

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – JANUARY 28, 2008

Minutes of the meeting held on January 28, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Mattas  
Kelly Johnson, Leadhand arrived at 7: 25 p.m.

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Vezina declared an interest in item 17 i) as he advertises for his business in the Cornerstone. Councillor Racicot declared an interest in items 17 c) d) and 18 a) as his spouse is an employee of the township.

1. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,  
JANUARY 14, 2008 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

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

**THAT COUNCILLOR GARBUTT BE MARKED ABSENT DUE TO ILLNESS.**

Carried

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. There has been one fire related call and no first response calls since the last report. The Township of Gillies invited the O'Connor and Nolalu departments to attend a controlled old house burn in their municipality in January to practice fire fighting skills. Six members attended from O'Connor. Fire Chief Mattas and department member Mike Styles attended a Fire Code changes meeting. A report from CACC showing the statistics on calls in 2007 was also read.

A Communique from the Fire Marshal's office was read with regard to the Ministry of Transportation permit for overweight fire department vehicles. Fire Chief Mattas will get more information on this for Council.

Fire Chief Mattas also reported that a resident lost his home on Sunday evening to fire. A working smoke alarm saved his life and Fire Chief Mattas would like to promote this. They had a good turnout of fire fighters for the call.

John O'Malley of the Nolalu fire department has contacted Fire Chief Mattas and would like to do some joint training with the O'Connor team again. They will make arrangements to do this. Fire Chief Mattas has been approached by a couple of property owners to also do a burn on old homesteads in the township and he will make the proper arrangements in the spring to do so.

June 7, 2008 the Township of O'Connor fire department will be hosting the Paul Goulet fire fighters competition here in O'Connor. The fire department will be asking the O'Connor Community Club to assist them with the food preparation, splitting the profits with them.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. The Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative application was discussed. The cost estimates to gravel 16 miles of road were presented to Council. Council were in agreement to apply for funding to do the full 16 miles. The draft application was read and some suggestions for wording were given.

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The road department timesheets for December 31, 2007 to January 11, 2008 were read. The grader repairs were discussed.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending.

The draft statement of revenue and expenditure sheets to December 31, 2007 were again reviewed. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the expense of the history books could be setup in an inventory for resale account, which will reduce the full expense in 2007. It was also noted that a portion of the funds to purchase the history books was pulled from the Working fund reserves and a portion should be returned into that reserve. The funds discussed for transfer at the last meeting were again discussed and it was

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

**FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2007 THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE FOLLOWING RESERVES.**

**FEDERAL GAS TAX - \$ 12,332.00**  
**WORKING FUND - \$14,000.00**  
**DISPOSAL SITE - \$ 2,000.00**

Carried

By-laws were discussed and it was

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2008-04 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE BORROWING OF MONIES BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

5. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2008-05 BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE ONTARIO INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS CORPORATION ("OIPC") FOR FUNDING FROM THE MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT INITIATIVE FOR A NEW ELIGIBLE CAPITAL PROJECT OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AND TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS ON SAID ELIGIBLE CAPITAL PROJECT BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) City of Port Colborne regarding the FCM Report "Danger Ahead the Looming Collapse of Canada's Municipal Infrastructure" was filed.
- b) Municipality of Shuniah regarding petitioning the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to provide resources for mandatory firefighter training in Northern Ontario was

6. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF SHUNIAH PETITIONING THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES TO FULLY FUND THE NORTHWESTERN CAMPUS OF THE ONTARIO FIRE COLLEGE BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

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- c) Municipality of South Bruce requesting the Provincial Government implement a "Responsible Use Plan" for urban pesticide use and not impose a ban on cosmetic pesticide use was filed.

A DSSAB report from Councillor Garbutt dated January 22, 2008 was read.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Grant Thornton regarding Internal control findings from the 2006 audit.
- b) Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services – OPP – 2008 Annual Estimate – Local Services Realignment.
- c) MPAC – 2008 Property Assessment Services and Support Costs.
- d) AMO – i) Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MIII) – update.  
ii) AMO Supports FCM's Call for Intergovernmental Action on Housing and the Homelessness.
- e) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority 2007 Annual Report.
- f) AMCTO – annual general meeting June 8 to 11, 2008 in Niagara Falls. No one will attend this year.
- g) Jane Fraser, Tecky Seniors – looking for New Horizons Travel Grant application information and O'Connor hall bookings dates. Council discussed the programs that Dr. Fraser is trying to promote. No one attended her first meeting, scheduled January 26, 2008 here in O'Connor. Council agreed that they would no longer support Dr. Fraser or the Tecky Seniors projects through the township. All future hall use dates scheduled by Dr. Fraser will be cancelled.
- h) Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce – Media Release - Support for manufacturing jobs made in Ontario.

