

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 24, 2013

Minutes of the meeting held on June 24, 2013 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Summer Students:
Anniina Roblin, Steven Platnick, Adam Currie, Brad Posthumus
Stefan Huzan, North of Superior Tourism Association Board Member
Robert Dean arrived at 7:15 p.m.
Deputy Fire Chief Ian Hamilton arrived at 7:17 p.m.

Absent: Councillor Garbutt

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

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

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2013 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

The visitors were asked if they wished to address Council for any reason other than what was on the current agenda. They replied no.

The summer students were welcomed to the table. Introductions were made. The students were congratulated on their endeavor to work for the Township and Mayor Nelson explained why they were asked to attend. They were invited to meet Council, who they may not see during their employment and to let them know the expectations of the job as a Township employee. Each member of Council spoke to the students about the job and the safety requirements of the job. Safety is the first priority. The road employees must wear safety boots, the Township will supply the gloves and vests and any other equipment required. They were asked to be prepared for all types of weather and to check for ticks regularly. They were told that there is no such thing as a stupid question. If you are unsure for any reason, ask, always be sure of what you are doing. The students were informed as to who their supervisors will be. They were warned that this job is not a given and they can be fired if they fail to perform in a respectable manner. This experience will hopefully be a positive one that can be added to future resumes. They were encouraged to ask any questions they may have now and their hours of work, rate of pay and pay periods were discussed. They were encouraged to have fun and enjoy the job and the summer and were thanked for attending. They all left the meeting.

Council asked Mr. Dean if he wished to address Council and he replied no and left the meeting shortly after.

Mr. Huzan was welcomed to the table. Council was provided with correspondence regarding the "Building on the Success of the Circle Tour" from the North of Superior Tourism Association (NOSTA) at the last Council meeting to refer to. Mr. Huzan explained what the NOSTA board is trying to do and how this project implements the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario. The board is currently seeking funding under the Community and Infrastructure Program, Collaborative Initiatives and is looking for support in principle from municipalities.

Mayor Nelson asked Mr. Huzan to speak to Mr. Iain Angus from the Joint Task Force for the Northern Ontario Growth Plan about the plans for Regional Economic Development Area on this similar matter. It was

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

WHEREAS NORTH OF SUPERIOR TOURISM ASSOCIATION (NOSTA) IS APPLYING TO THE NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND CORPORATION (NOHFC) FOR FUNDING FOR A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY CALLED “BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF THE CIRCLE TOUR”,

AND WHEREAS THIS PROJECT IS DESIGNED TO PRODUCE JOBS AND PROMOTE TOURISM INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR DISTRICT SERVICE AREA AND MUNICIPALITY, AND THEREBY STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMY,

NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUPPORTS THE NOSTA APPLICATION, IN PRINCIPLE, ENDORSES ITS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, AND LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING POSITIVE PROJECT RESULTS,

AND FURTHER GIVEN THE MUNICIPALITIES CURRENT FISCAL OBLIGATIONS, COUNCIL ADVISES THAT ANY FORM OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT WOULD BE DETERMINED AT A FUTURE DATE.

Carried

Mr. Huzan was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

Fire Chief Mattas and Deputy Fire Chief Hamilton were welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. There was one Mutual Aid call to Nolalu, which was called off, since the last report. As was previous discussed at the April 22, 2013 Council meeting, Council would like to rescind the resolution appointing Mr. Randy Turk as driver trainer for the Fire Department and it was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT RESOLUTION #2 OF THE APRIL 10, 2012 COUNCIL MEETING ACCEPTING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM MR. RANDY TURK TO PROVIDE DRIVER TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS BE RESCINDED IN ITS ENTIRETY.

Carried

Fire Permits were discussed. Currently the permits are issued at the municipal office during regular office hours or by Fire Chief Mattas. When these permits are issued the other party does not know who has been issued one. Council would like a spreadsheet developed that states who the permit is for, the address and phone number of the applicant and the dates the permit is valid. This spreadsheet would then be sent to the Fire Chief and Deputy Chief so they are aware of where open fires may be. The option of on-line fire permits was also discussed. It was agreed that the office staff work on finding out what is involved in this process and to insure there is no extra risk. If it can be worked out and it is decided to use this option the Fire Permit By-law will have to be amended.

Fire Chief Mattas also informed Council that the two additional fire suits have arrived from Sani Gear and all the key members have new suits. Randy Turk's suit was tested and passed the last inspection.

Fire Chief Mattas and Deputy Chief Hamilton were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

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

4. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

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THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR JUNE 2013 BE PAID. THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE JUNE 2013 ROAD AND ADMINISTRATION VOUCHER.

CK#11597	J.J. VEZINA (LANDFILL CLEANUP)	\$ 30.00
CK#11598	KYRA OTWAY (LANDFILL CLEANUP)	\$ 55.00
CK#11599	HEATHER PLATNICK (LANDFILL CLEANUP)	\$ 55.00
CK#11600	STEVEN PLATNICK (LANDFILL CLEANUP)	\$ 55.00
CK#11601	G. GARBUTT (REPLACEMENT CHEQUE#11591)	\$231.00
CK#11602	HEALTH AND SAFETY ONTARIO	\$ 16.95
CK#11603	LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	\$20,010.64
CK#11604	THUNDER BAY CATHOLIC DIST SCHOOL BOARD	\$2,571.73
CK#11605	CSDC DES AURORES BOREALES	\$142.06
CK#11606	STAPLES CANADA	\$138.61
CK#11607	HYDRO ONE	\$592.69
CK#11608	BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES CENTRE (EFAP)	\$ 52.50
		<u>\$23,951.18</u>

Carried

A by-law to appoint the auditors was discussed. At the time of hiring the current auditing firm, a resolution accepting their proposal was passed however a By-law should have also been passed. It was therefore

- Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2013-15 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT AUDITORS FOR THE TOWNSHIP BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

A consent application was reviewed and it was

- Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by B. J. Loan

THAT THE CONSENT APPLICATION 1B/12/13 FOR MICHAEL VENASKY AND STACIE MCLAUGHLIN FOR THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS PT MINING LOCATION Y1, RP55R3356, PART 3 FOR SEVERANCE OF 8 ACRES BE APPROVED.

Carried

A report was read from the Clerk-Treasurer on the two proposals received for the development of an Asset Management Plan for the Township. Both quotes were higher than budgeted and the companies were contacted to see if this price was negotiable upon review of our current asset inventory. It was also noted that one company was quoting on 140 km of roadway rather than 140 lane km of roadway, which would also lower the price. Council agreed to negotiate with the lowest bidder and it was

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

THAT THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY GENIVAR INC. FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN AS OUTLINED IN THE MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE "GUIDE FOR MUNICIPAL ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS" FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS BE ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE AS THEY WERE THE LOWEST PROPOSAL SUBMITTED; AND THAT GENIVAR INC. INSPECT THE TOWNSHIP'S CURRENT ASSET INVENTORY TO DETERMINE WHAT INFORMATION IS ALREADY AVAILABLE AND RE-EVALUATE THE AMOUNT OF WORK REQUIRED AND RESUBMIT AN ACCURATE PRICE FOR THE WORK REFLECTING THIS INFORMATION FOR APPROVAL.

Carried

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Council would like the representative of Genivar to come out to the office and review what information has already been collected for the plan and then attend the next meeting to discuss the changes and renegotiate a new price.

The date of the next meeting was discussed and it was

8. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JULY 8, 2013
BE CHANGED TO MONDAY, JULY 15, 2013 AT 7 P.M.**

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards regarding the Premier's comments on raising taxes or fees to fund improved transit for the GTA and Hamilton. It was

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

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF KILLALOE, HAGARTY
AND RICHARDS STATING THAT THEY ARE VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED TO
ANY PLAN BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT THAT INCREASES THE
FINANCIAL BURDEN ON MUNICIPAL RATEPAYERS IN RURAL ONTARIO
BY SUBSIDIZING THE TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR THE GTA BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

A reply letter from Premier Kathleen Wynne was read with regard to the resolution Council endorsed on the Drive Clean program.

A letter from the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board, dated June 6, 2013, in response the Township's request concerning the number of area resident who are currently receiving assistance from Ontario Works was read. This letter stated that due to provincial technology they are unable to provide individual municipalities numbers. The total number for the Area One municipalities was provided. This information was also sent to the other five municipalities in Area One and will be used in the development of a Social Services delivery model.

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board Annual Report for 2012 was also reviewed.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watch File – June 13, 2013
ii) Watch File – June 20, 2013
iii) Breaking News – Herbicide 2,4,5-T and Municipal Employees
iv) Breaking News – Policing Update

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under old business, Council discussed

- a) Email from Thompson Accessibility Solutions Inc. regarding the possible option of a inclined platform stair lift in the Community Centre. Mayor Nelson had been speaking with Mr. Thompson and he indicated that if an extension was built straight out from the bottom of the stairs a different lift could be used and it would be approximately \$8,000 less than the previous lift quoted. Councillor Vezina will look into this further.

Under new business, Council discussed

- a) Letter from Mr. Ray Montgomery, O'Connor Free Methodist Church requesting the Township's summer students work at church cemetery this summer. Council agreed to once again have the students keep the O'Connor Free Methodist Church cemetery grounds groomed during their employment with the Township this summer.

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- b) O'Connor Day liquor licence – As one of the requirements of the permit is to have a resolution from Council designating the day as “Municipally Significant” for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario it was
10. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR DESIGNATED O'CONNOR DAY, HELD ANNUALLY ON THE FOURTH SATURDAY OF AUGUST, AS “MUNICIPALLY SIGNIFICANT” AS PER THE LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD OF ONTARIO (LCBO). THE 2013 O'CONNOR DAY WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2013 WITH A RAINDATE OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2013.

Carried

- c) The Clerk-Treasurer reported that an informal inquiry for Mr. Kim Kydd to have an inspection station on his property for the Ministry of Transportation was made at the office. Council do not see an issue with this and would like a formal request made before a formal response is issued to ensure the proper information is provided.
- d) Alan G. Jones – regarding Taranis Contracting Group Ltd. – request for a letter from Council on the credibility and responsibility of Taranis in the Township's experience with the company and to submit this letter to the Municipality of Shuniah setting out such favorable experience. Council discussed this matter and agreed not to submit a letter at this time. Council would like to suggest to Mr. Jones that he have the CEO of Shuniah contact the Township of O'Connor staff directly if they wish to discuss the working experience as Council do not understand the circumstances with Shuniah.
- e) Memo from the Clerk-Treasurer regarding a Notice of Demand from a taxpayer and research conducted for this demand by the Clerk-Treasurer was read. Council would like a reply sent to this taxpayer informing him that the Township is governed by the Provincial Government and we act under the Ontario Municipal Act S.O. 2001, c. 25. The tax bills are issued in accordance with this Act and it is the responsibility of the property owner to make payment by the due dates. If payment is not made late payment charges will apply.
- f) Letter from the Township of Gillies regarding the opening of restructuring discussions. Council discussed the letter in detail, considered different options and passed the following resolution:

11. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by J. Vezina

WHEREAS THE CLERK OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GILLIES HAS SENT A LETTER AT THE DIRECTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL SEEKING INTEREST IN OPENING RESTRUCTURING DISCUSSIONS;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR IS INTERESTED IN PURSUING DISCUSSIONS RELATED TO BOUNDARY RESTRUCTURING, AND INVITES THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GILLIES TO RESPOND IF THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FURTHER DISCUSSION FOR THIS OPTION. THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR IS OPPOSED TO ANY AMALGAMATION.

Carried

Council, while on the Township inspection to be held on Friday, June 28, 2013 will tour a portion of the Township of Gillies to explore these options further.

- g) LAS/MFOA – Investment Basics and Beyond – September 13, 2013 in Kenora. No one will attend.
- h) Lakehead University – Small Business Consulting letter offering their services. Council will keep their services in mind however they are not required at this time.

Under further new business Council asked the Clerk-Treasurer to contact the surrounding municipalities to see how much their tax rates went up this year.

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Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Northwestern Ontario Development Network (NODN) - Brent Kelso regarding NODN newsletter. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact Mr. Kelso to see what kind of stories or articles they are looking for.
- b) Ontario Power Authority – Independent Electricity System Operator – invitation to participate in regional meetings. – Thunder Bay – July 10, 2013. It was

- 12. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT COUNCILLOR VEZINA ATTEND THE ONTARIO POWER AUTHORITY AND INDEPENDENT ELECTRICITY SYSTEM OPERATOR REGIONAL ENERGY PLANNING MEETING TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON JULY 10, 2013.

Carried

- c) Ontario Provincial Police – regarding an invitation to participate in Municipal Policing Cost Recovery Survey. Council will each respond via email to the Clerk-Treasurer and the responses will be summarized and submitted on behalf of the Township.

- 13. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE TOWNSHIP INSPECTION TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2013 AT 8:30 A.M.

TIME BEING: 9:28 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer