

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JULY 14, 2014

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, July 14, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Leadhand Kelly Johnson
Summer Students Dylan Laughton, Taylor Laughton, Morgan Kuizenga
and Courtney Molcan

Absent: Councillor Loan

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

1. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2014 AND THE NOTES FROM THE EMERGENCY TABLETOP EXERCISE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2014 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mr. Kelly Johnson was asked if he wished to address Council on any other matter other than what he was on the agenda for and he replied no.

The summer students Dylan Laughton, Taylor Laughton, Morgan Kuizenga and Courtney Molcan were welcomed to the table. Council and the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer introduced themselves to the students. Each Council member in turn made comment as to what was expected of them as employees of the Township and all emphasized the importance of job safety and to make sure to ask questions if they are unsure of what is required of them while working on a job. Students were also advised to wear clothing appropriate for the weather and that they may encounter ticks when working outside.

Mayor Nelson informed the students that they are to do the job assigned to them to the best of their ability and if Leadhand Kelly Johnson feels it necessary to bring a negative report back to council on their conduct while performing job duties that it could result in termination.

The Students were thanked for attending the meeting.

Leadhand Kelly Johnson was welcomed to the table. The monthly road report for June 7, 2014 to July 7, 2014 was reviewed.

Roadwork in general was discussed. The summer students have been cutting the grass at the O'Connor Cemetery. The road resurfacing project on Sitch Road has been completed and calcium has been applied. The majority of roads are in good shape with regard to the amount of calcium still in the roads and it will be applied where required.

The excavation work done by Staal Irrigation for TBayTel was discussed. Mr. Johnson was not happy with the way the road was left after the excavation. Council left it to his discretion as to how he will deal with the issue.

Bay City Contractors has not started work on the Broome Bridge Replacement project. Water levels are too high at present. More gravel will be hauled onto the detour and there are two culvert replacement projects that still need to be completed.

The issue of wages when employees take on the role of supervisor was brought to the attention of Council. Council agreed to discuss the issue under the closed portion of the meeting.

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2. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR JUNE 30, 2014
TOTALLING \$164,475.78 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to June 30, 2014 was reviewed.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) The resolution from the Town of Penetanguishene regarding the call for a formation of a Small and Rural School Alliance was filed
- b) The resolution from the Town of Minto regarding the stopping of the impending hydro rate increase was read and it was:

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF MILTON CALLING ON
PREMIER WYNNE AND THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO TO TAKE
IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PREVENT HYDRO RATES INCREASING FROM
BEING IMPLEMENTED BE ENDORSED.**

Carried.

The letter from the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) was read. The letter indicates that there was a \$425,679.00 surplus in 2013 and that the Township of O'Connor's share of the surplus is \$1,354.00 which will be applied to the July 2014 Interim Monthly amount of \$6,238.00.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) E-mail from Ms. Kendal Donahue regarding the Food Strategy Update.
- b) Letter from Serge Imbrogno, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy regarding an update on Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan.
- c) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - i) New Provincial Cabinet being named.
 - ii) Ontario Speech from the Throne Delivered Today in Legislature
 - iii) AMO Report to Member Municipalities regarding the highlights of the June 2014 Board Meeting
 - iv) Accountability Act Introduced Today.
 - v) AMO Watch File dated June 26, 2014
 - vi) AMO Watch File dated July 2, 2014
 - vii) AMO Watch File dated July 10, 2014
- d) Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA)
 - i) Welcome of Newly Appointed Cabinet.
 - ii) 2014 Throne Speech Affirms Pre-Election Commitments.
- e) Ontario Provincial Police July Newsletter. Council would like the information provided regarding driver's taking precautions to avoid hitting animals and boat safety in the August issue of the Cornerstone.
- f) Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee Meeting Minutes from their meeting held on May 22, 2014.
- g) City of Thunder Bay Court Services regarding the 2013 Financial Statements, the 2013 Reconciliation and the 2014 Partial Payment – Court Services. The Township of O'Connor has received a total of \$7,358.00 for 2013, which includes \$3,579.00 that was received in 2013, and \$3,272.00 for 2014 which represents 75% of the estimated amount.
- h) Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages response to the Clerk-Treasurer's e-mail regarding the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).
- i) Ministry of Energy e-mail regarding the Municipal Energy Plan (MEP) Program.
- j) E-mail from Mr. Bruce Furlong, Chairman of the Board, Ontario ON1Call, announcing the appointment of Mr. Ben Hamilton as Executive Director effective July 28, 2014.
- k) E-mail from Ms. Carlene Steiner, Acting Municipal Relations and Communications, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), introduction.
- l) OMERS Employer News.
- m) Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ted McMeekin regarding his recent appointment.

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- n) Grant Thornton regarding the final 2013 Financial Statements. Copies of the statements were provided to Council.
- o) Township of Baldwin letter asking for support for their resolution regarding the Province of Ontario taking back the responsibility of policing small municipalities with a population of 5,000 or less. This resolution had been brought to the May 12, 2014 Council meeting and was filed.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under old business Council discussed:

- a) A letter from McKittricks, the Township's legal representative, summarizing the recent sale of vacant land was read. The transaction has been finalized and land title transferred.
- b) A letter from Mr. David Nisanthan, Compliance Officer, Ministry of Consumer Services, regarding the Township of O'Connor's Cemetery By-law was read. The By-law has been approved with minor changes.

Under new business Council discussed:

- a) The proposed resolution for the support of the Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee (LRMC) and their position regarding the Thunder Bay DSSAB and it was

- 4. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

WHEREAS the Municipalities making up "Area One" in the Thunder Bay District Social Services Board (DSSAB) service area, being the Townships of Gillies, O'Connor and Conmee and the Municipalities of Shuniah, Oliver Paipoonge and Neebing, pay a disproportionate amount of money to the Thunder Bay DSSAB compared to the services that the board delivers to their residents;

AND WHEREAS these Municipalities, working together as the "Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee (LRMC)", commissioned an independent consultant to determine whether it would be financially feasible for them to deliver social services independently of the Thunder Bay DSSAB;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the Township of O'Connor supports the efforts of the members of the LRMC in seeking Changes to the wording of Ontario Regulation 278/98, passed under the authority of the DSSAB Act, in order to allow for a structure for social services delivery to their residents which may be outside of the Thunder Bay DSSAB as it is currently constituted.

Carried.

- b) The proposed resolution regarding the continued approval of the Head of Council and the Clerk-Treasurer to participate in and attending meetings of the LRMC was read and it was:

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

WHEREAS the Townships of Gillies, O'Connor, Conmee and the Municipalities of Shuniah, Oliver Paipoonge and Neebing, recognize that, as rural municipalities geographically surrounding the Corporation of the City of Thunder Bay, they have many common issues and concerns;

AND WHEREAS these Municipalities believe that they can assist one another through the sharing of ideas for the best practices, and the combination of their individual voices as one for issues of common concern;

AND WHEREAS these municipalities together established a working group known as the "Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee", formed of the heads of each municipal council and the Clerk or CAO/Clerk of each municipality;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the Township of O'Connor continues to approve of the participation of the Head of Council and the Clerk-Treasurer on the Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee and expressly authorizes their attendance at, and participation in, meetings of the Committee;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Head of Council report back to this Council for specific direction on individual items of business involving financial contributions by this municipality that are recommended by the Committee as a result of discussions held with the other member municipalities.

- c) Rural Agri-Innovation Network regarding new funding program and more local food products being produced in Northern Ontario. No application will be submitted.
 - d) Ms. Linda Braun, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, regarding new funding opportunity available through the National Recreation Trails Program. No application will be submitted.
 - e) Fire Con – Emergency North Training regarding the 2014 Programs being offered. Council would like Fire Chief Henry Mattas and Deputy Fire Chief Ian Hamilton to ask members what training they would like and to have them registered before the classes fill up.
 - f) David Battistel of the Silver Mountain and Area Historical Society regarding an invitation to attend the Third Annual History Day at the Silver Mountain Station. No one will be attending.
 - g) Under further new business Mayor Nelson brought to Council the issue of the Little Lion's Daycare operation at Whitefish Valley School and the need for funding for the next school year. This issue was discussed at the June 26, 2014 meeting of the LRMC and members suggested that each municipality consider donating a portion of their 2013 Thunder Bay DSSAB surplus, based on the weighted assessment of each member municipality and the required funds of \$10,000.00 and it was
6. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR DONATE \$320.00 TOWARD THE \$10,000.00 REQUIRED BY THE LITTLE LIONS TO CONTINUE THEIR PROGRAM AT THE WHITEFISH VALLEY SCHOOL, BASED ON WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT, OF THE 2013 THUNDER BAY DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD SURPLUS RECEIVED IN 2014.

Carried.

Councillor Vezina made comment on the Provincial Government's cutback on funding for the maintenance of forest roads by 25%. Councillor Vezina will look into the matter further and bring back to the next Council meeting.

Councillor Racicot inquired about the purchase of two new computer monitors for the office staff which was included in this year's budget. The monitors have not been purchased yet. The Deputy Clerk-Treasurer was instructed to purchase the monitors.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed.

- a) Councillor Garbutt updated Council on the Thunder Bay District Municipal League. Currently the League meets every second month and it was decided that should a representative miss three (3) consecutive meetings that the member municipality appoint a new representative. The League is also discussing the possibility of changing the annual fall meeting to the first week in December, after the new Council has been sworn in. Council did express concerns with this as there is always the possibility that the entire League's board may not be reelected which would leave a newly appointed board with no returning members.

In light of the recent tragedy involving a Councillor in Marathon, Council discussed insurance coverage of newly elected officials attending meetings prior to being sworn into office. The Deputy Clerk-Treasurer as instructed to contact the Township's

insurance provider to confirm coverage of newly elected officials and also as two what existing Council members are covered for.

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Ms. Heather Brown, Municipal Advisor, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has approached the League regarding holding the New Councillor Training session during the fall meeting. The League Board has discussed this and has concluded that it should be done at the Ministry's expense and not the Leagues.

The TBDML has sent the member municipalities a survey to be completed with regards to how the board can best meet the needs of the municipalities it represents. Council reviewed the survey and responded to the questions. The survey will be forwarded to the League.

- b) Councillor Racicot discussed the possibility of financial support for the new Skate Park being constructed in the Township of Conmee. Council has already supported Conmee in their efforts for funding by means of a support letter and Conmee does have corporate sponsorship in place.

For information purposes two building permits were approved as follows: Permit number 2014-03, conditional permit at 121 Garbutt Road, Permit number 2014-04, Demolition permit at 121 Garbutt Road, permit number 2014-05 for a storage shed at 121 Garbutt Road and permit number 2014-06 for a garage at 59 Sitch Road.

As was discussed in item 6 b) it was

7. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**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 OR TO DISCUSS A PERSONAL MATTER ABOUT AN IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING MUNICIPAL OR LOCAL BOARD EMPLOYEES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(E) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.
TIME BEING: 9:35 P.M.**

A request regarding increase in salary when acting as supervisor was discussed.

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

**TIME BEING: 9:45 P.M.
THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried.

After reviewing the current Union Agreement and the Job Description for Equipment Operator #1 Council concluded that the provision is not included in the current union agreement and that the job description does include supervisory duties therefore there will be no increase in salary when acting as supervisor.

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

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 9:50 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer