

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – July 13, 2009

Minutes of the meeting held on July 13, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Leadhand Kelly Johnson, Fire Chief Henry Mattas,
Summer Students – Antun Sabo, Greg Biloski and Sarah Clasen-Byce

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Garbutt declared an interest in item 9c) as her spouse is the By-law Enforcement Officer and Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 19f) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by Lee Nygard
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2009 AND THE NOTES FROM THE O'CONNOR DAY PLANNING MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2009 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried.

2. Moved by Lee Nygard
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT COUNCILLOR VEZINA BE MARKED ABSENT DUE TO PERSONAL REASONS.

Carried.

Mayor Nelson asked Mr. Johnson if he wished to address Council as a ratepayer. He replied no.

Mayor Nelson invited the two students hired for the roads department, Antun Sabo and Greg Biloski, to the table. Introductions were made and each Council member addressed issues of safety and work habits with the students. It was stressed to the students that safety always comes first and when in doubt about an assignment that they should always ask questions. It was also emphasized that the students are working for the Township and are therefore accountable to the ratepayers. Their work ethics and performance can effect the future employment opportunities for students in the Township if complaints are received by ratepayers for poor work performance.

Both students were thanked for attending the meeting.

Ms. Sarah Clasen-Byce, who was hired as the administrative summer student, was welcomed to the table. Introductions were made. Council members welcomed Ms. Clasen-Byce and shared words of encouragement.

Ms. Clasen-Byce was thanked for attending the meeting.

Mr. Kelly Johnson was welcomed to the table. The timesheets for the period of May 31st to June 13th and June 14th to June 27th were reviewed.

Roadwork in general was discussed. Today was the first day for the summer students and they have gone through an orientation, regarding equipment and safety. Pool Road has been resurfaced and the roads crew has just finished resurfacing Connolly Road, which was a Federal Gas Tax Project.

Mr. Johnson informed Council that the lawn tractor that is used to cut grass has broken down and that a new John Deere tractor has been purchased for the amount of \$2,599.00 taxes included from Gordon Trailer Sales and Service.

Mr. Johnson was thank for attending and asked to stay until the tenders for the rehabilitation of the Blaikie Road bridge over Whitefish river were opened.

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Fire Chief Henry Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was reviewed. There has been one first response call and one mutual aid call. The meetings that Fire Chief Mattas attended were reviewed.

The Compressed Breathing Air Analysis report for the air compressor used to refill the oxygen bottles was reviewed. Council would like clarification as to why the unit has not met the requirement of the CSA Standard Z180.1-00 regarding the Dew Point level. If the compressor is repaired it will have to be sent down east or to the United States at a cost of approximately \$4,000.00 and a new unit will cost \$6,904.00. Currently the Township of Gillies and Conmee do not have a compressor, however the Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge and Neebing do have one. Fire Chief Mattas will get clarification on the report for Council and will also continue to look into the cost to replace or refurbishment the existing unit and get back to the Clerk-Treasurer who will forward the information via e-mail to Council.

Testing has been done on the breathing apparatus bottles as well as an examination of the threads of each bottle for cracks. Two bottles have been found with cracks in the threads and have been removed from service.

Fire Chief Mattas encouraged Council to attend the upcoming seminar being offered at FireCon 2009 on September 18, 2009. The Municipal Leader Program will be a morning session followed by a bus tour of the new Thunder Bay and Region Training Complex. Council was also reminded that an award ceremony will be held on the Thursday prior to the seminar and that both Mr. Joe Lunn, who has 30 years of service and Fire Chief Mattas, who has 35 years of service, will be receiving service pins.

Council decided that a plaque will be presented to Mr. Lunn during O'Connor Day in recognition of his 30 years of service.

Fire Chief Mattas informed Council that the upgrades to the radio towers are complete and they are now in service. The upgrades to the towers have been completed with a portion of the funding coming through the JEPP program that was applied for on behalf of all the municipalities, including the unorganized, who will be utilizing the towers. A bill for the Township's portion of the balance of cost of the towers will be issued in the near future.

The tire on the Fire Department's tanker truck was discussed. Fire Chief Mattas was instructed to purchase a used tire at an estimated cost of \$400.00 to replace the existing tire.

The issue of Fire Department members driving the tanker was discussed. There are only a few members of the department who are capable of driving the truck and proper training is required for members who wish to obtain their DZ license. Currently Fire Chief Mattas is looking into this matter for Thunder Bay Area Zone One. There are currently 50 to 60 fire department members in the area of Thunder Bay who require training to obtain their DZ license. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer commented that Shuniah uses a mentoring program to train their drivers and was asked get more information for Council.

Council discussed the upcoming training seminar offered at FireCon 2009 and it was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MUNICIPAL LEADER PROGRAM FOR REEVES, COUNCILLORS, MUNICIPAL CLERKS, CEO'S AND RELATED STAFF OFFERED BY EMERGENCY NORTH TRAINING DURING FIRECON 2009 IN THUNDER BAY ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2009.

COUNCILLOR GWEN GARBUTT, COUNCILLOR BISHOP RACICOT, MAYOR RON NELSON, CLERK-TREASURER BUOB AND COUNCILLOR JIM VEZINA.

REGISTRATION: \$100.00

Carried.

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

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

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR JUNE 30, 2009
TOTALLING \$59,625.04 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried.

- 5. Moved by G. Garbutt
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 JUNE 30, 2009
TOTALLING \$2,850.66 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried.

Councillor Garbutt left the table.

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

**THAT THE BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER VOUCHER FOR JUNE 30,
2009 TOTALLING \$344.61 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried.

Councillor Garbutt returned to the table.

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

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

CH#8844	G. GARBUTT (HONORARIUM)	\$ 300.21
CH#8845	GORDON TRAILER SALES AND RENTAL	\$ 2,599.00
CH#8846	THUNDER BAY DSSAB	\$ 9,068.00
CH#8847	PETTY CASH	\$ 12.41
CH#8848	HYDRO ONE	\$ 399.85
		<u>\$12,379.47</u>

Carried.

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to June 30, 2009 was reviewed.

The following By-laws were discussed and it was

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

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2009-09 BEING A BY-LAW TO PROHIBIT AND
REGULATE NOISE IN THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried.

- 9. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

**THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2009-10 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT MR. PAUL
S. HEAYN AS THE CLOSED MEETING INVESTIGATOR FOR THE
CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND
ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.**

Carried.

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The policy to supply a light dinner for Council meetings starting at 6:00 p.m. or earlier was approved and it was

10. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

**POLICY FOR SUPPLYING LIGHT DINNER AT COUNCIL MEETINGS
STARTING AT 6:00 P.M. OR EARLIER**

PURPOSE: To establish the standard for supplying a light dinner at Council meetings, which start at 6:00 p.m. or earlier.

POLICY STATEMENT: At any meeting of Council that commences at 6:00 p.m. or earlier a light dinner shall be provided to Council members and staff. These meetings would be special or extended meetings other than the regular meetings starting at 7:00 p.m. as described in By-law 2002-22, a By-law to govern the proceedings of Council and Committees of the Corporation of the Township of O'Connor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This policy shall come in effect as of July 13, 2009.

Carried.

Time being 8:25 p.m., the tenders for the rehabilitation of the Blaikie Road Bridge over the Whitefish River were opened. Three tenders were received and it was

11. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT THE TENDER OF KA VANDERZWAAG CONSTRUCTION INC. BE ACCEPTED, UPON FINAL REVIEW OF THE TENDER PACKAGES AND APPROVAL BY JML ENGINEERING, AS THE CONTRACTOR FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE BLAIKIE ROAD BRIDGE OVER WHITEFISH RIVER PROJECT AT A COST \$15,850.00 PLUS GST.

Carried.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) The Township of Stirling-Rawdon regarding the Municipal Drinking Water Licensing was filed.
- b) The City of Kenora regarding the Provincial Harmonized Sales Tax exemption of minor sport registration was filed.
- c) The City of Welland demanding improved funding model by the Provincial government to ensure access to medical and health services as filed.

Under DSSAB issues a letter sent to the Honourable Jim Watson by Chair Ian Angus, Thunder Bay DSSAB, regarding landlord and tenant board hearings in Thunder Bay was read and the Thunder Bay DSSAB 2008 Surplus Distribution was reviewed. The Township of O'Connor has received \$2,122.00 as their share of the 2008 surplus.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) AMO Alert
 - i) Planning Act Survey to determine whether the progressive new planning tools which came into effect in January 2007 are being used and are effective.
 - ii) Municipal, Provincial, Federal, and Business Leaders Working Together, AMO's Economic Development Task Force met again on June 17, 2009
 - iii) AMO Report to Members on June 2009 Board Meeting.
 - iv) WDO Used Tire Plan Comes Into Effect September 1, 2009.
 - v) Support for Inclusion of Animals in Municipal Emergency Plans.
 - vi) Creating Jobs: Delivering Results, the new Infrastructure Canada newsletter.
- b) A letter from Build Canada Fund – Communities Component regarding our application under the funding for the rehabilitation of the Smith Road Bridge. The application has not been approved.

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- c) Minister of Transportation letter indicating that our support of the Town of Mattawa's resolution has been forwarded to them by the Prime Minister's Office.
- d) Chief Building Official, Cheryl Maki's report on the Well-Aware Seminar she attended on June 29, 2009.
- e) Report from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit on their meeting held on June 17, 2009.
- f) Memo from Superior North EMS regarding Superior North EMS Image Changes.
- g) Memo from MEPCO regarding the OMERS Sponsors Corporation and the Disposition of Contribution and Benefit Proposals.
- h) OMERS regarding Sponsors Corporation approves plan change proposals.
- i) Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation regarding new program materials for NOHFC funding.
- j) E-mail from Mooney Stuart regarding adding Mr. Dale Ashbee, President of the Thunder Bay District Zone One Mutual Aid Association, as the primary contact for outage notifications regarding the Hazelwood and South Gillies sites.
- k) Ministry of Culture regarding Ontario Heritage Act empowering the Minister of Culture to determine policies, priorities for Ontario heritage.
- l) Ministry of Natural Resources i) a letter providing information pertaining to the Endangered Species Act.
ii) A letter regarding protecting the people of Ontario against rabies.
- m) Stewardship Ontario regarding Industry funding for the Municipal Blue Box Recycling for 2009 Program Year. The Township has received the first installment for 2009 in the amount of \$860.93.
- n) LAS Communication i) regarding Municipalities saving 35% Through Electricity Program Purchase.
ii) LAS Benchmark Project Update.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around table.

Under Old Business Council discussed

- a) Municipal Enforcement/POA Officer for the Township of O'Connor. No applications have been received. Council Racicot is networking with a possible candidate who is a retired police officer.
- b) Under further old business Council discussed a resolution that had been requested to be drawn up at the June 22, 2009 Council meeting. The resolution is with regard to nuisance beaver in the Township of O'Connor and it was

12. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

WHEREAS there has been an increase in the population of nuisance beaver in the Township of O'Connor over the past few years;

AND WHEREAS nuisance beavers can become a major cause of damage to municipal road infrastructure due to the potential of flooding resulting from the construction of beaver dams on private and crown land that is upstream from municipal roadways;

AND WHEREAS the Township of O'Connor, in order to reduce the possibility of major flooding due to beaver dams, has had to incur the cost of hiring a licensed trapper to remove these nuisance beaver in order to preserve the integrity of the municipal road infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Natural Resources governs, by regulations and policies, the trapping in the Province of Ontario to ensure wildlife management;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of O'Connor requests that the costs incurred for the trapping of nuisance beavers by licensed trappers be reimbursed to the Township by the Ministry of Natural Resources;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Carried.

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Under New Business Council discussed

- a) The Ministry of Natural Resources Public Notice Requesting input to a Screen Process in the Township of Conmee and the unorganized Township of Marks. Council has no comment to input.
- b) The note from Clerk-Treasurer Buob regarding the resignation of Kathleen Noy as the alternative for the Disposal Site Caretaker was discussed. An advertisement will be put in the next issue of the Cornerstone asking for applications.
- c) A letter from the Thunder Bay Federation of Agriculture requesting a donation was read and it was

- 13. Moved by Lee Nygard
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR GIVE A DONATION OF \$100.00 TO THE THUNDER BAY FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE TO ASSIST THEM IN THEIR PORTION OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FOR THE NORTHERN ONTARIO ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY.

Carried.

- d) An e-mail from the Township of Gillies and an application guide to the Community Development Program, Building Rural and Northern Partnerships was deferred to the Council meeting to be held on Monday, August 10, 2009.
- e) An e-mail received from Marketing at Infrastructure Ontario regarding low interest rate and long term loans was read. A presentation will be made to municipalities at the Northwestern Ontario Regional Conference to be held on October 1st and 2nd providing more information.
- f) MFOA's Investment Basics and Beyond, "What every Municipality Should Know" seminar application was reviewed. No one will attend this seminar.
- g) An e-mail from Ken Taniwa, Secretary-Treasurer of the TBDML, regarding the upcoming Fall Meeting to be held on October 16 and 17, 2009 was reviewed. The e-mail is requesting input for agenda items for the meeting. Mayor Nelson would like the following suggestions forwarded to Mr. Taniwa. MMAH update on PLT reform and assessment update on homes in the unorganized areas including a cost comparison for a \$100,000.00 home in local organized Townships and unorganized Townships, an update from the Northern Development and Mines on rolls and responsibilities on how it is handling forestry and an update from the Minister of Natural Resources regarding Aggregate Act changes.
- h) The Moving on Diversion: A Recyclable Material Diversion Plan prepared by Trow Associates was reviewed and it was

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

WHEREAS the report Moving on Diversion: A Recyclable Material Diversion Plan as prepared by Trow Associates has been received by Council;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of O'Connor supports in principal the recommendations within the report, with each recommendation to be further considered and tested, prior to moving forward with the implementation.

Carried.

- i) Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation of Canada's invitation to review the draft Industry Stewardship Plan and a request for input was read. Council has no input.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed were read as follows:

- a) An e-mail from Ken Taniwa, Secretary-Treasurer for the TBDML, forwarding a letter from Karen Honan, Development Officer, Community Economic Development Commission of the City of Thunder Bay regarding the Immigration Web Portal Initiative was reviewed. There is a request for a person from each community to be the lead on the project and assist in providing information that we would want on the Portal and to attend meetings. Council will not be submitting a name.

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- b) An e-mail from Jim Pine, Secretary-Treasurer, and Pat Vanini, Executive Director of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario regarding notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Association and Notice of a proposal to amend the association's By-law regarding the term of candidates elected to the board of directors was read.
- c) Note to Council regarding the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund status. A letter regarding the acceptance of the township's applications to construct a new municipal office and to rehabilitate the Blaikie Road Bridge over the Whitefish River should be received within the next few weeks. Any project cost that have been incurred as of the announcement date of June 5, 2009 will be eligible.
- d) A letter from the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority regarding the Clean Water Act, 2006: A Discussion Paper on Requirements for the Content and Preparation of Source Protection Plans was read.

For information purposes, one building permit for a garage and one demolition permit has been approved.

- 15. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
ON MONDAY AUGUST 10, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.**

TIME BEING: 9:30 P.M.

Carried.

Mayor

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer