

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – MARCH 9, 2015

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Linda Racicot
Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Rosy Brizi & Lindsey Halow – Grant Thornton LLP
Kip Miller and Garry Harland, Ministry of Natural Resources
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 Racicot declared an interest in items 15 a)ii), b)i) & ii) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 23, 2015 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Mrs. Racicot was asked if she wished to address Council on any personal matters and she replied no.

Ms. Brizi and Ms. Halow were welcomed to the table and introductions were made. Ms. Halow presented the Township of O'Connor's draft Financial Statements for 2014. Any changes, comparisons and variances from 2014 and 2013 were explained. The Township will have a net deficit of \$1,688.00 from 2014. Ms. Brizi then presented the Report to Council. This document ensures that the governing body is aware of any issues or decisions that were found or made during the audit and includes the results of the audit. Ms. Brizi also made Council aware of Appendix B which is an advisor alert with regard to Liability for contaminated sites for years beginning on or after April 1, 2014 which will have to be included as a liability in future Financial Statements.

Ms. Brizi also presented the Management Letter which advises management and Council of the internal control matters identified during the audit.

Ms. Brizi and Ms. Halow were thanked for attending and making their presentations and they left the meeting. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot also left the meeting.

Mr. Kip Miller and Mr. Garry Harland from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) were welcomed to the table and introductions were made. The Municipal Forest Fire Management Agreement was discussed. Mr. Miller informed Council of the history of the agreement and the area of coverage within the Township by the MNR in case of a forest fire. Fire Chief Mattas has previously discussed with Mr. Miller and Council, on separate occasions, an expansion of the MNR coverage area. The new area and the cost of such coverage was discussed. Mr. Miller and Mr. Harland were thanked for attending and left the meeting. Council will discuss this further on the agenda.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report from the period of February 20 to March 8, 2015 was read. There was one First Response call in that time period. The combined training with O'Connor, Gillies and Nolalu once a month is continuing. They met in Gillies last week. The Department may have two new members who are currently part of the Gillies team willing to join O'Connor as they are on the border of the municipalities. One of the current members has purchased a home in the City of Thunder Bay but at this point is still willing to respond from there.

Council reminded Fire Chief Mattas that budget time is coming and he should be thinking about this year's budget plans. A budget meeting date will be set later in the meeting. Fire Chief Mattas also informed Council that he will be away from the area in

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April for one week. Council asked Fire Chief Mattas to inform the Clerk-Treasurer as to who will be in charge of the Department while he is away.

The upcoming NorWest Community Health Centres Rural Health Fair was discussed. This year the theme will be Emergency Preparedness and it will be held to coincide with Emergency Preparedness Week on May 7, 2015 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the NorWest Recreation Centre. They would like the Township's to once again participate in the event and are asking for each organization to contribute a type of item at the booth to support individuals and families in building their own emergency kit. Different items were discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer and the Fire Chief will work further on this and have a handout at the table. If a door prize is also required a Co2 detector could be provided.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and he left the meeting.

The Administration and Roads voucher for February was reviewed and it was

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2015 TOTTALLING \$78,208.01 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures are currently unavailable until the audit is complete as administration is awaiting the final year end balances to incorporate them.

The Municipal Forest Fire Management Agreement was discussed further and Council agreed to expand the Ministry's area of coverage to include an area of Concession 6 and 7, Lots 1 and 2 as shown on the draft Agreement map. This area is heavily populated and does have a couple of potential fire hazard areas and if a fire were to occur in that area assistance would be required. A small annual fee for this coverage will be charged by the Ministry. It was

3. Moved by K. Foekens
Seconded by B. J. Loan

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2015-05 BEING A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF ONTARIO, AS REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Town of Aurora regarding Bill 52, the Protection of Public Participation Act was filed.
- b) Township of South Stormont – requesting that the Federal Government dedicate 1% of the annual Goods and Services tax collected be dispersed among the Municipal Governments of Canada on a per capita calculation. It was

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH STORMONT ENCOURAGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO DEDICATE TO THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CANADA 1% OF THE ANNUAL GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (HST/GST) COLLECTED AND THAT THESE FUNDS BE DISPERSED AMONG THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA ON A PER CAPITA CALCULATION, FOR USE ON ANNUAL EXPENSES INCURRED BE ENDORSED.

Carried

A copy of the letter sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, from the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board with regard to Endorsement of Northern Ontario Service Deliverers' Association Letter dated January 19, 2015 was read.

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Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Councillor Bob McMaster - Thunder Bay District Health Unit Board meeting Report – February 18, 2015.
 - b) Thunder Bay District Municipal League – Executive and Committees 2015-2017. Councillor Loan was elected to the position of 2nd Vice President of the League at the Annual meeting. It was agreed that he should therefore also be the representative for the Township. Mayor Nelson will remain as the alternate member. Ms. Stewart, Secretary-Treasurer of the League will be notified of the change.
 - c) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watchfile – February 26, 2015.
ii) Watchfile - March 5, 2015.
iii) AMO's Member Update – Municipal leaders from Ontario's rural communities gathered today at the 2015 OGRA/ROMA Conference in Toronto.
iv) AMO Communications – Government Introduces Changes to Land Use Planning and Development Charges Legislation.
v) Gas Tax Case Study – State of Ontario's Roads and Bridges. Council would like clarification on the dates mentioned in the document with regard to the outcomes.
vi) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation – Board of Directors Position Call for Expression of Interest.
 - d) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – i) regarding the Introduction of Bill 73 – the Proposed Smart Growth for Our Communities Act, 2015.
ii) News – Development Charges Act Proposals.
iii) regarding the Long-standing Service Award. This award recognizes municipal Councillors and Heads of Council who have served 25 or more years on municipal Council. Mayor Nelson has currently completed 23 years and will be eligible in a couple of years.
 - e) Ministry of Labour – reply letter to Council's endorsed resolution regarding "double-hatter" firefighters.
 - f) Mike Relf, Manager, Commission Secretariat, Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission Secretariat – reply to Council's endorsed resolution regarding chicken farmers of Ontario small flock policy.
 - g) Ontario Human Rights Commission – regarding Applying a Human Rights lens in Zoning, licensing and municipal decision making.
- The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Ministry of Northern Development and Mines - Funding opportunities from February 23rd meeting. Information was not available and will be brought back to another meeting.
- b) Ontario Provincial Police – Municipal Policing Bureau – reply letter to Council's request to have Sgt. Pam Ford attend a second meeting in O'Connor for the public regarding the OPP Billing Model. This reply letter is suggesting that we have other municipalities involved if they come back for a second presentation. This reply will be brought to the Shared Services meeting scheduled for March 12 with the Township of Conmee and Gillies to see if they would be interested in having a joint meeting with the OPP to discuss this further.
- c) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding the upcoming Annual Planning Workshop for Northwestern Ontario to be held in Thunder Bay on March 25 & 26, 2015. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES OFFICE-NORTH ANNUAL PLANNING WORKSHOP TO BE HELD ON MARCH 25 & 26, 2015 IN THUNDER BAY.

REGISTRATION: \$70.00

COUNCILLOR VEZINA

Carried

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Under Further Old Business Councillor Racicot reported that he has inquired with the Eddy's restaurant in Kakabeka Falls about their new message sign and they will be forwarding some information to the office.

Councillor Vezina thanked Council for their support in allowing him to attend the Ontario Good Roads Conference and run for the board however he was not elected.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – i) Draft agenda for Annual Meeting & Conference to be held April 22, 23 and 24, 2015.

Councillor Racicot left the room but did indicate prior that he was interested in attending the NOMA Conference.

- ii) Registration was discussed and it was

6. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION (NOMA) ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON APRIL 22, 23 & 24, 2015 IN THUNDER BAY.

REGISTRATION: \$250.00

**MAYOR NELSON
COUNCILLOR RACICOT, VEZINA
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT**
Carried

- iii) First Call for Nominations for Offices of President & Executive Vice President. No one will put their name forward at this time.

- b) AMCTO the Municipal Experts – i) AMCTO Upcoming Professional Development – Zone 9. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE AMCTO ESSENTIALS OF MUNICIPAL FINANCE FOR EVERYONE TO BE HELD ON MAY 12, 2015 IN THUNDER BAY.

REGISTRATION: \$327.70

DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT
Carried

- ii) AMCTO Corporate Training for Councils and Senior Management. The Clerk-Treasurer will enquire as to when, where and the cost of the Fundamental Rules of Parliamentary Procedures for Elected Members of Council and Administration and bring this back to the next meeting.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- c) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – regarding the 2015 Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Levy Request. There will be a slight increase from 2014.
d) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – i) regarding OMAFRA's Draft Revised Minimum Distance Separation Formulae 2015 – inviting comments until May 20, 2015. No comments will be made at this time.
ii) 2015 Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence program – deadline for applications is April 10, 2015. No nominations will be made at this time.

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e) Budget meetings dates were discussed and it was

8. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATES BE SET FOR BUDGET MEETINGS

**ROAD BUDGET – APRIL 13, 2015 – 6 P.M.
FIRE DEPARTMENT – APRIL 27, 2015 – 6 P.M.
ADMINISTRATION – MAY 13, 2015 – 7 P.M.**

THE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Carried

f) An O'Connor Day Planning meeting was discussed and it was

9. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by K. Foekens

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR AN O'CONNOR DAY PLANNING MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015 AT 7 P.M.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Carried

- g) Council discussed an Official Plan review. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff to determine what the next step for a review will be.
- h) Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) – i) Email from Councillor Loan regarding the TBDML Constitution for review. Councillor Loan, as the 2nd Vice-President of the League is on the By-law and Policy Committee and the 100th Anniversary Convention Committee and is requesting Council's input on the proposed changes to the Constitution and any input Council might have for the anniversary. These items were discussed and if Council have any other ideas they will be forwarded to Councillor Loan.
- ii) Email from Beth Stewart regarding the Constitution and Policies
- i) Further new business

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Reply from Premier Kathleen Wynne reply to Council's endorsed resolution regarding Chicken Farmers of Ontario Exempt Flock Limit
- b) Township of Conmee – report regarding the 1st meeting with the Community School Alliance at the OGRA/ROMA Conference
- c) Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. – regarding the Proposed Changes to the Development Charges Act.
- d) Ernie Hardeman, MPP Oxford PC Critic for Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding the new bill on affordable housing and accountability

For information purposes Demolition Permit was issued to tear down an old house at 610 Highway 595.

10. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 10:25 P.M.

Carried