

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES BUDGET MEETING – MAY 20, 2008

Minutes of the budget meeting held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at 6 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas  
Kelly Johnson Leadhand arrived at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

The Clerk-Treasurer presented the administration budget line by line. Projects and expenses were discussed and adjusted accordingly. Summer students were discussed. The township will not be receiving funding from Canada Summer Jobs for 2008. Funding was approved for one student for the roads department and one for the administration under the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines Summer Jobs Service 2008 program for a \$2.00 per hour subsidy. Council would like to submit another application to see if one more student could be hired under this program for the road department. These numbers were added to the budget at this time and the Clerk-Treasurer will enquire about the position as soon as possible.

A new tax program for the township was discussed. Council previously reviewed quotes for two programs. The Clerk-Treasurer and the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer went to both the Townships of Gillies and Conmee to view the two different programs available. It was noted that they preferred the Asyst program. The current tax program was also discussed. The cost of the program was not added to the draft budget and will be looked at further in the meeting.

The township's photocopier, which is currently being leased, was discussed. It was agreed to purchase this equipment outright as of June 1, 2008.

A liability study for the disposal site was discussed. It was agreed that a study on the life expectancy of the site would be conducted in 2008 as has been previously requested by the township auditors.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. The fire department budget was again reviewed. No further adjustments were made to the figures.

Councillor Racicot declared a pecuniary interest in a discussion regarding the cost for the fire department and first response members to take the required Ontario Fire Marshal training. These courses are sometimes held during the week and outside the township, with preclass requirements. Members at times also have to take time off work to attend these training sessions and may lose wages as a result. To compensate for time, wages and mileage, it was

1. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard  
Seconded by Gwen Garbutt

**THAT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRST RESPONSE MEMBERS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE A STIPEND OF \$100.00 FOR FULL DAY TRAINING AN \$50.00 FOR HALF DAY AS APPROVED BY THE FIRE CHIEF. THIS RESOLUTION WILL BE RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2008.**

Councillor Vezina requested a recorded vote for this motion. The vote results were as follows:

Gwen Garbutt – Yes  
Ron Nelson – Yes  
Lee Ann Nygard – Yes  
Bishop Racicot – declared conflict, did not vote  
Jim Vezina – No

Carried

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES BUDGET MEETING – MAY 20, 2008 (con't)

Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table. The road department budget was again reviewed. Township road department projects and funding were discussed. It was decided that the Smith/Harstone road resurfacing projects will be funded through the Federal Gas Tax funding. A schedule C will be submitted to AMO for approval for this project.

Other lines items throughout the budget were adjusted as necessary to reduce the tax rate increase. It was agreed not to purchase a new tax program this year. Monies will be pulled from the reserve accounts to cover a portion of the fire department training and capital purchases as well as from the disposal site reserve for the liability study. The cost of the new signs for the disposal site will also be pulled from the reserve as it was deposited in the reserve at the end of 2007 for this purpose as the signs were not ready at year end. If the Hydro One PowerPlay application for funding is not successful none of the outdoor recreation area projects applied for will be completed. The 2008 tax rates will increase by 3.85% over 2007 rates. The final budget numbers will be set and brought to the next meeting in a by-law for final approval.

2. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE BUDGET MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 26, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 9:25 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer