

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – JANUARY 11, 2010

Minutes of the meeting held on January 11, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand

Acting Mayor Garbutt called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Garbutt declared an interest in item 8 c) iii) as her spouse is the By-law Enforcement Officer. Councillor Vezina declared an interest in item 16 h) as his company advertises in the Cornerstone.

1. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2009 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

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

THAT MAYOR NELSON BE MARKED ABSENT DUE TO WORK.

Carried

Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table. Time sheets for the periods of November 29 to December 12, 2009, December 13 to 26, 2009 and December 27, 2009 to January 9, 2010 were read.

Roadwork in general was discussed. The road department have been keeping the traffic moving, scratching the roads and applying the winter sand as needed. Mr. Johnson will be starting his 2010 budget soon.

A reply letter from the Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources with regard to the nuisance beaver issue was read. The Ministry of Natural Resources in not in a position to cover the costs of nuisance beavers on areas that are maintained by a municipal government. They also feel that the quota for the registered trap line in our area is appropriate. A list of 2009 nuisance beaver trappers was also provided.

The current road equipment rates were reviewed. It was agreed that the rates will remain the same in 2010.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending.

The Vouchers for December 2009 were reviewed. It was

3. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR DECEMBER 31, 2009 TOTALLING \$79,339.00 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT THE INFRASTRUCTURE STIMULUS FUNDING VOUCHER FOR THE NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING TO DECEMBER 31, 2009 TOTALLING \$71,907.71 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

Councillor Garbutt left the table.

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5. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER VOUCHER FOR DECEMBER 31, 2009 TALLING \$96.40 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

Councillor Garbutt returned to the table.

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures will be provided at the next meeting after more yearend information is collected and entered.

By-laws were reviewed and it was

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2010-01 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

7. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2010-02 BEING A BY-LAW TO PROVIDE FOR AN INTERIM LEVYING AMOUNT BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

A resolution for endorsement was read from the Township of Essa with regard to an independent review of their local conservation authorities. This resolution was filed.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) NOMA – 2010 Budget and Apportionment.
- b) Councillor Shirley Hunt – report from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit meeting held on December 8, 2009.
- c) Thunder Bay District Health Unit notice of 2010 Public Health Levy.
- d) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation 2010 Funding Requirements.
- e) Ministry of Finance regarding the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund allocations for 2010 and an update on the province's fiscal situation.
- f) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Revised Planning Act regulations to comply with recommendations of the Propane Safety Review Panel.
- g) Communities in Bloom Ontario – 2010 Program. The Township will not submit an application.
- h) AMO – i) AMO Watch File: Why and How.
- i) Joyce Savoline, MPP for Burlington invitation to Provincial pre-budget consultations. There will be a session held in Dryden on January 27, 2010. No one will attend.

The balance of correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Councillor Nygard's letter of resignation from the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority board, effective January 1, 2010 was accepted. As was previously discussed Councillor Vezina will take her seat on this board. It was

8. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT COUNCILLOR JIM VEZINA BE APPOINTED AS THE LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE YEAR 2010.

Carried

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Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Konrad & Christel Kramer – request for 2010 disposal site permit. It was agreed to allow Mr. & Mrs. Kramer to continue to use the disposal site. New permits will be issued.
- b) A letter from Bill Mauro, MPP inviting Council to meet with him to discuss current issues and upcoming projects. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to contact his office to see when he would be available to meet with them.
- c) The Community Advisory Board for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy Outreach Communities in Ontario inviting communities to request funding. At this time no application will be submitted.
- d) Howie Dayton, Chair, Ontario Task Group on Affordable Access to Recreation regarding Policy Framework on Access to Recreation for Ontarians supported by the AMO Board of Directors. Currently the Township does not charge for the use of the outdoor recreation facilities.
- e) Update on new building – i) Jeremiah Gammond, site review report dated December 21, 2009 was read. A tour of the new building was also offered prior to tonight's building committee meeting. The painters have been in. The project is still on schedule and should be 90% complete by the end of the month.
ii) Options for the layout of the sign for the new building were reviewed. It was agreed that the sign would be placed on top of the siding and would be cut to the exact shape of the logo. Option A of Sign Design's proof was agreed upon.
- f) The upcoming Municipal Election will be held on Monday, October 25, 2010. This is the date of the regular Council meeting. A new meeting date was discussed and it was

- 9. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2010 AT 7 P.M. BE RESCHEDULED TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2010.

Carried

- g) Ministry of Natural Resources decision to proceed with the creation of a habitat regulation for the Peregrine Falcon under the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA). This habitat protection will come into force on February 18, 2010. Affected landowners and land managers will be sent a letter informing them of an information open house to be held February 4, 2010.

Councillor Vezina left the room.

- h) A review of the balance of the Township of O'Connor fee schedule was held. It was agreed to leave all fees the same as 2009. The distribution of the cornerstone was discussed and those cornerstone recipients who do not either currently live or pay taxes in the Township will have the option to continue to receive the publication for a \$20.00 annual fee to cover the cost of mailing and copying. A letter informing them of the new charge will be put in their February issue of the newsletter. An amending By-law adding this new charge will be brought forward to the next Council meeting for approval.

Councillor Vezina returned to the meeting.

- i) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing 2010 Annual Repayment Limit respecting the Township's long-term debt and financial obligations was reviewed.

Under further new business Council discussed the new air compressor in the fire hall and the fresh air hose attachments. The Fire Chief has been instructed to seal off the hose or install a smaller external hose to fit properly. A sign will also be installed in the fire hall informing the volunteers to not fill tanks when any equipment is running within the filling area.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Ontario Provincial Police regarding the OPP Costing Summary and 2010 estimated Costs. The policing costs for 2010 will be lower than the last few years.

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- b) AMO – MEPCO – regarding OMERS pension representation and the municipalities continued support.
- c) The Treasurer's Itemized statement for the 2009 Council and Committee expenses was reviewed.
- d) Stewardship Ontario regarding Industry funding for the 2009 Municipal Blue Box Recycling Program Year. The Township has just received the third quarter payment from the program.

For information purposes a building permit was approved for major renovations at 344 Hwy 590.

It was

- 10. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010 AT 7 P.M.

TIME BEING: 7:50 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer