

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – JUNE 9, 2008

Minutes of the meeting held on June 9, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Leadhand Kelly Johnson  
Mr. Rod Allan

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

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

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,  
MAY 26, 2008 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

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

It was agreed to move item 7f) of the agenda, quotes for cutting of the weeds on the sides of the township roads, ahead of the road work discussion.

One quote was received.

It was

2. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE QUOTE FROM MR. RODERICK ALLAN TO CUT THE WEEDS ON  
THE SIDES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ROADS AT A COST OF  
\$2,240.00 + GST BE ACCEPTED.**

**WORK TO BE DONE BY THE END OF JULY 2008.**

Carried

Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table. Timesheets April 20 to May 3, 2008 and May 4 to 17, 2008 were read.

A discussion with regard to the State of Emergency was next on the agenda and because of the time this will take it was decided to move along with the other agenda items and discuss this issue later on.

Roadwork in general was discussed briefly. A draft agreement with the Gravel Doctor for the use of Strom road was not available due to the state of emergency and will be discussed at the next meeting.

A date to meet with the CUPE Local 87 Union to negotiate a new contract was discussed. It was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET TO MEET WITH THE CANADIAN  
UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES LOCAL 87 TO VIEW NEGOTIATING  
AMENDMENTS TO THE EXISTING AGREEMENT.**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 7 AT 7 P.M.**

**THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE O'CONNOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING.**

Carried

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – JUNE 9, 2008

A letter will be sent to Ms. Miller, the CUPE National Representative, to see if she is available on that date.

The Township inspection that was originally scheduled for Friday, June 6, 2008 was cancelled due to the weather. It was agreed that Council were monitoring the roads during the emergency and that it would be best to wait until September when the roads have been repaired to do a full township inspection.

The bills were passed around the table and it was

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

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR MAY 31, 2008  
TOTTALLING \$56,195.69 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditure to May 31, 2008 were reviewed.

A resolution for endorsement was read from the City of Waterloo with regard to the 2008 Municipal Road and Bridge Infrastructure Investment. This resolution was filed.

The Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board 2007 Surplus Distribution report was read. The Township of O'Connor received \$1,232.00.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) i) Ontario Forestry Coalition regarding Town Hall meeting Thursday, June 12 in Thunder Bay. No one on Council will be attending.  
ii) Ontario Forestry Coalition regarding auto/forest workers to be endangered species in Ontario
- b) Ontario Forest Industries Association regarding letter from the OFIA regarding fearmongering
- c) Thunder Bay District Municipal League – Events calendar for communities within the District of Thunder Bay, Wawa and White River for Council's information.
- d) A.M.O. – i) Extending the Comment Period to June 30, 2008 regarding The AMO/AMRC Discussion Paper on an Alternative Approach to Ontario's Blue Box Funding Model  
ii) An Opportunity to Provide Input on Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy  
iii) Deadline for Nominations to 2008-2009 AMO Board of Directors is Friday, June 20, 2008. No names were put forward.
- e) STRONG – Northerners need more than a drop in the bucket
- f) John Tory – Leader of the Ontario PC Party regarding Bill 35, the "Investing in Ontario Act"
- g) Minister Responsible for Seniors – 2008 Senior Achievement Award Program. Deadline for nominations June 30<sup>th</sup>. Council will not be submitting any nominations.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Draft resolution with regard to Service Canada cutbacks. Council were satisfied with the draft and it was

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

**WHEREAS THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO HAS INCREASED THE MINIMUM WAGE THREE YEARS IN A ROW AND WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE THIS WAGE IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS;**

**AND WHEREAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS REDUCED THE NUMBER OF SUMMER JOB POSITIONS BEING SUBSIDIZED THROUGH CANADA SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM DUE TO THE INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE;**

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – JUNE 9, 2008

**AND WHEREAS SMALL MUNICIPALITIES, SMALL BUSINESS AND NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE VALUABLE WORK AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR SUMMER STUDENTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES;**

**AND WHEREAS THESE SAME ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE WITH RISING OPERATING COSTS AND WITHOUT THIS FUNDING ARE UNABLE TO OFFER YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY THESE POSITIONS;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR REQUESTS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMIT TO MEETING THE DEMANDS FOR THE CANADA SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM BY GUARANTEEING A SET NUMBER OF POSITIONS AND INCREASE THE FUNDING ACCORDINGLY;**

**AND FURTHER THAT THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO THE RT. HON STEVEN HARPER, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, HON. JIM FLAHERTY, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SERVICE CANADA, KEN BOSHCOFF, M.P. THUNDER BAY – ATIKOKAN, JOE COMMUZZI, M.P. THUNDER BAY - SUPERIOR NORTH, A.M.O., AND DISTRIBUTED THROUGH AMO TO ALL MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO FOR CONSIDERATION AND SUPPORT.**

Carried

- b) Council reviewed the request for quote for the disposal site study. A site visit date was set for July 9, 2008. The project will be completed by December 31, 2008. Quotes will be requested for the August 11, 2008 Council meeting.
  - c) Attendance for the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwestern Ontario Regional Conference was discussed. It was
6. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> AND 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2008.**

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$175.00**

**MAYOR NELSON  
COUNCILLOR GARBUTT, VEZINA, RACICOT  
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

Carried

- d) Table Top Exercise has been set for Thursday, June 26, 2008.

Discussion of the State of Emergency was held. Mayor Nelson reported that he has not declared the emergency over at this time due to the upcoming weather forecast, Ontario Power Generations water release and the water levels on the Kaministiquia River. Mayor Nelson attended the OPG meeting today at 1:00 p.m. and the weather forecast is calling for a storm coming in from the gulf over the lake, which could bring another 50 – 100 mm of rain. If it remains a steady rain it should be okay but if there are thunderstorms we could see more flooding and if any beavers dams have not broken they could still let go if this rain hits. The OPG will be holding another meeting Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. Mayor Nelson cannot attend so Clerk-Treasurer Buob will attend in his place, as well Fire Chief Mattas will attend. News Releases will be posted on the website.

The Township roads are open, with the exception of Broome road between Garbutt and Highway 595 and Broome road to Cedar Falls Conservation Authority, but not to the township's standard. Mr. Johnson has hired extra contractors and staff to help get the roads back as quickly as possible. Pool and Cronk roads will be worked on Tuesday to allow for the detour off Highway 590 on Wednesday. Mr. Johnson has been using the gravel pits closest to the areas being fixed for efficiency purposes. A lot of work is still required on the roads. Mr. Johnson has scheduled JML Engineering to come out on

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – JUNE 9, 2008

Tuesday, June 10 to look at Bridge #4 on the Harstone Road over Cedar Creek. The deck is 6" above the beam and has been shut down. The Harstone Road has also been closed due to this. If time permits he will have all bridges looked at. With the heavy rainfall in the forecast it was agreed not to fix the Broome road culvert at this time. It will be well barricaded and they will concentrate on the other roads at this time. The culvert on Garbutt road, between Smith and Broome road needs to be replaced and the road will be shutdown for a day to do this.

The website will be kept up to date on all road closures and flood warnings.

Mr. Johnson noted that the beavers on private property did cause a lot of the problems and the Township does spend money every year trapping beavers, which are coming from this private property. Mr. Johnson feels that the property owner or Ministry of Natural Resources should be responsible for these beavers.

Mayor Nelson complimented and thanked all of Council, staff and the fire department and first response for a job well done during the flood.

A debriefing meeting was discussed and it was

7. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT A DEBRIEFING MEETING BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2008 AT 7 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE STATE OF EMERGENCY CALLED ON JUNE 6, 2008.**

Carried

Council, staff, the fire chief and key department members of both the Fire and First Response teams, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management Ontario and Ontario Power Generation will be invited to attend. Staff Sergeant Mantey of the Ontario Provincial Police will not be available.

Mr. Edward Unger, the chair of the emergency teleconference calls will be contacted to get a copy of the minutes of the calls. The Boards of Education will be contacted for clarification as to what happened to the students that could not get home on their school bus.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge regarding C.A.C.C. Advisory Meeting minutes and the communication systems for our emergency departments. Mayor Nelson and Fire Chief Mattas attended the meeting held on June 5, 2008. Mayor Nelson reported that the current equipment used to dispatch both the Fire Department and First Response teams in the area is outdated and in need of replacement. The estimated cost of this new equipment is \$60,000. It was agreed that the departments will maintain a VHF system which is still compatible for our service from C.A.C.C. The current base stations are located in separate buildings next to the Ontario Provincial Police and the Ministry of Health's and they are willing to house this new equipment in their repeater sites. They are currently using a Fleetnet system and it was agreed at the meeting the Fire and First Response will not switch over to this equipment due to the cost. The townships in the area have been receiving dispatch to their fire departments at no charge for the past eighteen years through the Central Ambulance Communications Centre. C.A.C.C. can operate both systems and will continue to dispatch to the first response teams at no charge however will have to start charging for fire department calls. An agreement may have to be put in place for dispatching and they will be putting a package together. The fee structure could be based on the number of calls that are dispatched. This information is a heads up for municipalities and does not have to be done immediately.

Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 16 b) as his spouse is an employee of the township and left the room.

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – JUNE 9, 2008

b) Karen Bell – Lottery Licensing Officer – City of Thunder Bay – regarding Alcohol and Gaming Commission training session to be held in Thunder Bay on September 11, 2008. It was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE ALCOHOL AND GAMING COMMISSION TRAINING SESSION TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2008.**

**CLERK-TREASURER BUOB  
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT**  
Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

c) A date for O'Connor Day planning meeting was discussed. It was

9. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR AN O'CONNOR DAY PLANNING MEETING. MONDAY, JULY 7, 2008 AT 7 P.M. THE MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE O'CONNOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING.**

Carried

Issues brought forward and letters received after the agenda was mailed.

- a) Bill Mauro – i) regarding funding for emergency road repair  
ii) copy of the questions posed in the Legislative Assembly this morning  
b) Memo to Council regarding information from Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing with regard to funding.

Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 19 b) as his spouse is an employee of the township, however it was decided to defer the review of the current union agreement to the next meeting.

It was

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

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.**

**TIME BEING: 8:53 P.M.**

Carried

The minutes of the January 14, 2008 meeting were presented, the review of the current union agreement was deferred and the summer student applications were opened.

11. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**TIME BEING: 9:02 P.M.**

**THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – JUNE 9, 2008

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS BE HIRED FOR THE MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES SUMMER JOBS SERVICE 2008 PROGRAM, FOR A PERIOD OF SEVEN WEEKS. START DATE FOR THE PROGRAM WOULD BE JULY 7 RUNNING UNTIL AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup>.**

**BRYCE HEEREMA AND JESSE BUOB**

**THESE STUDENTS WILL BE ASKED TO ATTEND THE JUNE 23, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING.**

Carried

13. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 9:05 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk-Treasurer