The balance of the correspondence were passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) History book update. A group of volunteers got together on January 21<sup>st</sup> and went through the balance of the history books looking for missing pages or folded pages. In total 39 books were found to have such errors. Friesens did originally send an extra 17 books in case of such problem and they do have an addition 40 books in storage. They will go through them and replace the twenty-two to bring us back up to the original order of 750 books. Friesens will cover the shipping costs in full and will not charge us interest on the unpaid billing until they check their inventory to be sure they have that number of good additional books.
- b) The Township of Gillies' email regarding the By-law Enforcement Officer position. The Township of Dorion suggested that one municipality could collect all the resumes and one member from each community could be on a hiring committee to review the resumes and decide which candidate to hire. Council would still like to advertise the position together but they would like to hire their own person for the position.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Canada Summer Jobs 2008 Bulletin – applications being accepted from February 1 to 29, 2008. It was

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

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ASK FOR 2 STUDENTS UNDER THE CANADA SUMMER JOBS 2008 SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM, FOR A PERIOD OF SEVEN WEEKS.**

**START DATE FOR THE PROGRAM WOULD BE JULY 7<sup>TH</sup> RUNNING UNTIL AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2008.**

Carried

- b) AON Reed Stenhouse – Insurance Renewal values were review. They will be compared with the asset management information recently collected.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

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- c) The new statutory holiday – Family Day was discussed. The employees will not be entitled to this holiday this year. It will be discussed further during Union negotiations later this year.
  - d) AMCTO – i) Accessibility Standards for Customer Service – Summary of Requirements.  
ii) Accessibility Standards for Customer Service – training session – March 6, 2008 in Thunder Bay. It was
8. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING SESSION TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON MARCH 6, 2008.**

**REGISTRATION: \$189.00**

**CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- e) Lakehead Conservation Foundation Dinner and Auction 2008. It was
9. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE LAKEHEAD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION 2008 FUNDRAISING DINNER AND AUCTION TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON FEBRUARY 7, 2008.**

**TICKETS: \$50.00**

**COUNCILLOR NYGARD**

Carried

- f) Canadian Heritage – 2008 Celebrate Canada funding. It was decided not to apply for funding for this year.
  - g) Hymers Agricultural Society – requesting an advertisement in their prize list book. It was
10. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

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

Carried

- h) The dates of the December 2008 Council meetings were discussed. The policy states 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the December because of the Christmas holidays. In 2008 the second and fourth would be the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Clerk-Treasurer asked Council if they wished these meeting dates to change for 2008. Council discussed the dates and decided to stay with the policy for these meetings.

Councillor Vezina left the room.

- i) The township fees were reviewed. It was agreed to leave all fees the same as 2007.

Councillor Vezina returned to the meeting.

- j) Attendance at meetings and conferences for 2008 was discussed. It was agreed that all of Council, if they are able to attend, may support both the Thunder Bay District Municipal League and the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association meetings and conferences. Mayor Nelson will also attend the AMO conference as a NOMA board member in 2008. The township will be responsible for his honourarium only.

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Under further new business, Council discussed applying to the Paterson foundation for a heart defibrillator for the township hall. The Clerk-Treasurer will look into this.

Council also discussed the municipal building and the need to have it repainted and the basement kitchen and area fixed up. It was decided to put a notice in the February Cornerstone to see if any of the residents would be interested in painting and doing minor renovations in the hall. The township will supply all the required material. The Clerk-Treasurer will do up a list of the required jobs, which the residents may come and pick up from the township office.

Council also asked the Clerk-Treasurer to contact the bank to see if a third name could be added to list of Council signatures, as Mayor Nelson will be out of town more often now with his new job.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

Councillor Racicot left the room.

a) Clayton Sampson, Northern Ontario Blue Box Program Technical Advisor for Waste Diversion Ontario regarding Blue Box program site visit/meeting to be held in Thunder Bay on February 6, 2008. It was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE WASTE DIVERSION ONTARIO BLUE BOX PROGRAM SITE VISIT/MEETING TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON FEBRUARY 6, 2008.**

**NO REGISTRATION FEE.**

**DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT**  
Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

b) Thunder Bay District Municipal League – 91<sup>st</sup> Annual meeting and Conference – March 7 & 8, 2008 in Longlac. It was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE 91<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN LONGLAC ON MARCH 7 & 8, 2008.**

**REGISTRATION: \$100.00**

**MAYOR NELSON  
COUNCILLOR GARBUTT, RACICOT, VEZINA, NYGARD  
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

Carried

c) Ken Taniwa forwarding email from the Northwestern Ontario Development Network reminder of presentation by Mr. Ron Mulholland discussing his report titled The State of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in Northern Ontario January 31<sup>st</sup>. No one will be attending.

d) Thunder Bay District Veterinary Services Committee – Annual meeting February 27, 2008. Minutes of 2007 meeting were read. It was

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13. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT VETERINARY SERVICES COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE ROSSLYN COMMUNITY CENTRE ON FEBRUARY 27, 2008.**

**COUNCILLOR VEZINA**

Carried

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

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 10:00 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer