

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 12, 2012

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, March 12, 2012 at 6 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Bill Mauro, MPP
Rosy Brizi – Grant Thornton – arrived at 6:50 p.m.
Kelly Johnson, Leadhand – arrived 7:50 p.m.

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in items 11 - 19 c) and 18 f) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

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

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 27, 2012, BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Mr. Bill Mauro, MPP, was welcomed to the table. Council explained to Mr. Mauro the Township of O'Connor's current 2012 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) breakdown. A spreadsheet showing the expenses and revenues from 2000 to 2012 was provided. This document shows the shortfall of the Township in 2012, not the net gain, which was mentioned in a previous conversation between Mr. Mauro and Mayor Nelson. The current formula used by the Province for funding the mandated programs including the TBDSSAB is not working for our municipality.

The Farmland and Managed Forest property classes, which have a tax rate of 25% of the residential tax rate was discussed. Currently the Township does not receive any compensation through the OMPF for these property classes as the total revenue generated through them is less than five percent of the total assessment, the Province's minimum to qualify for compensation. This formula does not work for small municipalities. In 2011 alone the Township of O'Connor funded approximately \$16,000.00 of the governments program. Council is concerned with this large amount of potential tax dollars being lost by our municipality each year.

Mr. Mauro requested that Council send a letter to him with the details of the issue if they would like him to pursue this further.

Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board structure was also discussed. The Area One members are concerned with the lack of representation on the board and input to financial decisions being made. Area One includes the six municipalities surrounding the City of Thunder Bay, Conmee, Gillies, Neebing, O'Connor, Oliver-Paipoonge and Shuniah. As the representation is currently set, the Area One municipalities only sit on this board every twelve years. Council would like to see the same representative structure used by the Thunder Bay District Health Unit for their Board, as this structure includes the same municipalities and works well. This would increase the Area One representation by two seats and the City of Thunder Bay by one. A resolution from the Area One municipalities was represented to the board with this suggestion but was turned down. The original formation of the Board was also discussed. As the Province originally set the board structure Council would like to see this issue pursued further through the Province. It was also noted that when the Board was originally formed there was a Provincial representative on it. Approximately five and one half years ago this seat was removed. Council would like to know if the Province would look at reappointing a representative to again make the board an odd number of members as the current structure could result in deadlocks on certain issues with the City having 6 seats and 6 seats being held by the District municipalities.

Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to contact Reeve Holland to see if he was able to speak with the Minister about the DSSAB structure at the Ontario Good Roads

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Association Conference. Mr. Mauro suggested that a resolution signed by the six Area One municipalities expressing their concerns and request for change be forwarded to both himself and the Honourable Michael Gravelle to pursue this matter further.

The upcoming Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) Conference was discussed. Ministers have been invited to attend. Mr. Mauro would like to attend but at this time could not commit.

Mayor Nelson thanked Mr. Mauro for attending.

Ms. Rosy Brizi, CA, Partner with Grant Thornton was welcomed to the table. Councillor Loan was introduced to Ms. Brizi. The Township of O'Connor's draft Financial Statements for 2011 were presented to Council. Ms. Brizi went through the document explaining all reports and notes. Ms. Brizi reminded Council that the Financial Statements will no longer be proportionately consolidated with joint local boards. Once Council accepts the statements they will be complete. The date on the document is the date that Council accepts the document rather than the date the auditors complete their work. The Schedule of Tangible Capital Assets shows the additions and disposals of the Township's assets for the year and these figures are included in the Statement of Financial Position. The results of the Audit, along with the Internal Control letter were also presented to Council. Ms. Brizi thanked the staff for their cooperation during the audit. The Township of O'Connor's deficit for 2011 was \$4,791.00.

Ms. Brizi was thanked for the work that their team have done and for attending the meeting and presenting the documents.

Mr. Kelly Johnson, Leadhand was welcomed to the table. The Monthly Report was read. Roadwork in general was discussed. Half loads were discussed. Mr. Johnson will put half loads on in the Township at the same time as the Ministry of Transportation. Mr. Johnson informed Council that the tour of the landfill site with the Independent First Nations Alliance Technical Services went well. He explained to them how the O'Connor site is run. Mr. Johnson informed Council that he will be burning some brush piles in the near future. These piles were created while doing the brushing projects around the Township.

A budget meeting date for the road department was discussed. Mr. Johnson will not be available for the first meeting in April so it was agreed to have the Road department budget meeting at 6 p.m. on March 26, 2012.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending.

The roads and administration voucher for February 29, 2012 was reviewed and it was

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR FEBRUARY 29, 2012 TOTTALLING \$74,266.88 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to December 31, 2011 – final were reviewed. These statements did include Journal entries for capital assets.

By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

By-law 2012-06, being a by-law to amend By-law 2010-24, the Council Honourarium By-law was reviewed. As the mileage allowance for the Township was increased at the previous meeting and By-law 2010-24 includes the mileage allowance in it, it was

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

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THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2012-06 BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW NUMBER 2010-24, A BY-LAW FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE COUNCIL REMUNERATION, FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE MILEAGE ALLOWANCE AS PER RESOLUTION #6 OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2012 COUNCIL MEETING BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

The policy for the Fire Department was again reviewed. Further amendments will be made and clarification of some of Council's concerns will be looked into further. This policy will be brought back to the next meeting with these changes for final approval.

The Policy for sending flowers and fruit baskets along with the policy for opening and closing graves for former council members and employees was reviewed. Amendments will be made as discussed and the policy's will be brought back to the next meeting for approval.

Deferred items from the February 27, 2012 meeting were discussed as follows:

The job description for the janitor's position was discussed. The current description does not include work to be completed in the new office. The Clerk-Treasurer will review the job description with Mr. Chessell and bring back for final approval.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS PERSONAL MATTERS ABOUT AN IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING MUNICIPAL OR LOCAL BOARD EMPLOYEES; A PROPOSED OR PENDING ACQUISITION OF LAND BY THE MUNICIPALITY OR LOCAL BOARD AND LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239 (2)(B), 239 (2)(C) AND 239 (2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 9:52 P.M.

Carried

Two building permit non-compliance issues were discussed for property within the Township of O'Connor.

The possible request for an acquisition of land by the Township of O'Connor was discussed.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

The continuation of the review of the Policy for Administrative Benefits was held.

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

TIME BEING: 10:40 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

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

TIME BEING 10:30 P.M. THAT THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING CONTINUE.

Carried

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For the first property Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to send a follow up letter to the property owner ordering them to comply with a deadline of March 30th. Also enclosed will be a charge for a Class 9 offence – Construction or demolition started prior to obtaining a permit.

For the second property Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to contact Mr. Ian Robson, Municipal Offences/POA Officer and Ms. Cheryl Maki, Chief Building Official and have them attend the property to see what can be done to secure the building and decide what the next legal steps will be with regard to the non-compliance.

The Clerk-Treasurer was asked to send a letter to the property owner of the land in question to see if he would consider negotiating the sale of a portion of his property.

No further changes will be made to the Policy for Administrative Benefits. Changes suggested at the February 27, 2012 Council meeting will be amended and brought back to the next meeting for final approval.

The decisions from the Lakehead Rural Planning Board, with regard to Consent applications 1B/04/12 - Blaikie and 1B/05/12 – Buob were read. Both have been approved with conditions.

One Expression of Interest was received will regard to driver training for the volunteer fire department members who wish to upgrade their driver's licence to "DZ" from Mr. Randy Turk. Council request that Mr. Turk attend an upcoming Council meeting to answer any questions they might have with regard to the possibility of using his services.

A resolution for endorsement was read from the Municipality of Clarington with regard to placing a moratorium on Wind Turbines and was filed.

Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) issues were discussed as follows:

- a) Copy of letter to Hon. Dwight Duncan regarding Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) and requesting that the net municipal costs in OMPF be adjusted to accurately reflect the operating costs of social housing shouldered by municipalities.
- b) Media Release regarding DSSAB'S Unite to Advocate for Northwestern Ontario at the Ontario Good Roads Conference.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario – i) Watch File – February 29, 2012
ii) Watch File – March 8, 2012
iii) 2012 Annual Conference in Ottawa August 19 – 22, 2012 information. Attendance at the conference will be discussed further at budget time.
- b) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association – i) Media Release regarding Northwestern Ontario concerns raised with Ministers and Opposition Members. Mayor Nelson also updated Council on the meetings he attended with the Ministers during his time at the Ontario Good Roads Conference.
ii) Annual Meeting and Conference April 25 – 27, 2012 draft agenda was reviewed.
- c) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – regarding Bi-monthly Electronic Newsletter. Future newsletter will be forwarded to Council by email.
- d) Lakehead Conservation Foundation – Thank you letter for the donation to their annual fundraising dinner and auction.
- e) Ontario Good Roads Association – announcing New President for 2012-2013. Vice Presidents were also announced.
- f) Ontario Highlands Friends of Wind Power – News Release – regarding Auditor General's Review of Renewable Energy

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old business, Council discussed

- a) Fire Department – Fire Chief Mattas provided to the Clerk-Treasurer sample tanker truck he has found and information regarding pricing. Council felt that these trucks were well above the price they would be willing to pay at this time. Fire Chief Mattas will be notified of this and asked to continue looking in a lower price range.

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- b) Council discussed the next steps for the Township's Official Plan review. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to contact Mr. Murray Armstrong of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to see if the Township of O'Connor's Official Plan would just have to be amended or completely rewritten. The Clerk-Treasurer was also asked to contact the Township of Schreiber and other local municipalities who have recently completed their reviews to see which planners they would recommend. These planners will then be contacted to get a ballpark price for their services. The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority will also be contacted to see what it would cost for new mapping as well.

Under New business, Council discussed

- a) The Ontario Provincial Police – regarding the Thunder Bay detachment - Staff Sergeant Position. The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that Staff Sergeant Dan Peters has been relocated to the North West Region Headquarter and the interim Staff Sergeant will be Noel Berlinquette. The position will be posted and they will notify us with the new name when someone has been appointed fulltime.

The Clerk-Treasurer also informed Council that a Township resident offered her services to act as a liason to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) as she currently works in communications with them. Council prefer to interact with the OPP directly themselves and were not interested in the offer at this time.

- b) Superior North EMS – regarding the 4th Quarter Levy for 2011. The final amount is slightly higher that what was projected due to a systems error in their budgeting software.
- c) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – regarding the 2012 Levy request. The total levy for the Township of O'Connor is \$3,952.10.
- d) Ministry of Northern Development and Mines – regarding the Summer Jobs Service program. It was

7. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ASK FOR 2 STUDENT/S UNDER THE MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES SUMMER JOBS SERVICE 2012 FOR A PERIOD OF 8 WEEKS.

START DATE FOR THE PROGRAM WOULD BE JULY 9, 2012.

Carried

- e) Ontario Building Officials Association – regarding Ontario Building Officials Association Northern Affairs – invitation to the 2012 Annual Meeting and Training Sessions to be held in Sudbury Sept. 9, 2012.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- f) Infrastructure Ontario – Alternative Financing & Procurement /P3 Workshop to be held in Thunder Bay on March 22, 2012. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE INFRASTRUCTURE ONTARIO AND PPP CANADA ALTERNATIVE FINANCING AND PROCUREMENT (AFP) / PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (P3) WORKSHOP TO BE HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012 IN THUNDER BAY.

REGISTRATION: N/C

DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT

Carried

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot will be asked to look into this workshop to ensure that the Township would qualify for this funding prior to her attendance.

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Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

g) Budget meeting dates were discussed and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATES BE SET FOR BUDGET MEETINGS

ROAD DEPARTMENT – MARCH 26, 2012 AT 6 P.M.
FIRE DEPARTMENT – APRIL 23, 2012 AT 6 P.M.
ADMINISTRATION – MAY 1, 2012 AT 7 P.M.

Carried

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed

- a) Minister Responsible for Seniors regarding the 2012 Senior of the Year Award. No nominations will be made this year.
- b) Committee of Adjustments - regarding the appointment of a new member to the committee due to the passing away of one of the members. An advertisement will be placed in the next issue of the Cornerstone.

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

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2012 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 12:05 A.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer