

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2009

Minutes of the meeting held on January 12, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Mike Styles and Dave Wassenaar - O'Connor Fire Department
Brian Wiese, Robin McCabe

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Garbutt declared an interest in items 8c) and 19 as her spouse is the By-law Enforcement Officer. Councillor Racicot declared an interest in items 15a), 17d) and 19 as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

Councillor Nygard noted that the minutes of the December 15, 2008 meeting stated that she was absent due to a personal reason when in fact it was due to work. It was agreed that the minutes be amended to note this change.

1. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 2008 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED AND CORRECTED.**

Carried

Mayor Nelson asked the visitors if they wished to address Council. Mr. Wiese did wish to speak to Council but due to the length of the agenda he was denied. Council asked that if he still would like to address Council that he ask the Clerk-Treasurer to be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Mike Styles, Captain and Dave Wassenaar, member of the O'Connor Fire Department were welcomed to the table to discuss the personal protective equipment and radio communications of the fire department. Mr. Styles presented a report to Council showing what the fire department auxiliary has purchased in the last year and what is still required to keep up with the Section 21 Guidance Notes and the Occupational Health and Safety Act. He provided Council quoted prices for the required equipment and for radio communications. A copy of the specific guidance notes were provided. Mr. Styles also noted that it is recommended that the Bunker Suits be changed every fifteen years from year of purchase based on an average of one fire per year and other factors. Most of the department's suits are coming close to the fifteen year mark and Mr. Styles would like to recommend that two or three suits be purchased each year rather than having to replace them all at once. He did note that at this point it is only a recommendation and it is not mandatory.

The priority is the required hoods, gloves and boots. A total estimated cost of these items was calculated. Council will discuss this further under new business and the Clerk-Treasurer will meet with the Fire Chief to inform him of their decision.

Council asked Mr. Styles about the SCBA equipment and he stated that it is currently good, however there will be upgrades required in the future.

Council asked Mr. Styles to go to the radio supplier and ask to try out some of the radios that he feels the department would need to see how they work in our area and if they meet the requirements of the department. They would then like the department to get the cost for the model they feel would work for the team, get a total figure of what is required and speak to Fire Chief Mattas about this for the budget.

Mr. Styles and Mr. Wassenaar were thanked for attending.

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Mr. Johnson, Leadhand was welcomed to the table. Time sheets for December 1 to 13, 2008, December 14 to 28, 2008 and December 29, 2008 to January 9, 2009 were read.

Roadwork in general was discussed. A snow blower has been purchased for the rink and it seems to work well. A request for volunteers to run the snow blower was put into the January Cornerstone. Truck #9 was in for repairs to the transmission. The road crew will be hauling winter sand. There is a bit of frost activity on the roads. The new blade on the backhoe is working well for snowplowing. The road employees will be doing maintenance and indoor jobs, including starting on the 2009 budget.

Mr. Johnson reported that Mr. Hakala will be needing to use Strom road to haul wood out of our disposal site back lot. He has not as yet approached Mr. Johnson to have the road opened to do this haul. The Township has in the past, if requested, opened a road temporarily for wood contractors to get their wood hauled out of the bush. The Gravel Doctor has plowed this road and have not approached Mr. Johnson about doing so. This matter will be discussed further under the closed portion of the meeting.

Information with regard to restrictions to hauling from Ms. Brown, MMAH, will also be moved to the closed portion of the meeting.

Item number 17b) with regard to a broken windshield was moved forward to discuss with Mr. Johnson. No further action will be taken with regard to the letter received.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending.

The bills to be paid were passed around the table. It was

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR DECEMBER 31, 2008 TALLING \$89,587.54 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR JANUARY 2009 BE PAID – THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE JANUARY 2009 ROAD AND ADMINISTRATION VOUCHER.

CH#8472	AMCTO (MEMBERSHIP FOR 2009)	\$672.00
CH#8473	AMO (2009 MEMBERSHIP)	494.00
CH#8474	ONTARIO GOOD ROADS ASSOC. 2009	422.63
CH#8475	ONTARIO ASSOC. OF FIRE CHIEFS	183.75
CH#8476	THUNDER BAY DSSAB	<u>9,068.00</u>
		\$10,840.38

Carried

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THROUGH THE ONTARIO DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 31, 2008 TALLING \$42,371.05 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Councillor Garbutt left the table.

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

THAT THE BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER VOUCHER FOR DECEMBER 2008 TALLING \$143.47 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

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Councillor Garbutt returned to the table.

The draft Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to December 31, 2008 were reviewed. It was agreed to wait until the next meeting to determine if any monies will be transferred into reserves for year-end.

