

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JANUARY 27, 2014

Minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas, Deputy Fire Chief Ian Hamilton  
Fire Department Members Greg Biloski, Thomas Gratz, Stefan Derech

Absent: Councillor Racicot

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

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

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,  
JANUARY 13, 2014 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

The visitors were asked if they wished to address Council on any matter other than what they were on the agenda for and they replied no.

It was agreed to move items 6 c) and d) forward on the agenda to discuss with the department members first. Mayor Nelson welcomed the Fire Department members to the meeting and an email sent to Fire Chief Mattas and the Township office from Captain Biloski on January 11, 2014 was read. Fire Chief Mattas' response was also read. Council asked Captain Biloski to explain his comments and inform Council of his concerns.

Captain Biloski expressed his concerns with the new bunker suits which were purchased for some members of the fire department last year. There were no measurements taken from the members when the suits were ordered, the sizes were based on their old suits which had been sent away for testing and matched as close as possible. Captain Biloski does not feel that the suits are fitting correctly. The members are refusing to attend a fire call which requires the use of full personal protective equipment until this matter is corrected.

Council informed the members that they want to get it right and do not want to see anyone get hurt because of improperly fitting gear. Sani Gear, the supplier of the suits has been contacted and the length of the sleeves or the pants can be tailored to fit the members for a fee. A measuring chart was provided. Council asked the members in attendance to go over to the fire hall and take their measurements and based on the information provided; see if the sleeves and pant legs are too short or not.

It was noted that Council are putting money in the budget each year for suits to ensure the members are safe.

Driver training was also discussed. At the most recent fire none of the members responding had a DZ licence and Councillor Racicot, a former member of the department and current auxiliary member was contacted and he brought both trucks to the scene. Council asked the three members present if they were interested in getting their licence and they all replied yes. They did take the course for the Z endorsement when it was offered here in the Township but all have since expired. They all committed that if arrangements were made for training they would pursue getting their licence. Mr. Gratz will have to work around his school schedule but he will do what he can.

The members left the meeting and went to the fire hall to try on their suits and get their individual measurements as per the sizing chart provided by Sani Gear.

Fire Chief Mattas and Deputy Fire Chief Hamilton were welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. There was only one fire related call since the last report.

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Neither Fire Chief Mattas or Deputy Fire Chief Hamilton attended this fire. At the last meeting the level of fuel in the fire truck after this call was discussed. Fire Chief Mattas was very upset with the members for not contacting him about this. Upon receiving the call from Clerk-Treasurer Buob he had the pumper filled and stated that this will never happen again. He also noted that no circle check's have been done for the last couple hundred kilometres. Council asked if there are any policies for either of these procedures and the Fire Chief replied no. Council asked the Fire Chief to work with the office staff to draft up a policy for fuel and circle checks and remind members at each meeting that they must be followed.

Fire Chief Mattas reported that he has not yet talked to John Coupland about Council's concerns with the Table Top Exercise. He has contacted Fire Chief Hole from the Township of Gillies and he will be getting a copy of the emergency plan for Whitefish Valley School for our records.

Fire Chief Mattas also reported that all the SCBA units have been sent away for testing and they were all good. The O-rings have all been changed due to the testing.

Council was informed that the O'Connor, Gillies and Nolalu Fire Departments are getting together in Nolalu on Tuesday evening as a meet and greet. To introduce themselves to each other and get to look at each other's equipment in case of mutual aid calls. They will be rotating between departments on upcoming training nights.

The drivers training program with Eric Olson through the Ministry of Transportation was discussed. Currently no one has signed up for this program which could mean that the program has been lost as it was supposed to provide training for at least ten students per year. Fire Chief Mattas reported on the Taranis training program which he had inquired into last year. Their program consists of two days of classroom, two – four hour driving sessions, with more driving provided if needed, and you can use their truck for the drive centre tests, all for approximately \$1,100.00. This cost is a lot less than Mr. Olson could offer. The members can also drive the fire trucks with someone who currently has their DZ or AZ licence, as long as no fee is charged for extra practice if they do not feel that they are ready to take the test and would like more experience. Both Deputy Fire Chief Hamilton and Randy Turk, firefighter and first responder members with the licence have offered in the past to ride with the members for practice but have not been taken up on the offer. Fire Chief Mattas will look into this program to ensure that it is still available and get more detail about when the courses will be held.

The Fire Marshal's communique with regard to the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) announcing that Ontario will be adopting the National Fire Protection Association Professional Qualifications (NFPA Pro-Qual) Standards was read. Fire Chief Mattas confirmed that this would not change anything that our department is doing with regard to training.

A resolution from the Township of Gillies was read with regard to the Shared Services Committee's decision to hire a fire resources contractor. The Township of Gillies would like to send out an RFP to solicit proposals to undertake the work suggested. Council do not feel that the extra expense is necessary and suggested that a second meeting with the full Council's from each of the three Townships and the Fire Departments meet to update everyone of their plans for the next steps as the Office of the Fire Marshal did not provide the information the committee was looking for. The Clerk-Treasurer will follow up with this.

The Fire Department members returned to the meeting and it was determined that the sleeves on all three suits were too short and one set of pants were also too short. The members were asked to try on the other suits of members who have left the team first and, if they do not find any that fit better than their current suits they will be sent away for alterations as per the members actual measurements for sleeve lengths and pant legs. Deputy Fire Chief Hamilton was asked to follow up with the suit issue. Captain Biloski noted that some of the suits do not have the Drag Rescue Device (DRD). The suits when purchased did meet the NFPA regulations without them so Council believe that they still meet the regulation now. Captain Biloski will look into this further with regard to what the Act states.

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Council once again asked the members if they will commit to attending the driver training and getting their DZ licence if arrangements are made. The members will need a timeline and they will try to fit it into their schedule. Council requested that once arrangements are made for the training, that they provide Council with a date as to when they will have their licence. They were also informed that they will have to arrange to have a medical as part of getting their licence. Council reassured the members that we are here to work with them and if they have concerns that are not addressed to their satisfaction that they come to Council. The Fire Department was thanked for attending and they all left the meeting.

Bills to be paid were reviewed and it was

- 2. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR DECEMBER 2013 AND JANUARY 2014 BE PAID. THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE JANUARY 2014 ROAD AND ADMINISTRATION VOUCHER.**

CK#11993	OMERS	\$3,096.82
CK#11994	CUPE LOCAL 87	171.11
CK#11995	MCKITRICKS	1,907.44
CK#11996	R. CHESSELL	61.00
CK#11997	O'CONNOR FREE METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY	88.25
CK#11998	LAKEHEAD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	50.00
CK#11999	LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES – FUEL	6,089.80
CK#12000	THUNDER BAY DSSAB	6,241.00
CK#12001	AMCTO ZONE 9 – MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL GRANT	100.00
CK#12002	HYDRO ONE	868.58
CK#12003	K. JOHNSON – MEDICAL	35.00
CK#12004	J. LOAN – HONOURARIUM	220.00
CK#12005	G. GARBUTT – HONOURARIUM	154.00
		<u>\$19,083.00</u>

Carried

The draft Income Statement to December 31, 2013 was reviewed, along with the Continuity of Grant Revenue and the current level of reserves. The transfer of funds to reserves at year-end was discussed. It was noted that a lot of the community centre renovation work has not been completed and was budgeted for 2013 and the money should be set in a reserve to complete the project. The grant monies have already been posted to the deferred revenue account. It was

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

**FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2013 THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE FOLLOWING RESERVES.**

- 3111 – WORKING FUND - \$5,000.00
- 3131 – OFFICE EQUIPMENT - \$5,000.00
- 3141 – MUNICIPAL BUILDING - \$45,000.00
- 3143 – FIRE DEPARTMENT - \$2,000.00
- 3151 – ROAD EQUIPMENT - \$5,000.00
- 3161 – DISPOSAL SITE - \$5,000.00
- 3221 – FEDERAL GAS TAX - \$4,796.17

Carried

By-laws and policies were discussed as follows:

- a) By-Law 2014-03, being a by-law to authorize the borrowing of monies and it was

- 4. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by B. J. Loan

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2014-03 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE BORROWING OF MONIES BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

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Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows and it was

- a) Township of Conmee – regarding a petition in support of the operation of off-road vehicles be changed to include side-by-side off road vehicles, four-seat side-by-side and two-up vehicles was filed.
  - b) Randy Pettapiece, MPP Perth-Wellington regarding Joint and Several Liability. It was
5. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT COUNCIL SUPPORT THE PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION FROM RANDY PETTAPIECE, MPP PERTH-WELLINGTON REQUESTING THAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT PROTECT TAXPAYERS FROM HIGHER PROPERTY TAXES BY IMPLEMENTING A COMPREHENSIVE, LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO REFORM JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR MUNICIPALITIES BY NO LATER THAN JUNE 2014, ADDRESSING THE ALARMING RISE IN INSURANCE PREMIUMS DUE TO RISING LITIGATION AND CLAIM COSTS BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

- c) Municipality of Trent Hills requesting the Ontario Ombudsman do a full investigation on Hydro One was filed.
  - d) Town of Bancroft urging the Provincial Government to not reduce the OMPF funding and to provide mitigation funding for municipalities for increased policing costs was filed
  - e) Township of Baldwin and the Nairn & Hyman Township requesting that their suggested resolution regarding the proposed OPP Billing Model be passed. It was
6. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by B. J. Loan

**WHEREAS MUNICIPALITIES HAVE BEEN LEGISLATED TO PROVIDE POLICE SERVICES;**

**AND WHEREAS MUNICIPALITIES HAVE BEEN PAYING INEQUITABLE COSTS FOR POLICING SERVICE;**

**AND WHEREAS THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE HAVE DEVELOPED A MODEL FOR BILLING THEIR SERVICES TO MUNICIPALITIES;**

**AND WHEREAS THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SMALL MUNICIPALITIES WHO DISAGREE WITH THIS FUNDING MODEL AND DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL BE BENEFICIARIES OF ANY PROPOSED BILLING MODEL;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO TAKE BACK THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLICING SMALL MUNICIPALITIES WITH A POPULATION OF 5,000 OR LESS.**

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Township of O'Connor's 2014 Annual Repayment Limit (ARL).
- b) Municipality of East Ferris – i) Copy of letter to Premier Wynne regarding the OPP costing formula.  
ii) Copy of letter to Premier Wynne regarding suggestion of tax increases to provide funding for transit in the GTA.
- c) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watch File – January 16, 2014.  
ii) Watch File – January 23, 2014.  
iii) AMO Breaking News – The fork in the road highlights of AMO's 2014 Pre-Budget submission.
- d) Ontario Provincial Police – OPP & OFSC Kick Off Snowmobile Safety Week.
- e) Municipal Finance Officers Association of Ontario (MFOA) – Response to C.D. Howe's Budget Commentary.

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- f) Municipal Employer Pension Centre Ontario (MEPCO) – regarding Annual Report 2012.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee – copy of letter to Minister McMeekin dated January 20, 2014 requesting a response to the committee's request regarding the withdrawal from the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board was read.
- b) Discuss Community Centre renovations – i) Deadline for Human Resources & Skills Development Canada & CIIF Funding. The completion deadlines for these projects is March 25 and March 31, 2014.  
 ii) Update and Notes from site visit held on January 20, 2014 with regard to construction for the platform lift were read. A building committee will be appointed at the next meeting.  
 iii) The Clerk-Treasurer reported on comments and questions asked by one of the bidders for the construction project. Council would like an addendum put out asking that the HST not be included in the price and noted that it is extra.  
 iv) Discuss relocation of school house and relocation of plaques, pictures, etc. in the community centre. It was suggested that the school house model be put somewhere in the main hall and that possibly in could be put on wheels so that it can moved around if needed. Once the construction is done a new location will be determined.  
 v) The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that the cleaning of the CO2 detectors as was previous discussed did not fix the problem and they will be replaced.
- c) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation – 2014 costs comparison. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that there is an increase in the Township's annual costing of \$89.73 over 2013 for MPAC.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Oliver Paipoonge Public Library – i) 2014 contract for service renewal. It was

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

**THAT THE LIBRARY CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR 2014 WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF OLIVER PAIPOONGE LIBRARY BOARD FOR LIBRARY SERVICES BE SIGNED.**

Carried

- ii) Letter requesting support from the Oliver Paipoonge Public Library Board for an increase and overhaul of the provincial operating grant for libraries was read and it was

8. Moved by G. Garbutt  
 Seconded by B. J. Loan

**WHEREAS AN INCREASE AND OVERHAUL TO THE PROVINCIAL OPERATING GRANT FOR LIBRARIES IS LONG OVERDUE;**

**AND WHEREAS THE LIBRARY GRANT HAS NOT BEEN ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION OR POPULATION LEVELS SINCE IT WAS CUT IN 1996 – 1997;**

**AND WHEREAS THE INADEQUACY OF THE EXISTING GRANT HAS LIMITED THE ABILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE NEW GENERATION OF USERS WITH FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT INFORMATION SEEKING HABITS;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ASK THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE TO PROMPTLY TAKE ACTION TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION AND ADJUST THE LEVELS OF FUNDING.**

Carried

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iii) Copy of letter from the Oliver Paipoonge Public Library Board to the Honourable Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport regarding Provincial Operating Grants to Public Libraries was read.

b) Hymers Agricultural Society – requesting a donation or advertisement. It was

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

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

Carried

c) Thunder Bay District Municipal League – 2014 Apportionment was reviewed. The Township of O'Connor's total levy is \$246.48.

d) Closed Meeting Investigator Agreement renewal agreement was discussed and it was

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

**THAT THE CLERK-TREASURER BE AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A RENEWAL AGREEMENT APPOINTING PAUL S. HEAYN AS THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S CLOSED MEETING INVESTIGATOR FOR THE YEAR 2014 WITH AN OPTION FOR A FOUR YEAR RENEWAL.**

Carried

e) The desks in the old office in the community centre were discussed. As this room would be better suited for meetings and use by the Norwest Community Health to have a table or tables setup in the area it was agreed to have the desks removed and sold as surplus. It was

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

**THAT THE DESKS IN THE OLD OFFICE BE DECLARED SURPLUS AND BE PUT UP FOR SALE IN THE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER.**

Carried

f) Small Business Lighting Program – Work order to convert lighting in the O'Connor Community Centre was reviewed. The program will retrofit a limited number of lights at no charge to the Township. It was

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

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HYDRO ONE FOR THEIR SAVE ON ENERGY SMALL BUSINESS LIGHTING BLITZ FOR THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE AND THAT THE CLERK-TREASURER BE GIVEN THE AUTHORITY TO SIGN THE WORK ORDER AND CUSTOMER AGREEMENT FORM.**

Carried

g) Federation of Canadian Municipalities regarding the 2014 Membership. It was agreed to not become a member of this organization at this time.

h) Health & Safety Ontario - Networking and Knowledge Exchange – i) regarding Mental problem or illness. No one will attend.

ii) It's a Crime!, It's Jail Time! – regarding serious incident or fatality and it was

13. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by B. J. Loan

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**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE HEALTH & SAFETY – NETWORKING AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE – IT'S A CRIME! IT'S JAIL TIME! REGARDING SERIOUS INCIDENTS OR FATALITY IN THE WORKPLACE TO BE HELD ON MARCH 27, 2014 IN THUNDER BAY.**

**REGISTRATION: N/C**

**CLERK-TREASURER BUOB  
ROSS CHESSELL – HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE.**

Carried

- i) Ministry of Natural Resources – Information Session regarding new regulatory changes under the Endangered Species Act. It was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SESSION REGARDING NEW REGULATORY CHANGES UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA), FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACT (FWCA) & PUBLIC LANDS ACT (PLA) TO BE HELD BY WEBEX ON FEBRUARY 12, 2014.**

**REGISTRATION: N/C  
MAYOR NELSON**

Carried

- j) 2014 Council Challenges – Course to be held in Thunder Bay on March 27, 2014. No one will attend.
- k) Earth Day Canada – regarding Hometown Heroes Award Program 2014. No nominations will be made.
- l) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge – i) Draft notes for submission regarding the Provincial pre-budget presentation to be submitted on behalf of the Municipalities of Oliver Paipoonge, Neebing, Shuniah and the Township's of Conmee, Gillies and O'Connor as per the meeting held on February 23, 2014 with the Heads of Council of these municipalities.  
ii) Two additional notes – Northern Fund and Disaster Relief.  
Minor changes and comments were made and they will be forwarded to Ms. Dupuis, CAO of Oliver Paipoonge for submission to the Minister.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) The Premier of Ontario – reply letter to Council regarding their endorsing resolution from the County of Lambton with regard to the requalification of Municipal Building Officials was read.
- b) Ontario Good Roads Association – request for Expressions of Interest to participate in OGRA Research Project was read. Council was not interested in participating in the project.

15. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by B. J. Loan

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

**TIME BEING: 10:30 P.M.**

Carried