

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – MAY 25, 2010

Minutes of the meeting held on May 25, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Mr. Jerry Loan, Ms. Becky Davis – Dog Control Officer, Mr. Alan Jones

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 15b) as he is employed by this company and it is his personal department.

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

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
MAY 10, 2010 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

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

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

Carried

Mayor Nelson asked the visitors if they wished to address Council. Mr. Loan, as a new resident to the township, introduced himself to Council. Ms. Davis asked to be on the agenda to discuss some questions and concerns that she had with regard to the Dog Control Officer position and documents associated with the position. Council agreed to add Ms. Davis to the agenda after Fire Chief Henry Mattas.

Mr. Alan Jones was welcomed to the table. Mayor Nelson informed Mr. Jones of the results of the meeting that was held with the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Natural Resources staff on May 14th. The Ministry of Natural Resources has not as yet approved Rock Solid Holdings application to build an adjoining road through the crown land from their pit in Conmee to their pit in Marks. They need to have no objections to approve this road and currently the Ministry of Transportation is not giving permission if the road entrance is to come off of Highway 590. The Ministry of Transportation has provided Rock Solid with three options as was previously provided in a letter to them. The Ministry of Transportation will not allow the road to continue from Highway 590 to their pit in Conmee Township. They will consider the option if the entrance to their Marks pit is coming off of Mayo road. The Ministry also want a traffic impact statement and possibly a full traffic impact study. Mr. Jones asked Council to continue to pursue this matter and not allow the use of Mayo road as an entrance to the pit in Marks Township. If in the end an entrance is not permitted coming off of Highway 590 for the current pit as well as the pit in Conmee Township, using the crown land to join the two lots, Rock Solid will abandon their application and keep their traffic on Strom road. Mr. Jones thanked Council for pursuing the matter and suggested that a meeting be held with all parties to discuss the issue together. Council will discuss the matter further under a closed portion of the meeting.

Fire Chief Henry Mattas was welcomed to the table. The Fire Department report was read. There was one first response and one fire related call since the last report. The last fire call was a daytime structural fire and mutual aid was called for assistance. The O'Connor team had four members attend and the Conmee department also had four members attend. The fire was knocked down quickly and the home was saved.

Fire Chief Mattas reported that the 2004 fire truck from Alabama, which was discussed at the fire department budget meeting has been sold. Currently that dealer, as well as the local dealer, do not have anything available within our suggested parameters. They will let Fire Chief Mattas know if anything becomes available.

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A letter was read from Superior North EMS with regard to the WSIB coverage for Volunteer First Response Teams. In the letter it states that should a volunteer first responder become injured while responding to a call, the respective municipality of that person or team would be deemed the employer by the WSIB. It has always been understood that the First Response members were covered under the Ministry of Health. Fire Chief Mattas noted that this will be discussed further at the Zone meeting to be held in June.

The date for a tabletop exercise was discussed. It was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR A TABLE TOP EXERCISE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2010 AT 7 P.M.
THE EXERCISE WILL BE HELD AT THE O'CONNOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING.**

Carried

The new volunteer fire department members were discussed. It was

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

**THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PERSON AS MEMBERS
OF THE O'CONNOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND/OR FIRST
RESPONSE TEAM:**

1. **MICHAEL CARLI**
2. **DENNIS DELYEA**
3. **JASON FLECK**

Carried

A discussion was held as to whether or not it should be noted where the volunteer comes from. It was agreed that this did not matter. If they are willing to volunteer on our team they are most welcome.

The fire department budget was discussed. The operating and fixed budget figures were reviewed. Fire Chief Mattas reported that he has made some minor changes to the numbers presented at the first meeting. He has included the costs of repairs to the transmission in the 4 x 4 truck. It was also noted that due to the recent information with regard to the WSIB coverage of our first response members that line item will have to increase to cover the additional members. It was agreed that the sundries/clothing maintenance line on the operating budget should be separated and sundries should be renamed. Fire Chief Mattas also provided a price for the engineered drawings for an additional to the fire hall. This information will be kept for the budget meeting June 17th. Driver training was discussed. Council would like Fire Chief Mattas to check with the department members to see who would be eligible and interested in getting their DZ license through the department this year. The pump test was again discussed. Right now there is only one local company who can do this test if they discontinue the test the truck would have to be sent out of town.

For the budget meeting Council would like to see two years comparisons on the budget worksheet for our upcoming budget meeting.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending.

Ms. Becky Davis, Dog Control Officer, was welcomed to the table. Ms. Davis would like clarification on some of the information in the dog related documents. The Policy and By-law for Dogs Running at Large were discussed as well as the Dog Control Officer's job description. These documents will be amended with the minor wording changes as per this discussion for the next meeting for Council's approval.

Council thanked Ms. Davis for attending the meeting and reviewing the documents.

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Mr. Loan thanked Council and left the meeting.

Councillor Vezina left the meeting.

Bills to be paid were reviewed and it was

5. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR MAY 2010 BE PAID – THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE MAY 2010 ROAD AND ADMINISTRATION VOUCHER.

CK#9459	PITNEY BOWES (POSTAGE METER)	\$ 81.18
CK#9460	STAPLES BUSINESS DEPOT	641.56
CK#9461	AIRMASTER SALES LTD (NUMBER DECALS)	65.52
CK#9462	DICON GLOBAL INC. (SMOKE DETECTORS)	290.41
CK#9463	NEEBING LUMBER LTD.	100.55
CK#9464	SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	893.60
CK#9465	HYDRO ONE	115.11
		<u>\$2,187.93</u>

The statement of revenue and expenditures to April 30, 2010 were reviewed.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Municipality of Neebing regarding Species at Risk. The municipality is recommending that the Minister and the Ministry of Natural Resources use the Municipalities Official Plan as the basis for the peregrine falcon regulation as they have the highest density population in Ontario. Council filed the resolution.
- b) Municipality of Arran-Elderslie regarding Industrial/Commercial Wind Generation Facilities (Wind Turbines) and the responsible manner to benefit, or to do no harm to any individual by such use was filed.

A letter was read from the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board with regard to changes in Social Housing. The board has elected to become the direct employer of the Thunder Bay District Housing Corporation staff effective April 1, 2010.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) AMO – i) Watch File – May 13, 2010
ii) Watch File – May 20, 2010
iii) Ontario Government Promotes the Wise Water Use
iv) Bill 16, Schedule 25, Public Sector Compensation Restraint to Protect Public Services Act, 2010. This Act does not apply to municipalities.
- b) NOMA – Media Release – NOMA Launches email campaign with regard to Endangered Species Act. This information will be put in the Cornerstone.
- c) LRCA – Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Area Jurisdiction Declaration of a Level II Low Water Condition.
- d) Township of Gillies – copy of letter sent to Bill Mauro, MPP regarding Provincial uploading of social programs to the Thunder Bay DSSAB and the reduction in Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) to municipalities. This information will be kept with the Township of O'Connor's information regarding the same issue.
- e) Government of Ontario – regarding 2009 Actual Policing Services costing. The Township has received a credit for 2009 in the amount of \$9,751.00.
- f) Minister Linda Jeffrey, Ministry of Natural Resources – regarding the Far North Land Use Planning Initiative.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – a letter and Status Report on their Office Building were read and reviewed. Council would like a reply letter sent suggesting that a meeting be held with all Municipal Council's, CEO and Clerk-Treasurer's and the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Management team to discuss all the options together. It was suggested that if possible the meeting be held in Oliver Paipoonge in their Murillo hall as it would be large enough and it would

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be central . The Clerk-Treasurer will contact the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge before suggesting this location and a letter will be sent to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority. The letter will be copied and sent to all municipalities within the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- b) Hydro One – regarding the estimate for the request for a line relocate on Blaikie road. It was suggested that Mr. Johnson contact the customer operations manager of Hydro One to discuss the matter and request that the Township pay for the line relocate and not the damage claim work order due to the location of the pole being too close to the road.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- c) Volunteer insurance coverage – Northwest Insurance has asked for a number of volunteers and the amount of coverage that the Township would like for our volunteers. Council would like to know what the volunteer's will be covered for under this policy before determining the amount of coverage. The Clerk-Treasurer will confirm this with them.
- d) Budget discussion – the Clerk-Treasurer asked Council what projects they would like to see done this year with regard to the buildings or grounds. The Clerk-Treasurer will get prices to fix the leaky roof and a separate price for soffit and fascia. A price for central air for the new office will also be looked into.
- e) Update with regard to HST on vehicles. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that after speaking with the Township auditor it was confirmed that the township will not receive 100% HST back for any vehicle and equipment purchase.
- f) Further discussion with regard to the meeting with MTO will be discussed under closed due to the potential legal issue.

Under further old business it was noted that there is a window paint available that could be used as covering for the small windows in the entrance of the Council chambers.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Jim Cronk, disposal site caretaker's resignation letter was read. It was

- 6. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT COUNCIL ACCEPT MR. JIM CRONK'S RESIGNATION AS DISPOSAL SITE CARETAKER EFFECTIVE JUNE 12, 2010.

Carried

Mr. Cronk's replacement was discussed and it was agreed to offer the position to Mr. Jesse Niemi, the current occasional disposal site caretaker. Depending on Mr. Niemi's decision an advertisement will be put in the cornerstone for either the permanent position or the occasional position with application due for the next meeting. Council would like Mr. Niemi to work with Mr. Cronk until June 12th.

- b) Cutting of the weeds on the sides of the roads this year was discussed. A request for quotes will be put in the June cornerstone with the quotes to be in by 4 p.m. on June 14th. Another option was also discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer will look into the costs of leasing a tractor, insuring it through the Township and hiring an employee to drive the tractor. This information will be available for the June 14th meeting.
- c) Carla Armstrong – MNDMF – regarding the Northern Community Investment Readiness Program. An application will not be submitted at this time.
- d) NOMA – i) MNDM collecting feedback on its "Proposed framework to Modernize Ontario's Forest Tenure and Pricing System. Council did not have any comment to submit.
 - ii) regarding Species at Risk stakeholders meeting to be held in Thunder Bay on June 24th. No one will attend.
- e) Jennifer Keith regarding Sports Day in Canada. The Township will not participate.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

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- a) Councillor Racicot reported on a possible triple sink for the basement kitchen, which the Township can get as a donation from the Geraldton District Hospital. Councillor Racicot is willing to pick the sink up using the Township truck. Council agreed to accepting the donation. The Clerk-Treasurer will send a letter to the Hospital making the request for the donation of their surplus sink unit.
 - b) Ontario Good Roads Association – Board Brief April 2010
 - c) A date for an O'Connor Day planning meeting was discussed and it was agreed to wait until will have a full Council present.
7. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION ON THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LITIGATION OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION, INCLUDING MATTERS BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS, AFFECTING THE MUNICIPALITY OR LOCAL BOARD; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(E) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.

TIME BEING: 9:45 P.M.

Carried

The issue with regard to the Ministry of Transportation and Rock Solid Holdings entrance off of Highway 590 and the possible use of Mayo road was discussed.

8. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

TIME BEING: 10:05 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

Council would like a meeting setup with Mr. Lambert, Regional Director, Ministry of Transportation to discuss this matter further.

9. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE TOWNSHIP INSPECTION TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2010 AT 8:30 A.M.

TIME BEING: 10:07 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer