

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JUNE 27, 2011

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, June 27, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Norm Gale, Chief of EMS, City of Thunder Bay

Summer Students – Kate-Lynn Kramer, Katie Coderre and J. J. Vezina arrived at 7:25 p.m.

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Vezina declared an interest in item 16 a) as his son applied for the summer student position.

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

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 9, 2011 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

2. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT COUNCILLOR RACICOT BE MARKED ABSENT FOR WORK.

Carried

Mr. Norm Gale, Chief of EMS, was welcomed to the meeting. Introductions were made. Mr. Gale apologized for missing the previously scheduled meeting. Mr. Gale informed Council that he was at the meeting to discuss the strategic planning of Superior North EMS. He is not here to announce any news or big decisions. Mr. Gale presented a power point presentation to Council. This included background information of how and when Superior North Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was created. In 2000 there was a realignment of services from twelve different organizations. As these organizations were put together as one, it is not the perfect setup and that is why they are now looking at the whole picture. A Governance Committee was formed and they have been working on strategic planning since the fall. Patient outcome is their number one priority. Mr. Gale will be presenting the draft to the City of Thunder Bay Council by September as his budget process starts in October and some of their plans will have impacts on the budget. Response times were discussed. It was noted that once they are in their new building the response times will decrease but there will still be room for improvement. One of the key issues is the need for non-emergent patient transportation. Mayor Nelson informed Mr. Gale that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is also working on this issue, however the Provincial government has ended all discussions with AMO until after the October election. Mr. Gale informed Council that he is also the president of the Provincial EMS and is aware that this issue is not only in Thunder Bay but across the Province.

Council thanked Mr. Gale for his presentation and attending the meeting and informed him that he is doing a wonderful job. Council offered their assistance if needed in anyway. Mr. Gale stated that there are going to be some tough decisions coming and that there could be an increase in the 2012 budget. Council stated that they trust his work and look forward to what comes out in the plan.

The summer students, Kate-Lynn Kramer, Katie Coderre and J.J. Vezina were welcomed to the table. Introductions were made. Council informed the student that they were invited to the meeting to meet Council and the Clerk-Treasurer before they started work. The Township has been applying for grants for summer students for several years and it is both good for the Township and for the student who has the opportunity to work close to home in their own community.

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Each member of Council provided advice with regard to the positions. Each member informed the students that safety is the most important thing. If they don't understand what is being asked of them, ask a question. There is no such thing as a stupid question. Wear the appropriate clothing and safety gear when doing a job. Go home at the end of the day. Don't get hurt. Ensure that you drink enough water and don't get dehydrated in the hot sun. They were also informed that the residence will also be watching and the Township does not want to hear complaints that the students were not working. This is a job and if you do not perform appropriately you can be fired. Ms. Kramer was informed that while working in the office she will come across privileged information, which must remain confidential. They were also informed that cell phone calls and texting are not allowed while they are working. If there is an issue or possible emergency that they need to keep their phone on for they must let their supervisor know. Enjoy the position, smile and be friendly when in the public eye and make the municipality look good and most importantly stay safe!

The students were then asked if they had any questions of Council. Rate of pay and hours worked were discussed. The students were thanked for attending and their employment will begin on July 4, 2011. The students were thanked for attending.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. He apologized for missing the last meeting. The Fire Department report was read. There were two First Response calls and two Fire/CO alarm calls since the last report on April 20th. Unfortunately one of the First Response calls was during the day and no one from the First Response team responded. Fire Chief Mattas noted that in his time here with the department this is only the third time this has happened. The Conmee ambulance was on scene very quickly and it was not an issue. Fire Chief Mattas has attended a meeting with regard to dispatching for the fire departments. They are still working on the paging system issue and when the new system comes into place if new equipment is needed the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge is willing to apply for Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) Funding on behalf of the municipalities. Fire Chief Mattas also informed Council that he attended the Ontario Power Generation Silver Falls Dam tour on May 27, 2011. Five air bottles have been tested and threads were also checked and all were good.

The Fire Department policies are currently being reviewed by the Fire Department. Once they are amended to the department's satisfaction the Council will have to approve them. Council was asked how they would like to proceed with this review as they are over sixty policies. It was agreed that they will be provided to Council in batches two weeks prior to the meeting to allow time for reading. As there is only one meeting a month during the summer months it was agreed that the first batch of policies will be reviewed at the September meeting with the Fire Chief. An hour will be set aside on the agenda for this review. Once Council has approved them, copies will be provided to each fire fighter.

Fire Chief Mattas asked Council about information noted in the minutes about a meeting with the Township's of Conmee and Gillies with regard to shared efficiencies. Mayor Nelson informed Fire Chief Mattas that the Heads of Council are going to be looking at possible shared resources, services and people in all departments of the municipality to make things easier for us all. It is not in any way an amalgamation. Mayor Nelson confirmed that at this time it is only discussions.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending.

Bills to be paid were passed around the table. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR JUNE 2011 BE PAID – THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE JUNE 2011 ROAD AND ADMINISTRATION VOUCHER.

CK#10224	G. GARBUTT	\$ 512.00
CK#10225	B. DENNHARDT	60.00

CK#10226	TBAYTEL	374.03
CK#10227	HYDRO ONE	263.86
CK#10228	FLO SCARROW	288.00
CK#10229	LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	21,255.95
CK#10230	THUNDER BAY CATHOLIC DIST SCHOOL BOARD	2,907.52
CK#10231	CSDC DES AURORES BOREALES	145.55
CK#10232	ROMPPAI'S	669.80
CK#10233	CANADA POST	391.55
CK#10234	SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	<u>940.90</u>
		\$27,809.16

Carried

The Revenue and Expenditures for May 31, 2011 were reviewed.

A resolutions for endorsement from the Township of South Frontenac with regard to limiting manufacturing and packaging to products that can be recycled was filed.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Todd Dodds, CEO, Sault Ste Marie Economic Development Corporation – Growth Plan Concerns
- b) Regional Economic Development Planning Zones Pilot Project – Issue 3 – Entire Northwest Proposed for Pilot Project
- c) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watch File June 16, 2011
ii) Watch File June 23, 2011
iii) AMO Welcomes Promotion of Waste Diversion
iv) Provincial Election 2011 – NDP platform Bulletin No. 1 – Highlights of Municipal related Policies
- d) The Premier of Ontario – reply letter regarding Council's supporting resolution from the Township of Woolwich.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around table

Councillor Vezina left the room.

Under Old business, Council discussed

- a) Summer Student position – Nick Rusnick turned down the summer student position with the Township as he has already found another job. As J. J. Vezina was the only other applicant for the road department it was

4. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by B. J. Loan

AS NICK RUSNICK WAS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO WORK FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR THE FOLLOWING STUDENT BE HIRED UNDER THE MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES SUMMER JOBS SERVICE 2011 FOR THE ROADS DEPARTMENT:

**J.J. VEZINA
START DATE WILL BE JULY 4, 2011.**

Carried

Councillor Vezina returned to the meeting.

- b) The Clerk-Treasurer provided information from the Ministry of Natural Resources with regard to why the Township of O'Connor does not receive royalties from the Ministry's pit on Strom Road. There are no royalties on crown land only private land.
- c) Norwest Community Health – August 17, 2011 - Health Fair update. The committee will be meeting again on July 5th at 5:30 p.m. at the Murillo Hall. They are receiving a very good response from the businesses and organizations who would like to have a booth at the fair. The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that Ms. Peirce, Community Health Worker, would like each municipality to have a booth promoting their Township and suggested that possibly we could try to recruit volunteers for the community and promote O'Connor Day. Council suggested possibly selling our history book, pins, keychains, hats etc. They would also like the Clerk-Treasurer to ask the Women's Institute if they would allow the Tweedsmuir book to be on display.

It was suggested that we use one of the Township flags as a back drop. The Clerk-Treasurer will confirm with Ms. Peirce to see if the sale of our merchandise would be allowed. Ms. Peirce also mentioned that the committee agreed that the municipalities will run and organize the healthy food concession. Councillor Garbutt will get more information on this at the July 5th meeting.

Under New Business

- a) HAGI – Community Services for Independence regarding an Education Session in O’Connor for Council and the community. Council would like to have the presentation made to Council first and would like the Clerk-Treasurer to make arrangements with them to attend an upcoming Council meeting.
- b) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority regarding a request by a visitor for an outhouse at the Cedar Falls Conservation Area. The Authority’s present policy is to purchase prefab concrete outhouses with steel doors to minimize vandalism. The cost is approximately \$8,000 plus maintenance. Council are not aware of any other requests and Council’s opinion at this time is that the cost is too much to warrant one there for only one request.

Under further new business, Council discussed the issue of false CO2 alarms calls for the Fire Department. It was suggested that the homeowner be charged for false alarms. Council agreed that they do not want people not to call if there is a concern because there is a threat of a charge. Council would rather see possible educational pamphlets provided to the homeowner so they are more aware of the situation.

Mayor Nelson informed Council that as the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association President his room and flight to London for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) annual conference would be covered but not his registration. Mayor Nelson asked for Council approval for him to attend the upcoming AMO conference in August and it was

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

THAT MAYOR NELSON ATTEND THE AMO CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN LONDON ON AUGUST 21-24, 2011.

REGISTRATION TO BE COVERED BY THE TOWNSHIP.

Carried

The Clerk-Treasurer suggested to Council that due to the current shutdown of Solid Wood Research that possibly the owner or manager could be invited to an upcoming Council meeting to discuss the current situation and what the plans are for the mill in the near and distance future. Council agreed that this would be a good idea and the Clerk-Treasurer will contact them to see if and when they could attend.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed – copies will be available at the Council table

- a) Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) – Government of Ontario release 10 Year Infrastructure Plan
- b) Municipal Finance Officers’ Association of Ontario – regarding the Province’s 10 year Plan

6. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by B. J. Loan

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COMMUNITY POLICING PROBLEM SOLVING MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 4, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 10:00 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer