

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR - MINUTES – MAY 26, 2008

Minutes of the meeting held on May 26, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

Present: Councillors: Garbutt, Nygard, Racicot, Vezina
Clerk-Treasurer Buob
Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas

Acting Mayor Garbutt 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 16 a), b) and d) as his spouse is an employee of the Township and e) as his spouse would be a participant in the informal meetings.

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

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008, THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008 AND THE BUDGET MEETING HELD ON MAY 20, 2008 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED. Carried

2. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT MAYOR NELSON BE MARKED ABSENT DUE TO WORK. Carried

Acting Mayor Garbutt invited Fire Chief Mattas to the table. The Fire Department report from April 25 to May 24, 2008 was read. There have been three fire related calls and one first response call since the last report. Four members have attended training through the Ontario Fire Marshal's office. Terry Niemi has resigned from the department due to other commitments. A thank you letter will be sent to Mr. Niemi for his years of service on the department.

Fire Chief Mattas reported that the preparation for Fire Con is coming along and he also thanked Council for passing his budget. The East Gorham Fire Department will be hosting a Fire Fighters Paintball competition and the O'Connor department will be entering a team.

A date for a tabletop exercise was discussed. It was

3. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR AN EMERGENCY TABLE TOP EXERCISE JUNE 26, 2008 AT 7 P.M. THE MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE O'CONNOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING. Carried

The Clerk-Treasurer will confirm this date with Mr. John Coupland of Emergency Measures Ontario and Fire Chief Mattas will also contact him with regard to the scenario.

The final budget was presented to Council.
The By-law number 2008-11 was read and it was

4. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Lee Ann Nygard
THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2008-11 BEING A BY-LAW TO ADOPT THE ESTIMATES OF ALL SUMS REQUIRED DURING THE YEAR 2008 FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSES OF THE MUNICIPALITY, AND TO STRIKE THE LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2008 AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF TAX RATES AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR PENALTY AND INTEREST IN DEFAULT OF PAYMENT THEREOF FOR 2008 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

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Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of Nipigon regarding Code gridlock at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. It was

5. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF NIPIGON CALLING UPON THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND LONG TERM CARE TO PROMPTLY LEGISLATE THAT TERTIARY HOSPITALS CANNOT REFUSE TO CARE FOR PATIENTS IN THEIR REGION UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THAT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LONG TERM CARE PROMPTLY WORK ON A SOLUTION FOR THE T.B.R.H.S.C. TO EXPAND THEIR RESOURCES TO SUCH A STATE THAT PREVENTS THE NEED FOR CREATING A POLICY SIMILAR TO THE “CODE GRIDLOCK” OR “CLOSED TO THE REGION” IN THE FUTURE BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- b) Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce regarding a resolution in support of the Forestry Coalition (OFC). It was

6. Moved by Lee Ann Nygard
Seconded J. Vezina

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE THUNDER BAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO TO ENSURE THAT THE “ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA) WILL NOT REPLACE THE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS AND TO LIVE UP TO THE COMMITMENT MADE BY THE MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN MAY 2007 BE ENDORSED.

Carried

- c) Region of Niagara regarding the Waste Management Planning Steering Committees report for an Alternative Approach to Blue Box Funding Model was filed
d) Ontario Forestry Coalition – i) Letter to Municipalities and Chambers of Commerce, poster, draft newsletter, draft letter to Premier for citizens.
ii) Endangered Species Act and the opposition to the regulation under the Environment Bill of Rights and to recognize the Crown Forest Sustainability Act and the Forest Management Plans as equivalent processes to the Endangered Species Act with respect to planning and providing for species at risk. It was

7. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by J. Vezina

WHEREAS THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, IN 2008, HAS STATED THAT “ONTARIO IS A RECOGNIZED WORLD LEADER IN ITS FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES” AND

WHEREAS IN 2007, THE ONTARIO FORESTRY COALITION (OFC) RECEIVED WRITTEN COMMITMENTS FROM PREMIER MCGUINTY AND THE FORMER MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DAVID RAMSAY RECOGNIZING THE CROWN FOREST SUSTAINABILITY ACT (CFSA) AND FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS AS EQUIVALENT PROCESSES WHICH PLAN FOR SPECIES AT RISK AND SATISFY THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA) AND

WHEREAS AFTER SEVEN MONTHS OF GOOD FAITH WORK BETWEEN MNR’S IMPLEMENTATION TEAM, LEGAL GROUP AND THE FOREST INDUSTRY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOW MOVED AWAY FROM A LONG TERM REGULATION THAT WOULD GUARANTEE BUSINESS CERTAINTY AND HAVE INSTEAD PROPOSED A PERMITTING SYSTEM THAT WOULD HAND FOREST MANAGEMENT IN ONTARIO OVER TO THE COURTS AND EXPOSE THE SECTOR TO FRIVOLOUS AND MANIPULATIVE LEGAL CHALLENGES AND

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WHEREAS ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 14 THE ONTARIO CABINET POSTED THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REGULATION 010-3320₁ NRMD ESA 02/08₂ IN SPIITE OF SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION FROM THE ONTARIO FORESTRY COALITION AND ITS MEMBERS, AND

WHEREAS THE REGULATION PROVIDES FOR UP TO A ONE YEAR DELAY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AS IT APPLIES TO THE MANAGEMENT OF ONTARIO'S FORESTS, AND

WHEREAS THE MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO MEMBERS OF THE ONTARIO FORESTRY COALITION THAT IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION AT THE END OF THE DELAY TO IMPLEMENT A NEW SYSTEM OF PERMITS THAT WILL BE APPLIED TO THE DETAILS OF EVERY MAJOR AND MINOR ACTION BY FOREST MANAGEMENT COMPANIES, AND

WHEREAS THIS PERMIT SYSTEM WILL EXPOSE EVERY COMPONENT OF FOREST MANAGEMENT TO COURT ACTION BY THOSE OPPOSED TO THE HARVESTING OF OUR FORESTS, AND WILL FORCE THE SHUTDOWN OF THOSE FOREST HARVESTING AND REFORESTATION OPERATIONS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE COURT HAS RENDERED A DECISION, AND

WHEREAS THE ONTARIO FORESTRY COALITION, WITH INPUT FROM THE FOREST MANAGEMENT COMPANIES, HAS ESTIMATED THAT WITHIN THE BOREAL FOREST ALONE, THE OPERATION OF 9 MILLS WILL BE IN SERIES JEOPARDY WITH ANOTHER 6 AT MODERATE RISK;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR REGISTER THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE REGULATION UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS (010-3220) AND

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MCGUINITY GOVERNMENT BE CALLED ON TO ENACT A LONG TERM REGULATION UNDER SECTION 55 (1)(B) OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA) THAT RECOGNIZES THAT THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE ESA ARE MET THROUGH THE CROWN FOREST SUSTAINABILITY ACT (CFSA) AND ITS REQUIRED FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS (FMPS), AND FURTHER FULFILLS THE MCGUINITY GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO RECOGNIZE THE CFSA AND FMPS AS EQUIVALENT PROCESSES TO THE ESA WITH RESPECT TO PLANNING FOR AND PROVIDING FOR SPECIES AT RISK, AND

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT LETTERS RELATED TO THE ABOVE ARE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. PREMIER OF ONTARIO**
- 2. MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES**
- 3. MINISTER OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES**
- 4. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**
- 5. LEADER OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY**
- 6. NORTHERN LIBERAL CAUCUS**
- 7. MEMBERS OF THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE**
- 8. NOMA**
- 9. NOACC**
- 10. ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO**
- 11. ONTARIO FORESTRY COALITION**
- 12. ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS**

Carried

Information on the Ministries proposed changes will be put into the June Cornerstone for our resident. The background information and the draft letter to the Premier will be posted on the Township's website for our residents to access or they will also be available at the township office for pickup.

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- e) Mine Mill / C.A.W. - Local 598 requesting an amendment to the Ontario Health and Safety Act to offer protections from emotional or psychological harm in the Workplace was filed
- f) City of Belleville regarding Carbon Taxes was filed

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Ontario Forestry Coalition – i) copy of letter to Premier Dalton McGuinty regarding the Endangered Species Act.
ii) May 12th release, No wood, No future, Critical action needed now
iii) May 15th release, Premier breaks commitment to working families
 - b) OFIA/OLMA Press Release May 13th – When we buy Ontario forest products we all win
 - c) Ontario Provincial Police – 2007 Township of O'Connor statistical data for Performance Measures Program
 - d) AMO – Provincial Government's Solar Task Force Seeks Input
- The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Service Canada – reply to the Township's application to Canada Summer Jobs 2008. The Township was not successful in this year's application for two summer students.

A resolution will be drafted for the next meeting to be sent to Service Canada and surrounding municipalities with regard to small business' and municipalities having to pay the increase minimum wage and government funded programs not increasing the funds available to compensate this, rather just lower the number of students to be hired in their program.

- b) Ministry of Northern Development and Mines – Summer Jobs Service. It was decided to apply for another student under this program as the deadline for this program is May 31st. This program offers a \$2.00/hour subsidy for wages paid. It was

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

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ASK FOR ONE ADDITIONAL STUDENT FOR THE ROADS DEPARTMENT UNDER THE MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES SUMMER JOBS SERVICE, 2008, FOR A PERIOD OF SEVEN WEEKS.

START DATE FOR THE PROGRAM WOULD BE JULY 7, 2008.

Carried

- c) Stewardship Ontario's Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste collection – comments from surrounding municipalities, Conmee, Oliver Paipoonge and Gillies with regard to MHSW Agreement were read. All the townships are in agreement that a permanent depot would be too costly, however if Eco Superior was willing to sponsor another hazardous waste day they would also be interested. Council agreed that they would also be interested in such an event, but not a permanent setup.

Under New Business, Council discussed:

Councillor Racicot left the room

- a) A Notice to Bargain was read from CUPE Local 87. It was decided that Council will review the current Union agreement at the next meeting. A meeting with the Union will be scheduled when Mayor Nelson is present. The negotiating committee was discussed and it was

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

THAT THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE BE SET AS FOLLOWS:

MAYOR NELSON, COUNCILLOR GARBUTT AND COUNCILLOR VEZINA

Carried

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- b) NOMA/MMAH – 26th Annual Northwestern Ontario Regional Conference – September 18 & 19th, 2008 in Thunder Bay. It was decided that this item would be deferred to allow everyone to check their schedules to see who would be available.

It was agreed to move item c) to the end of new business to discuss when Councillor Racicot when he returns to the room.

- d) Fred Dean's Meeting Procedures Workshop – May 29th in Thunder Bay. It was agreed that no one will attend this workshop.
- e) A request from Jacquelyn Jantunen for use of the hall for yoga and book study was discussed. No set up or cleanup would be required. It was

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

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR WAIVE THE HALL RENTAL FEE AS REQUESTED BY JACQUELYN JANTUNEN FOR THE INFORMAL MEETINGS TO PRACTICE YOGA AND TAKE PART IN A BOOK STUDY ON THURSDAY EVENINGS.

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- c) A request for quotes for a Liability Study of the Waste Disposal Site was discussed. Council discussed what information they would like to receive from this study. The proposals will be due back for the July 14, 2008 Council meeting, with the work to be completed by October 14, 2008. The Leadhand will be asked to set up a site visit.

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

- a) Ontario Medical Association regarding Nurse-only clinics
- b) The NorWest Community Health Centres regular Wednesday visits during the months of July and August when the office is closed were discussed. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact them to see if they would like to enter into an agreement to hold a key for the summer or if they would rather make other arrangements.

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

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE TOWNSHIP INSPECTION FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2008 AT 8:00 A.M.

TIME BEING: 7:55 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer