Mint – reply to Council endorsed resolution regarding a Highway of Heroes coin. The Mint will be producing such a coin in 2011.
- j) Operation Clean Sweep – Pitch-in Ontario – regarding Pitch-in Week. The Township will not participate.

The balance of correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services – Minister Jim Bradley – reply letter to Council regarding the resolution that was endorsed from the Township of Alberton with regard to funding for firefighter training. Council would like a reply letter sent to Minister Bradley clarifying Council's concerns. Councillor Vezina will draft this letter and it will be forwarded to Council for review.
- b) Fire Marshal's Communique – regarding the Annual Compliance Report for Council's information prior to the meeting with Mr. Welyki, Fire Protection Adviser.
- c) The top three infrastructure projects for the Township of O'Connor as requested by Bill Mauro, M.P.P. at the last meeting. Council would like the list to include the replacement of the bridge on Broome road at Cedar Creek, a multi purpose building for the Firehall and garage, roads and culverts are also priorities.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Government of Ontario – Township of O'Connor - 2011 Estimates for Policing Services. The Ontario Provincial Police Association has initiated action to re-negotiate the 2011 salary and benefits which could possibly change the estimates. Currently the estimate for the Township of O'Connor has gone down by \$18,104.00.

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- b) MPAC – MPAC's 2011 Funding Requirements. The Township of O'Connor's levy has increased by \$222.00.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- c) Mosey & Mosey – regarding Employee Group Benefits Program renewal. The Township of O'Connor's renewal rate for benefits has increased by 4.9% over the 2010 rate.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- d) Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services – regarding the Essentials of Municipal Fire Protection – A Decision Makers' Guide – session to be held in Thunder Bay on February 9, 2011. It was

7. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE ESSENTIALS OF MUNICIPAL FIRE PROTECTION – A DECISION MAKERS' GUIDE SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2011.

**MAYOR NELSON
COUNCILLOR VEZINA, GARBUTT, RACICOT**

Carried

Councillor Vezina left the room.

- e) The Township of O'Connor rates and fees were reviewed. It was agreed to leave all rates the same for 2011.

Councillor Vezina returned to the meeting.

- f) Appointing Committee of Adjustments. No applications from the public were received by the deadline for this committee. Council asked the Clerk-Treasurer to contact Mr. Cronk and Mr. Poohachoff, our current committee members, to see if they would still be interested in sitting on the committee and if not the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will be contacted to see if the committee can be Council as a whole.

Under further new business, Councillor Vezina presented Council with a Conservation Authority Statistical Survey - 2009 general information report for the Province of Ontario. This survey compares Authorities in different areas including number of staff vs area of jurisdiction and population etc.

Mayor Nelson informed Council that at this time no one has submitted their name for President of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association for the four month term until the Annual General meeting in April. Mayor Nelson would like to put his name forward and asked for Council's endorsement. Mayor David Cansfield will put his name forward for executive vice-president. Council were in support of Mayor Nelson putting his name forward.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce – Annual meeting Wednesday, January 26, 2011. No one will attend from Council.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- b) InfraCycle – Financial Sustainability Webinar – January 13, 2011. No one will attend.

It was agreed to move item 18d) forward on the agenda as Councillor Racicot also has an interest in that item.

- d) Workplace Safety & Prevention Services – Certification Training. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to check with the Fire Department to see if any of their members

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are certified through their employment already and if they are see if they would sit on the committee. If not two staff members will have to be certified. There is an online option that Council would like to use for the certification. Council would like see Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot and if necessary Mr. Johnson, Leadhand take the training.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- c) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – NOMA Reports on 2010 Advocacy Activities was read
- e) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association – Pre-budget presentation – Requesting top two municipal issues in relation to Provincial budget. The Township of O'Connor's top two issues would be the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) sustainability and infrastructure funding with 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 splits.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- 8. Moved by B. Jerry Loan
Seconded by G. Garbutt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 10:19 P.M.

Carried

The new job title of Dog Control Officer, formally the By-law Enforcement Officer, was discussed with regard to wages.

- 9. Moved by B. Jerry Loan
Seconded by G. Garbutt

TIME BEING: 10:27 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

It was

- 10. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE POSITION OF DOG CONTROL OFFICER BE ADDED TO LIST ON THE SALARY AND WAGE SCHEDULE FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR NON-UNION STAFF AND THAT THIS POSITION BE INCLUDED IN THE RATE INCREASE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2011 AS SET OUR IN RESOLUTION #21 DATED JANUARY 12, 2009.

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

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

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 10:29 P.M.

Carried