The following By-laws were discussed and it was

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2009-01 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 G. Garbutt
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2009-02 BEING A BY-LAW TO PROVIDE FOR AN INTERIM LEVYING AMOUNT BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

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

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2009-03 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE BORROWING OF MONIES BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry petitioning the Ministry of Community and Social Services requesting a review and appropriate adjustment of the recommended rates for indigent funerals and amend the current policy to provide financial assistance to cover funeral expenses for all needy individuals was filed
b) Municipality of Clarington regarding Lottery Licensing request for process streamlining. It was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF CLARINGTON, ENERGIZING ONTARIO REQUESTING THE ALCOHOL AND GAMING COMMISSION OF ONTARIO TO EXPEDITE ITS MODERNIZATION OF CHARITABLE GAMING PROJECT, IN PARTICULAR THE APPLICATION, REPORTING AND ADMINISTRATION PROCESSES RESPECTING BREAK OPEN TICKETS AND RAFFLES BE ENDORSED.

Carried

A letter was read from the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board informing the municipality that the full meeting agenda and distribution of confirmed minutes will be posted on their website the Friday prior to the meeting date. The Clerk-Treasurer will forward the township's email address to their office as requested to receive the confirmed minutes.

The 2009 Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board Budget was reviewed. The Township's 2009 levy for the board has been reduced by \$3,360.

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Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) AMO – i) Federal Gas Tax extension and amounts to 2013. The Township of O'Connor will receive for the years 2010 to 2013 - \$44,294.40 annually.
 - ii) Urgent – Ontario's Municipal Leadership in Federal Budget Consultations
 - iii) Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund Notices for 2009. AMO has secured a further extension for the stable funding guarantee for municipalities in 2009.
 - iv) We Need Your Support of the AMO position on the Waste Diversion Act and the Blue Box Program Plan Review
 - v) Federal Gas Tax – Four Year Extension Funding Announced
 - vi) Annual Audit Statement for Federal Gas Tax. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the township's audit fee for the Federal Gas Tax funding is currently just under 10% of the funding provided and we would not qualify for the offer of the centralized audit service.
 - vii) Municipal Leaders Forum on Green Building
- b) Ministry of Finance – i) Letter regarding OMPF allocations for 2009
 - ii) OMPF 2009 Allocation Notice – The Township of O'Connor will be receiving \$12,400 less than last year. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to send a letter to the Ministry of Finance asking how they came up with this number when our DSSAB is only reducing by \$3,360.00.
 - iii) Education Tax Rates for 2009. The residential education rates have reduced for 2009 from 0.264% to 0.252%.
- c) Ken Taniwa – TBDML – 2009 Budget & Apportionment
- d) Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services – OPP – 2009 Estimates. The Township of O'Connor's policing invoice has increased over 2008 by \$5,231.00.
- e) Ron Hackett, Funding for Small Communities in Ontario – copy of response letter to MMAH and OMAFRA regarding funding.
- f) MPAC – Letters regarding i) 2008 Assessment update
 - ii) Current Value Interpretation
 - iii) MPAC'S 2009 Funding Requirements
- g) Iain Angus – copy of Ontario Forestry Coalition Presentation to Standing Committee
- h) Thunder Bay Veterinary Services Committee, a copy of new constitution.
- i) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding Improved Energy Efficiency Standards for New Homes
- j) Nestle Waters regarding solution to consider plastic beverage container recycling and litter

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- a) LAS Group Benefit Program – Township of O'Connor Proposal. Council would like a formal printed bound copy of this proposal for review. Some questions that arose during discussion will also be asked prior to making any decisions with regard to any change.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- b) General comments from MMAH regarding placing a lien on adjacent property. If there is no reason to put a lien on a piece of property the only way to acquire property would be to negotiate with property owner or expropriate it if the township had a clear legitimate municipal need or purpose.
- c) Draft application for Celebrate Ontario 2009 was reviewed with Council. It was decided to add a Friday movie night as well as a Sunday brunch to our original O'Connor Day plans in the application. The Clerk-Treasurer will complete the application and submit it by the deadline of January 16, 2009.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Stuart Mooney, Operations Manager, CACC – requesting a meeting on January 15, 2009 regarding contract. It was

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10. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY CACC MEETING, TO DISCUSS THE SPECIFICS OF THE CONTRACT WITH CACC, TO BE HELD IN OLIVER PAIPOONGE ON JANUARY 15, 1009 AT 7:00 P.M.

COUNCILLOR VEZINA

Council

- b) Grant Thornton LLP – letter regarding Internal control findings from the 2007 audit
c) Itemized Treasurer's Report for 2008 for review. It was noted that the report did not show any mileage or meals for Councillor Nygard and it should have. The report will be reviewed and revised as required.
d) Lakehead Region Conservation Foundation Fundraising Dinner – February 12, 2009. It was

11. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE LAKEHEAD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING DINNER ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2009.

TICKETS: \$50.00

COUNCILLOR NYGARD

Carried

- e) Municipality of Greenstone regarding Small Landfill Site Management training. Council would like to commit to two attendees for the training if it were to be held in Thunder Bay.
f) The Amberley Gavel Academy – CAO Programme for Excellence in Municipal Leadership – to be held in Thunder Bay February 3 to 6, 2009, No one will be attending.
g) Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance requesting that the Township of O'Connor join their organization. It was agreed that the township will not join the alliance.
h) Township of East Ferris requesting funding for disaster relief to assist with flood damage. No assistance will be given.
i) Celebrate Canada Program application for Canada Day funding. The Township will not apply to this program in 2009.
j) Winter Active – January 15 to February 27, 2009. The Township will not be participating in this program.

Under further new business, Council discussed Mr. Styles' report with regard to the O'Connor Fire Department's current personal protection equipment and radios. It was agreed that hoods, gloves and boots should be purchased as soon as possible to meet the Section 21 Guidance Notes and the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the radios will be discussed during budget negotiations. The Clerk-Treasurer will meet with the Fire Chief to discuss Council's decision.

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

- a) Hymers Agricultural Society – i) requesting advertising or donations for the 97th Hymers Fall Fair. It was

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

THAT A HALF PAGE ADVERTISEMENT IN THE HYMERS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY PRIZE LIST BOOK BE PURCHASED AT A COST OF \$55.00.

Carried

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- ii) request for letter of support for the Hymers Fall Fair's Ministry of Tourism grant application. Council agreed that a letter of support be sent to the Hymers Fall Fair for their application.
 - b) Guy Avis's reply letter to Council's reply letter regarding his windshield. Council will not submit any further correspondence to Mr. Avis at this time.
 - c) Ontario Power Generation – 2009 Community Luncheon - January 28, 2009. It was
13. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ATTEND ONTARIO POWER GENERATION 2009 COMMUNITY LUNCHEON TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY JANUARY 28, 2009.

**MAYOR NELSON
COUNCILLORS GARBUTT, RACICOT, VEZINA
FIRE CHIEF MATTAS
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

Carried

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- d) Clayton Sampson, Northern Ontario Blue Box Program Technical Advisor – February 4, 2009 meeting in Thunder Bay to sketch out a draft plan for the cooperative planning project. It was
14. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE WASTE DIVERSION ONTARIO COOPERATIVE RECYCLING PLANNING PROJECT MEETING TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2009.

DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

A letter, sent to Mayor Nelson, was brought forward to Council with regard to the efforts to develop a Growth Plan for Northern Ontario. A Think North economic summit will be held in Thunder Bay and it was

15. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ATTEND THE THINK NORTH WORKSHOP TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 2-3, 2009 IN THUNDER BAY.

**MAYOR NELSON
COUNCILLOR VEZINA AND GARBUTT**

Carried

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LITIGATION OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION, INCLUDING MATTERS BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS, AFFECTING THE MUNICIPALITY OR LOCAL BOARD; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(E) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 10:25 P.M.

Carried

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The snowplowing of Strom Road issue was discussed.

17. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

TIME BEING: 10:27 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

The Clerk-Treasurer will contact the township's lawyer with regard to this matter.

Councillor Garbutt and Racicot left the meeting.

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

TIME BEING: 10:30 P.M. THAT THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING CONTINUE.

Carried

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

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: 10:28 P.M.

Carried

Administration wages were reviewed and discussed.

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

TIME BEING: 10:53 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

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

THAT THE SALARY AND WAGE SCHEDULE FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR NON-UNION STAFF COMPRISING OF THE CLERK-TREASURER, DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER, DISPOSAL SITE CARETAKER, JANITOR, BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, FENCEVIEWER, LIVESTOCK VALUATOR, WEED INSPECTOR AND GROUNDS KEEPER WILL RECEIVE AN INCREASE AS FOLLOWS:

1. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST, 2009 INCREASED BY 1 ½ PERCENT
2. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST, 2010 INCREASED BY 2 PERCENT
3. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST, 2011 INCREASED BY 2 PERCENT
4. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST, 2012 INCREASED BY 2 PERCENT

ALSO THE DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER WILL RECEIVE A ONE TIME TOPUP OT \$2.12/HR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2009.

Carried

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

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.**

TIME BEING: 10:55 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer