

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – JUNE 23, 2008

Minutes of the meeting held on June 23, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas, Jeremiah Gammond, Architect,
Summer Students – Bryce Heerema and Jesse Buob
Karen Heerema, Kelly Johnson Leadhand arrived at 8:05 p.m.

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

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

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
JUNE 9, 2008 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

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

THAT COUNCILLOR RACICOT BE MARKED ABSENT DUE TO WORK.

Carried

Mayor Nelson asked the visitors if they wished to address Council. They replied no.

The summer students were welcomed to the table. Introductions were made and each Council member provided information and advise about the work they will be doing. Safety was the main concern and priority of all members. They were told that if they are unsure of something they are doing to stop and ask more questions and if they do not feel that it is safe to do the job not to do it. They were also informed that all ratepayers in the township will be watching them not only the staff and Council, so be sure to do a good job. If they would like to use the township as a reference for another job they may do so. They were told that they will have to wear their own steel-toed shoes and the township will supply gloves, goggles and hard hats. They are to report to work on Monday, July 7, 2008 at 8 a.m. and they will work for seven weeks. They will be paid \$8.75/ hour. If they need time off they can prearrange it with Kelly. The students were asked if they had any questions and they did not. The students were thanked for attending.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. It has been quiet for calls since the last report with only two first response calls and one mutual aid call today to Hymers. As of June 1, 2008 Greg Nelson and James Laughton are officially no longer on the department as they have not been to any training or meetings in the last six months.

Fire Chief Mattas reported on all the meetings that he has attended in the last month. He did attend three Ontario Power Generation meetings with regard to the flood and the hydro dam on behalf of the township.

He reported on the CACC meeting with regard to dispatch that he and Mayor Nelson attended. Oliver Paipoonge is taking the lead on this situation. Bell Mobility has now taken over and a maintenance agreement will have to be put into place. There has not been an agreement with the current supplier for the last eighteen years. Once this new system is set up the Township will have to pay for dispatching for the fire department. The medical calls will still be covered by the Ministry of Health.

Fire Chief Mattas reported to Council that in an emergency Council can make the decision to request assistance from the City of Thunder Bay.

The Fire Department will be having a controlled burn tonight during their training.

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A letter was read addressed to the CEMC from the Office of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Ministry of Energy with regard to the draft Provincial Emergency Fuel Distribution Plan. They are looking for comments or questions and requesting a survey be completed and submitted. It was decided that Council or Henry as the CEMC will not submit any comments at this time.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending.

Mr. Jeremiah Gammond was welcomed to the table to discuss design drawings for a new township office. Introductions were made and Mr. Gammond made a declaration stating that he is an employee of Leonard Alfred Wood however he is representing himself and is not working on behalf of his employer for this project. The purpose and intent of the building was discussed. A basic design package that may be used for an application for funding for a new building is the purpose of the drawings. Mr. Gammond can provide a plan that is detailed enough that we can take it to a contractor or estimator to provide an estimate on construction. Timelines on the project were discussed. A building will not be constructed this year. Council answered Mr. Gammond's questions with regard to the location, septic system and design of the building and Council expressed what features they would like to see in the building. Mr. Gammond was thanked for attending and before leaving he looked at the township's current office and the site of the proposed building. He will present a draft for the next meeting.

Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table. The disaster relief application, the status of the roads and the cost of the repairs was discussed. An invoice from the Gravel Doctor for maintenance to Strom road was discussed. PHA engineering will be out on Wednesday to look at the Multi-plate arch culvert on Sitch road and to give us an estimated dollar amount for repairs. JML's report with regard to the bridges was reviewed. The application will be submitted on Wednesday to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Council agreed to move item 10 a) the draft agreement with the Gravel Doctor for Strom road up on the agenda to discuss with Mr. Johnson. Due to the flood and all extra work to get the ODRAP application in, the draft agreement has not been completed. It was agreed that the Gravel Doctor will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the maintenance of the road directly with them.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending.

Bills to be paid were passed around the table and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR JUNE 2008 BE PAID – THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE JUNE 2008 VOUCHER.

CK#8001	HYDRO ONE	\$ 362.95
CK#8002	TBAYTEL (TELEPHONE)	\$ 399.26
CK#8003	LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	\$33,386.19
CK#8004	THUNDER BAY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	\$ 3,758.35
CK#8005	CONSIEL DU DIST DU GRAND NORD L'ONT	\$ 58.41
CK#8006	CSDC DES AURORES BOREALES	\$ 212.69
		\$38,177.85

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Declaring the Township of O'Connor a disaster area with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. It was

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

WHEREAS THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR RECENTLY EXPERIENCED HEAVY RAINFALL WHICH RESULTED IN SEVERE FLOODING WITHIN THE ENTIRE TOWNSHIP ON JUNE 6, 2008;

AND WHEREAS THIS RAINFALL HAS RESULTED IN SEVERE DAMAGE TO THE TOWNSHIP ROADS WHICH WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY DETRIMENTAL TO THE RATEPAYERS, THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HEREBY REQUESTS THE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING TO DECLARE THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR A "DISASTER AREA" FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE ONTARIO DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ODRAP).

Carried

- b) Corporation of the Nation Municipality regarding Source Protection for The Clean Water Act was filed
c) Township of Manitouwadge regarding the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre's "code gridlock" or "closed to the region" policy was filed.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Thunder Bay Veterinary Services Committee regarding the Veterinary Assistant Program 2008 enrollment fee. The Township of O'Connor's portion of the fee is \$100.00.
b) AMO – i) OMERS – Latest News
ii) Ontario Human Rights Code Changes
iii) October 19 – 25, 2008 Local Government Week
c) Human Resources and Social Development Canada – reply to Council's correspondence of January 15, 2008.
d) Premier of Ontario reply to Council's resolution regarding health care
e) MCSS – Accessibility Directorate of Ontario – New Funding Available for EnAbling Change Partnership Program - Call for Letters of Interest must be submitted by June 30, 2008. The Clerk-Treasurer will look further into the letter of interest template to see if our new office building would qualify.
f) Ombudsman Annual Report 2007-2008 regarding hospitals.

The balance of correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) The upcoming Table Top Exercise will be a call out on Thursday, June 26, 2008 during the supper hour. Council was asked to be prepared for a call.
b) Memo from the Clerk-Treasurer with regard to the Township of O'Connor's resolution regarding Service Canada funding was read. The resolution was not distributed through AMO to all municipalities in Ontario as was stated in the resolution. The cost to do this was \$299.00 per page. The Deputy Clerk-Treasurer was able to find a previous email that had the municipalities email address's listed and was able to use this to send to as many municipalities as possible. We have been receiving responses stating that their municipality will forward the information to their Council's and they may bring them forward at a meeting for endorsement if they wish.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) A copy of a letter to the Lakehead District School Board from Tammy Cook regarding Flood Emergency Procedure concerns
ii) Reply from Rod Bessel, Manager of Property Services and Transportation, Lakehead Public Schools to Ms. Cook regarding her concerns.

Council read both letters and have several questions and concerns in regard to the reply sent to Ms. Cook. Mayor Nelson will follow up on the reply by contacting Bruce Nugent of the Lakehead Public Schools.

- b) A Memo from the Clerk-Treasurer regarding crushing in Strom pit was read. A contractor will be going into Strom pit for approximately two weeks with a crusher and they would like to run 24 hours per day. As was previously discussed with the Mayor,

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Leadhand and Clerk-Treasurer it was decided to allow the crusher to run 24 hours due to the location of the pit. The contractor was warned that if it does become a disturbance they will have to shut down by 9:00 p.m. in the evening.

- c) A discussion was held with regard to the current mileage rates and the current gas prices. A municipal comparison chart was presented from the Municipality of Greenstone. It was
5. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE MILEAGE RATE BE SET AT .45 CENTS A KM FOR ALL TOWNSHIP MILEAGE. EFFECTIVE DATE JUNE 24, 2008.

Carried

- d) Ray Montgomery, Secretary – O'Connor Free Methodist Cemetery committee letter requesting the township summer students to cut the grass at their cemetery. It was agreed that the students will again cut the grass for their cemetery. A letter will be sent to Mr. Montgomery informing him of Council's decision.
- e) The Ministry of Transportation's bailey bridge from Hymers was discussed. Councillor Racicot had been inquiring into whether or not this bridge would be available for the township. Councillor Racicot reported to the Clerk-Treasurer early in the day that the Ministry of Transportation are not willing to dispose of this bridge without a structural evaluation on it and they are not willing to do that at this time.
- f) Lakehead Rural Planning Board regarding mapping information from Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange. The Clerk-Treasurer was asked to contact the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority to see if this is the same mapping system that they are currently using or if it would be compatible if it is different.
- g) Council was asked if there will be a quorum for the July 14 and August 11 meeting. At this point in time there should be.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed out were discussed as follows

- a) A letter from the Township of Atikokan was read with regard to the flood. Having gone through a flooding themselves they are offering their assistance if there is anything they can do. Council would like a thank you letter sent to the Mayor Dennis Brown for his support.
- b) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – 2007 Audited Financial Statements
- c) City of Thunder Bay, Provincial Offences – copy of the Provincial Offences Grant Thornton – Auditor's report 2007.

For information purposes a building permit was approved for a garage at Con 7, Lot 10.

Due to the time it was decided to defer the closed portion of the meeting. It was agreed to include it on the agenda for the July 14, 2008 Council meeting.

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

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE TABLE TOP EXERCISE TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2008.

TIME BEING: 10:30 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer