

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – MARCH 25, 2008

Minutes of the meeting held on March 25, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas  
Mr. Lada Malek, Lakehead University

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

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

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

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,  
MARCH 10, 2008 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED AND THE MINUTES OF THE  
FEBRUARY 25, 2008 AS CORRECTED BE APPROVED.**

Carried

Mayor Nelson welcomed Mr. Malek, a biochemist of Lakehead University, to the table and introductions were made. Mr. Malek apologized for missing the February 25, 2008 meeting he was scheduled for. He gave Council a brief history of himself and his work and explained what he would like to do within the Township of O'Connor. As a follow up to a recent study of the agricultural land use in the area Mr. Malek would like to contact the residents of the Township of O'Connor to get their attitudes with regard to land use. He would like to ask them to fill out a survey with regard to past, present and future use of their lands. Mr. Malek is concerned with the declining agricultural land use in the area and would be looking at the possibility of introducing high value, novelty and energy crops. Mr. Malek is seeking Council's approval for the project in the Township of O'Connor and asking for contact information of our residents. Council do feel that it is a worthwhile project however Mr. Malek was informed that the Township cannot give out personal information of our residents, but we would be willing to put information in our newsletter "the Cornerstone". The information in the article could include what his intentions are and his contact information. The residents of O'Connor can either contact the township office if they are willing to participate or contact him directly. Mr. Malek will submit information for the April Cornerstone. Council thanked Mr. Malek for attending.

Fire Chief, Henry Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. There have been no calls since the last report. Two new members have joined the fire department. Fire Chief Mattas reported that some members of the department are registered for the upcoming local training sessions. These include the CO 101 legislation, volunteer Firefighter Module A and Flashover. Fire Chief Mattas reported to Council that the fire fighter's competition may have to be cancelled or the date changed this year as the Office of the Fire Marshal has scheduled courses in the area on the same date, as well, as discussed at a previous meeting, the Municipality of Neebing's fire department will be hosting a family event in their municipality on that same date. The equipment required for the competition is currently in White River and also needs to come back to the area.

Fire Chief Mattas informed Council of a possible meeting between the Fire Chiefs and the local MPPs with regard to any local issues they might have as well as requesting needed money for the departments from the provincial government. Mr. Hammer of Greenstone may be making the arrangements.

Fire Chief Mattas has been asked by Mr. Olaf Lamerz, Fire Protection Officer of the Office of the Fire Marshal, to provide an itemized status report relating to the training audit recommendations that were made for the department last fall. Fire Chief Mattas presented his response for Mr. Lamerz to Council, prior to his submission. In regard to the training of the members, Fire Chief Mattas reported that the department is using the Essentials of Fire Fighting Manual from the International Fire Service Training Association. Council asked the Clerk-Treasurer to contact the publishers to confirm that it's content is recognized in Ontario as sufficient training.

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Compensation for the volunteers of the department attending fire training and meetings was discussed. A lot of the required training for the fire department members is taking place both during the weekday and on weekends. Members have to take time off work to attend, which at times can discourage members from attending. As well weekly training sessions do take time away from their families. A honourarium for attendance at full day meetings, weekly training sessions and calls was discussed. The Fire Chief along with the Clerk-Treasurer will get together and come up with what would be a fair honourarium to pay these volunteers and this information will be brought back to Council for review.

The Fire Department has been checking over all of their equipment and it was noted that new helmets are required and the turnout suits are coming due for replacement soon. The forest fire equipment is ready for spring.

It was brought to Council's attention that some departments have Council appoint each member of the fire department by by-law. Fire Mattas reported that he spoke with Mr. Kembel, a specialist with the Office of the Fire Marshal, and he said that it was recommended but not necessary. Council asked Fire Chief Mattas to inquire into the pros and cons of the appointment by by-law.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending.

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

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR MARCH 2008 BE PAID – THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE MARCH 2008 VOUCHER.**

<b>CK#7850</b>	<b>LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD</b>	<b>\$21,595.61</b>
<b>CK#7851</b>	<b>THUNDER BAY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BD</b>	<b>2,098.36</b>
<b>CK#7852</b>	<b>CONSIL DE DISTRICT DU GRAND NORD L'ONT</b>	<b>38.94</b>
<b>CK#7853</b>	<b>CSDC DES AURORES BOREALES</b>	<b>127.64</b>
<b>CK#7854</b>	<b>THUNDER BAY DSSAB (LEVY OF MARCH 2008)</b>	<b>9,264.02</b>
<b>CK#7855</b>	<b>STAPLES BUSINESS DEPOT</b>	<b>114.23</b>
<b>CK#7856</b>	<b>TBAYTEL (TELEPHONE)</b>	<b>397.53</b>
<b>CK#7857</b>	<b>HYDRO ONE (STREETLIGHTING)</b>	<b><u>27.56</u></b>
		<b>\$33,663.89</b>

Carried

The statement of revenue and expenditure for January 31, 2008 and February 29, 2008 were reviewed.

By-law 2003-04, being a by-law to restrict the weight of vehicles during reduced load period and a draft agreement to allow for hauling during this period was discussed. The required changes were agreed upon. Due to the time restrictions Council have endorsed the amendments to the By-law and the agreement and they will be signed at the next meeting.

The Clerk-Treasurer presented Council additional information from Mr. Clayton Sampson of Waste Diversion Ontario with regard to his request for support for a submission of an E & E Intent to Apply application. It was

3. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR SUPPORTS THE SUBMISSION OF AN E & E FUND INTENT TO APPLY APPLICATION TO STEWARDSHIP ONTARIO FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING A COOPERATIVE RECYCLING PLANNING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN RURAL THUNDER BAY.**

Carried

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Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) City of Thunder Bay regarding the City of Port Colborne's resolution relative to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities report "Danger Ahead the Looming Collapse of Canada's Municipal Infrastructure" - filed
- b) Town of Tecumseh requesting the Ontario and Canadian Government enter into an agreement for the purpose of delivering MRIF funds announced in February 2007. - filed
- c) City of St. Catherines regarding representation by population in the House of Commons - filed
- d) Town on Kingsville requesting support for their town in Kraft Hockeyville competition - filed
- e) Township of Hilliard requesting the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario to continue to allow the ownership of handguns - filed

A letter from the Northshore and Greenstone Mayors group was read with regard to the structural changes to the service delivery model and the proposal of an administration building for the Thunder Bay DSSAB. Council will not respond at this time.

A letter was read with regard to the cancellation of the Northern Ontario Service Delivers Association annual general meeting to be held in Thunder Bay in April. It may be rescheduled later in the year. Council at a previous meeting decided to donate township pins for the meeting. The pins have not been sent.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Ministry of Finance –
  - i) Letter to Council announcing the release of the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) allocations for 2008
  - ii) Letter to the Clerk-Treasurer announcing with detail the release of the OMPF
  - iii) Township of O'Connor's 2008 Allocation breakdown. The township will receive the same amount as in 2007.
  - iv) OMPF Technical Guide 2008 – explaining how they come to the allocation breakdown
  - v) OMPF Regional Funding for the North
- b) AMO –
  - i) Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund Increased for 2008
  - ii) Proposed Bill would Direct 2007-08 Provincial Budget surplus to Municipal Infrastructure
  - iii) MOHLTC Survey on the Development of Regulations under the Long Term Care Homes Act, 2007
  - iv) Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Funding Update
  - v) AMO Seeking Municipal Members for Climate Change Task Force
- c) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Minister Jim Watson, MPP
  - i) Announcing the Governments intention to introduce legislation that would, if passed, designate a portion of the provincial surplus to municipalities for their infrastructure needs
  - ii) regarding Earth Hour, a global initiative where businesses and households are asked to turn off their lights for one hour. The Ontario government will be supporting Earth Hour by turning off their lights in provincial buildings from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 29, 2008.
- d) MFOA – Provincial Announcement of Infrastructure Funding
- e) OGRA - McGuinty Government Announces \$1 Billion in Infrastructure Spending
- f) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – Open House – Lakehead Source Protection Committee. Councillor Nygard will be attending.
- g) The Premier of Ontario – Thank you letter regarding Council's resolution regarding education funding.
- h) Ministry of Natural Resources – Public Notice of approved 2008-2009 Annual Work Schedules for Forest areas

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old business, Council discussed

- a) Grant Thornton LLP, Chartered Accountants – Audit letter to Council
- b) Pinewood Court – Audited Financial Statement/ Final Closure Distribution of Funds. The Township of O'Connor received a cheque in the amount of \$1,511.36 representing the township's portion of the final closure distribution of funds from the District of Thunder Bay Home for the Aged. Council reviewed the audited financial statements and would like a letter sent to Ms. Huard, Chairperson and a copy to

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Ms. Iris Calvert, the townships board representative, asking for an explanation of the operating expenses for 2007 and the comparison numbers to 2006. It was also noted that By-law 678 to establish and maintain the Homes for the Aged will need to be rescind at the next meeting.

- c) The Clerk-Treasurer reported to Council information with regard to the disposal site's compactor truck and the push plate cylinder. The condition of the cylinder is bad and it will be very expensive to repair and the company will not guarantee that the repair will work. The price of a new cylinder was also discussed. It was decided to investigate further as to whether a used cylinder could be purchased or what it would cost to find another complete compactor truck. Information will be brought to the next meeting.
- d) Ministry of Northern Development and Mines student application. The Clerk-Treasurer requests clarification on where the two students would be positioned. It was agreed that in the application one student would be for the office and one for the road department.

Under further old business the Clerk-Treasurer reported that the office is currently being rearranged and the door between the office and the cloakroom has been moved to the entrance into the main hall. The other construction discussed at the last meeting will be put on hold until all rearranging is complete to see if it needs to be done.

Under New Business, Council discussed

Councillor Racicot left the room.

a) AMCTO – i) Spring Meeting and Conference and Training Session. It was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE AMCTO ZONE 9 SPRING MEETING AND CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN MARATHON ON MAY 6, 2008.  
REGISTRATION: \$100.00**

**CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

Carried

ii) Municipal Policy Writing workshop held in Thunder Bay on April 17, 2008. It was

- 5. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE AMCTO MUNICIPAL POLICY WRITING WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON APRIL 17, 2008.  
REGISTRATION FEE: \$189.00**

**CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

Carried

b) Municipal DataWorks – MDW Training – From the Basics to the Advanced. It was

- 6. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MUNICIPAL DATAWORKS MDW TRAINING – SPRING 2008: FROM THE BASICS TO THE ADVANCED TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON APRIL 22, 2008.  
REGISTRATION FEE: \$75.00**

**CLERK-TREASURER BUOB AND DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT**

Carried

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The office will be closed on this day.  
Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- c) NOMA – i) regarding attendance prizes for Annual General Meeting. It was agreed that an O'Connor Township history book would be donated as a prize. This memo also noted that Mr. Ken Taniwa will be resigning from his position of Executive Director of NOMA at the end of this year.  
ii) Second call for nominations for the position of Executive Vice President for NOMA. No one from O'Connor will be putting their name forward for this position.
- d) Thunder Bay Area Emergency Measures Organization – EMO Annual Executive Meeting – Thursday, April 17, 2008 immediately following the NOMA meeting. Mayor Nelson as our representative will be unable to attend so Councillor Garbutt, as the alternate, will.
- e) Hydro One Grants for Children's Active Play Facilities. The deadline for the next round of applications is April 30, 2008. The Clerk-Treasurer will look into the application to see what would qualify.
- f) Ministry of Natural Resources – Bear Wise Program funding guidelines. It was agreed by Council to submit the same application as last year for an electric fence around the active area of the site. The Clerk-Treasurer has left a message by both telephone and email for Mr. Ross Johnston, Conservation Officer with the Ministry of Natural Resources requesting information with regard to this application with no response. Council would like a letter sent to Mr. Bill Mauro, MPP asking how we should contact Mr. Johnston.

Under further new business, Council discussed the Township of O'Connor's continued representation on the Thunder Bay District Municipal League. Councillor Racicot has been Past President for a longer term than anticipated due to the municipal election and the President of the league not being reelected in his municipality and this year the first vice-president did not want to step up to President so Councillor Garbutt will remain as President for another year, again leaving Councillor Racicot as Past President. The concern being that our small township will be covering the costs of the honourariums for our members for another term. Councillor Garbutt will be discussing the electrical process at the next Municipal league meeting.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed were discussed as follows:

- a) Insurance quotes for 2008 coverage were reviewed. Two quotes were requested. Clarification will be requested on the prices and the successful quote will be accepted at the next meeting. Due to the fact that the policy expires April 1, 2008 a 15 day extension will be requested.
- b) Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 2008 Call for applications: Energy New GMF Funding opportunity for Green Buildings. The deadline for submissions is June 19, 2008. Clerk-Treasurer Buob will look into the application process.
- c) A 2008 budget meeting date was discussed. It was

- 7. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT A BUDGET MEETING BE SET FOR MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2008 AT 6 P.M. WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008 AT 6 P.M. WITH THE ROAD DEPARTMENT AND MONDAY, MAY 19, 2008 AT 7 P.M. FOR ADMINISTRATION.**

Carried

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

**THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M.  
TIME BEING: 10:07 P.M.**

Carried