

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2011

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, March 14, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Rosy Brizi, Grant Thornton  
Staff Sergeant Dan Peters, Ontario Provincial Police arrived at 7:46 p.m.  
Kelly Johnson, Leadhand arrived at 7:42 p.m.

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in items 10a), 16b) and 17a) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

Councillor Garbutt declared an interest in item 17b) as her spouse is currently the Township's Weed Inspector.

1. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2011 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT COUNCILLOR LOAN BE MARKED ABSENT FOR PERSONAL REASONS.**

Carried

Ms. Rosy Brizi, CA from Grant Thornton LLP was welcomed to the table. Ms. Brizi presented the Township of O'Connor's 2010 Financial Statements and Report to Council – Communication of Audit Strategy and Results. Each document was explained in detail. 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. Canada has changed to the Canadian Auditing Standards from Canadian Generally Accepted Auditing Standards. These standards now mirror the International Auditing Standards. The Auditors' Report now clearly states each parties responsibilities and the date on the document is now 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. These figures are now included in the Statement of Financial Position. The Township of O'Connor's deficit at the end of 2010 was \$1,455.00.

Ms. Brizi was thanked for attending and presenting the Statements.

Staff Sergeant Dan Peters of the Ontario Provincial Police (O.P.P.) was welcomed to the table. The O.P.P. Crime Statistics Report for the Township of O'Connor for 2010 was presented. There were a total of 81 reported calls with an 84.4% clearance rate. There have been 2 calls to date for 2011 and one new one that just came in that may need their assistance. The highest number of offences were under the Highway Traffic Act with eight calls coming from Strom road alone, resulting in 10% of the total calls.

The Thunder Bay detachment staffing breakdown was described. There are currently 40 constables and 6 sergeants in the detachment.

Staff Sergeant Peters showed Council their latest community policing tool, a wheel summarizing how to deal with different situations. He will try to get laminated copies for the municipalities.

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2011

The Strom road issues were discussed. It was suggested that a meeting be set up with Council, the O.P.P. and the residents of Strom road and area to address their concerns and discuss community policing strategies to lessen the call volume to the O.P.P. It was suggested that more signage be added to the road with regard to the speed and the non-use of compression brakes.

Council offered the old Township office, located in the community centre to the O.P.P. to use as a community policing office. This would show a presence of the police in the neighbourhood and give the officers an opportunity to use land phone lines to make calls while they are in the area or to have a desk to do some of their paperwork. Staff Sergeant Peters will speak to his Officers and they may possibly start to use the building around the middle of April for a trial period to see if it would be useful. The desks are still there, the O.P.P. will supply the chairs and the Township will have a phone installed.

Staff Sergeant Peters was asked if the O.P.P. would again be interested in having a display at this year's O'Connor Day to be held on August 27, 2011. Council would like to again have the command unit. Staff Sergeant Peters will also look into bringing out the Ident helicopter.

Staff Sergeant Peters was thanked for attending.

Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table. The timesheets for January 24 to February 4, 2011, February 7 to 19, 2011 and February 20 to March 4, 2011 were read. Roadwork in general was discussed. The frost heaves are starting to appear on the roads. The road department will start filling them soon. They would still like to get some brushing done with the grader. A new sander chain was purchased for truck #7.

Mr. Johnson and Mayor Nelson gave a report on the Ontario Good Roads Conference. They were able to speak with the Ministers to address concerns, Mr. Johnson made contacts with vendors and did networking with other municipalities while he was there. The sessions were informative and they felt that the Conference was worthwhile attending every couple of years.

A spring Township inspection was discussed. It was

3. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR A TOWNSHIP INSPECTION,  
FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2011 AT 9 A.M.**

Carried

The Health & Safety Networking & Knowledge Exchange with regard to Workplace Violence: How to Identify and Manage the Risk was discussed. It was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE HEALTH & SAFETY  
NETWORKING EXCHANGE SESSION – WORKPLACE VIOLENCE: HOW TO  
IDENTIFY AND MANAGE THE RISK TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON  
MARCH 31, 2011.**

**REGISTRATION: \$11.00 + HST**

**CLERK-TREASURER BUOB  
FIRE CHIEF MATTAS  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF STYLES AND ANY SENIOR OFFICERS THAT MAY BE  
AVAILABLE TO ATTEND.**

Carried

Council thanked Mr. Johnson for attending.

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2011

The roads and administration voucher for February 28, 2011 was reviewed and it was

5. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2011 TOTTALLING \$82,814.19 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

Councillor Racicot left the room.

The draft policy for attendance at meetings was reviewed. It was suggested that a reference to the Payment for Our Representatives on Boards be included in the policy. The policy will be amended and brought back to the next meeting for approval.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

The Insurance renewal proposal from Northwest Insurance, our currently insurance company, was reviewed. Council were satisfied with the cost and agreed to stay with this company for the upcoming period. No additional optional accident benefits will be added to the policy.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of Conmee – requesting support for Bill 130, an Act to stop insurance companies from performing credit checks. It was

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUPPORT BILL 130, BEING AN ACT TO PROHIBIT INSURERS FROM USING, IN RESPECT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY INSURANCE, A PERSON'S CREDIT HISTORY OR RATING AS GROUNDS FOR DECLINING TO ISSUE, TERMINATE OR REFUSE TO RENEW A CONTRACT OR REFUSE TO PROVIDE OR CONTINUE ANY COVERAGE OR CATEGORY OR INSURANCE.**

**AND THAT THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO OUR LOCAL MP AND THE OTHER TOWNSHIPS FOR SUPPORT.**

Carried

- b) City of Thunder Bay – regarding the repowering of the Thunder Bay Generating Station was filed.  
c) Township of Shuniah – requesting that Minister Gravelle look for opportunities for funding to assist with construction of a new facility for the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority. It was
7. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF SHUNIAH REQUESTING THAT THE MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, MINES AND FORESTRY LOOK FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO ASSIST WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FACILITY FOR THE LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) – regarding the 2011 LRCA Levy request. The Township currently has a credit with the LRCA, which will be taken off of the 2011 levy. The Township's balance owing for the year will now be \$2,863.91.  
b) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – i) Media Release – NOMA recognized for outstanding contribution to Ontario's Forest Sector  
ii) Media Release – Growth Plan for Northern Ontario Welcomed by NOMA

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2011

- c) Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister, Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry – regarding the release of the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario
- d) Ian Robertson, Director of Strategy Ontario PC Caucus Services providing a copy of remarks delivered to the Ontario Forest Industry Association by Ontario PC Leader Tim Hudak.
- e) Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services – i) regarding contact information for Field Officers and Program Delivery Section staff. Mr. Roger Lord, based out of Dubreuilville, Ontario, will be the Amethyst Sector Field Officer, covering the City of Thunder Bay, City of Kenora, City of Dryden and the Districts of Thunder Bay, Rainy River and Kenora. Council would like to invite Mr. Lord to attend a Council meeting to explain how he will deliver the programs in the Sector.
  - ii) A congratulator letter to the Township of O'Connor for completing all the mandatory emergency management activities required for 2010 was read.
  - iii) Emergency Management Ontario – regarding EP Week 2011, A Planning Toolkit to support outreach efforts and a list of suggested activities was also available. Some of the information will be included in the monthly newsletter.
- f) AMO – i) Watch File March 3, 2011
  - ii) Watch File March 10, 2011
- g) Ministry of Community and Social Services, Accessibility Directorate of Ontario – regarding consultations about potential amendments to the Ontario Building Code. The balance of correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Paul Roche, Solar Logix – Information as requested regarding Township properties solar evaluation and estimated costs and revenues was reviewed and will be consider further at budget time.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- b) Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing – Northwest Planning Workshop March 23 & 24, 2011 - Agenda. Councillor Garbutt and Clerk-Treasurer Buob are already registered to attend and after reviewing the agenda it was

- 8. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING PLANNING WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON MARCH 23 AND 24, 2011.**

**REGISTRATION: \$60.00  
COUNCILLOR VEZINA**

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- c) Information provided by the Clerk-Treasurer with regard to a Health and Safety Committee was read and discussed. It was agreed that the Township of O'Connor does not require a Health & Safety Committee at this time. The Township will continue to have monthly inspections with each workplace.
- d) Power Centre – update from the Clerk-Treasurer with regard to the proposed WiFi booster system for garage and fire hall. The tree line between the municipal office and the garage and fire hall have prevented the system from working as planned. The Power Centre is currently looking into other options and will get back to us now that they have seen the property.

Under further old business Mayor Nelson reported that he has stepped down from the position of Chair of the Thunder Bay Emergency Measures Organization. Councillor Linda Turk from the Township of Gillies has now taken on this position.

The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the last set of fire department turn gear has been sent for testing. One suit completely failed and one set of pants failed. These items were not repaired and will be taken out of service.

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2011

Councillor Racicot left the room.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Municipal Finance Officers' Association – Municipal Finance 101 workshop to be held in Thunder Bay on May 2 & 3, 2011. No one will attend.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

Councillor Garbutt left the room.

- b) Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs – regarding the Appointment of Municipal Weed Inspectors 2011. Currently Larry Garbutt is the Township's Weed Inspector and he does not want to continue in this position. The appointment is due by April 1, 2011. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact Mr. Richard Noy to see if he would be interested, if not the surrounding Municipalities will be contacted to see if they would allow us to share their inspector until we can advertise for the position within our Township.

Councillor Garbutt returned to the meeting.

- c) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association – regarding the Ministry of Natural Resources seeking comment with regard to the regulation for woodland caribou habitat. No comments will be made at this time. Mayor Nelson did speak to the Minister in this regard while at the Ontario Good Roads Conference.
- d) Update from Building Committee – results of the meeting held earlier in the evening with the Contractors of the Office Building and Council Chambers at which the one year warranty was discussed. The contractors will make the necessary repairs of the minor issues that have arisen.
- e) Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration – regarding a Newcomer Champion Awards. No submissions will be made.
- f) Discuss possible dates for budget meetings. It was

- 9. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT THE FOLLOWING DATES BE SET FOR BUDGET MEETINGS:**

**ROAD DEPARTMENT APRIL 11, 2011 FROM 6 – 7 P.M.  
FIRE DEPARTMENT APRIL 26, 2011 FROM 6 – 7 P.M.**

**BOTH MEETINGS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS.**

**A FULL BUDGET MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MAY 16, 2011 AT 7 P.M.  
THE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

Carried

- 10. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by J. Vezina

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

Carried

Under further new business, Council discussed an email they received about the upcoming Strategic Planning meetings for the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. Councillor Garbutt would be interested in attending these meeting. Council did agree that this would not be a Township issue and if she wished to attend it would be on her own time.

Councillor Racicot informed Council that he would like to use an electric deep fryer in the basement during the upcoming Fire Department Auxiliary dinner. The Clerk-Treasurer will check with the Insurance company prior to the dinner to ensure that there would not be an issues.

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2011

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed:

- a) Murray Armstrong, Thunder Bay District Planner for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding a review of the Township of O'Connor's Official Plan. The Township's plan was last approved by the Ministry on December 8, 2001 and there have been considerable changes affecting Official Plans since that time and Mr. Armstrong would be willing to attend a Council meeting to discuss these matters. Council does plan on reviewing the Township's Plan this year and would like Mr. Armstrong to attend an upcoming meeting. The Clerk-Treasurer will make these arrangements.

An issue regarding an identifiable individual within the Township was brought to Council's attention and it was

- 11. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC TO DISCUSS A PERSONAL MATTER ABOUT AN IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING MUNICIPAL OR LOCAL BOARD EMPLOYEES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(E) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.**

**TIME BEING: 10:35 P.M.**

Carried

The information provided with regard to this issue was reviewed.

- 12. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**TIME BEING: 10:50 P.M.**

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

Carried

Council does not have any jurisdiction over the matter and will let the proper authorities deal with it.

- 13. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 10:52 P.M.**

Carried

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

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