

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 14, 2011

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, November 14, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand  
Ian Smith, Dave McColl and Kelly Schmid – Ministry of Transportation

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in items 16 a) and 17 d) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

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

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 24, 2011, THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2011 AND THE NOTES FROM THE TABLE TOP EXERCISE HELD ON NOVEMBER 7, 2011 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

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

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

Carried

Mayor Nelson asked Mr. Johnson if he wished to address Council on any personal matters and he replied no.

The Ministry of Transportation representatives were welcomed to the table. Introductions were made. Council each noted their concerns and then allowed the Ministry staff to address each issue. It was noted by Council that item 14 d) on the tonight's agenda was an email from the new Minister of Transportation. In this email the Minister stated that he is committed to building and maintaining a sustainable transportation network that moves people and goods safely, efficiently, and enhances our quality of life. He also boasts that Ontario has the safest roads in North America and he is committed to making them even safer.

The Ministry staff informed Council that prior to the meeting they did drive along Highway 595 within the Township in both directions so as to be aware of any of Council's concerns.

Brushing along Highway 595 was first discussed. Mr. Smith informed Council that their staff have been out and have spoken with Township staff about the areas of concern and they have seen pictures that were submitted by the Township which showed that the contractor was not meeting the standard. At the time of the first reply from the Ministry they did not have the money to do a full complete brushing program along Highway 595, however at this time they have a surplus and Highway 595 from Highway 590 to Hymers will have the brushing work completed. They have looked at what can be cut within the right-of-way and the work order is in now and they will start the work the first week of December. They will do what they can now depending on weather and if it does not get finished they will do the rest in the spring. Council thanked the Ministry for this.

Council asked when the current maintenance contract expires. The current TWD contract will go to tender next summer with a new contract being awarded in 2013.

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Ms. Schmid commented on the traffic count and the construction standards. Highway 595 is classified as a Class 5 Highway. The region has 1700 km of road within the Class 5 standard all with similar traffic volumes. To redo the road to a higher standard would cost too much. With the volume of traffic they feel that the road is not that bad. The accident reports show that there are not a lot of collisions. A traffic count was conducted on Highway 595 in 2011, both a turning movement report for 8 hr intervals at an intersection and 24 hr inventory counts conducted 3 times per year. There is a formula they use to process the daily average and the winter daily average. The new numbers have not yet been processed and it will take a couple of years to get all figures together as they do the whole Province at once. To change the class of the Highway the winter daily average would have to increase above 400.

It was noted that the main concerns on Highway 595 are not so much in the summer, other than the deer on the road and the brushing will help with this, but the winter maintenance. The road is narrow and the structure of the roadbed is rough. If the Ministry can ensure proper maintenance standards meet the standard of snow packed and sanded Council will not have a concern. However if it becomes rutted and icy Council want to ensure that the grader will be out periodically to remove the ruts as eight school buses travel this road each day and the safety of our residents is important. If the road is not maintained properly and a school bus and a transport or a big truck meets there is not a lot of room to pass. It was also noted that the winter standard per class of road and the vehicle count should not be the same as in Southern Ontario as our winters are not the same. It was also noted that the type of vehicle using the road should also be considered.

In summary, Council stated that their biggest concern is the safety on Highway 595 and the Ministry staff agreed it was theirs too. Council would like to maintain a good relationship with the Ministry and if they have any concerns they will contact the Ministry office.

Council also discussed the distance markers along Highway 11 and 17 with regard to where the numbers actually begin. Highway 17 is from Nipigon to Sault Ste Marie and from Shebandowan to the Manitoba border. Highway 11 is from Nipigon to Hearst with the distance starting from Toronto and Shebandowan to Rainy River. High reflective signage was discussed. Council asked the Ministry staff if at any time they are disposing of any aggregate pits in our area or if their policy for removing material from their pits changes that they please let us know.

Mr. Smith informed Council that in response to a concern addressed at the Thunder Bay District Municipal League with regard to outhouses along Highway 11/17 and the early closure, the outhouse in question was installed with humus and it was just being installed and will not be opened until next season. Their normal closing weekend would be the Thanksgiving weekend and if weather permitted this date could be extended.

Mr. Smith, Mr. McColl and Ms. Schmid were thanked for attending.

Time being 8:15 p.m. Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table. Timesheets for September 19 to 30, October 3 to 14 and October 17 to 28, 2011 were read. The Equipment report for 2011, which outlines the general condition and expresses Mr. Johnson's opinion of the equipment, was read. All of the equipment is currently in good condition with the exception of the box on truck #7, which will need to be replaced soon. Roadwork in general was discussed. Mr. Johnson has completed all scheduled jobs for this year. The road department can still possibly do some brushing if the weather permits. They are currently working with the trapper to solve some beaver problems. K. A. Vanderzwaag still has to come and do the guide rail project on Smith Road.

A letter was read from the Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) with regard to the Daily Consolidated Situation Report – New Risk Tool – 3 day Special weather outlook. This new daily forecast for the duration of the 2011/12 winter season will outline significant weather concerns over the 3 day period. This report will be included in the Daily Consolidated Situation Report Command Assessment.

An article from the Municipal Monitor November/December issue with regard to Bill 160 "Revamp" of Ontario's Health and Safety System was read. Mr. Johnson also attended

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the recent Forum North session which also spoke on this Bill. Bill 160 gives the government the power to impose training requirements for safety representatives.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending.

The roads and administration voucher for October 31, 2011 was reviewed and it was

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

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR OCTOBER 31, 2011 TOTTALLING \$95,277.75 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to October 31, 2011 were reviewed. Line item variances were discussed as yearend is approaching.

By-law and Policies were discussed as follows:

- a) Further information with regard to the Employee Assistance Program for the Township was discussed. Council agreed that this program will be offered to the Township employees, Council and volunteers on the Fire and First Response Team. This information will put into a policy for approval by Council and then will be referenced in applicable policies.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Municipality of Central Huron objecting to the direction from the Fire Marshal's office restricting the use of farm buildings. It was

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

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL HURON STRONGLY OBJECTING TO THE DIRECTION FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE RESTRICTING SHED PARTIES, BARN PARTIES AND FAMILY FUNCTIONS HELD IN FARM BUILDINGS BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

- b) Township of Mulmur regarding the approval process for alternative energy projects. This resolution was filed.
- c) Town of Richmond Hill – regarding testing for Chronic Lyme disease, which is currently not available in Ontario. It was

5. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL TO PETITION THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO TO REQUEST THE MINISTER OF HEALTH TO DIRECT THE ONTARIO PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM AND OHIP TO INCLUDE ALL CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AND SCIENTIFICALLY VERIFIED TESTS FOR ACUTE AND CHRONIC LYME DIAGNOSIS AND TO DO EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO CREATE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF LYME DISEASE IN ONTARIO, AND TO HAVE INTERNATIONALLY DEVELOPED DIAGNOSTIC AND SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT PROTOCOLS AVAILABLE TO PATIENTS AND PHYSICIANS BE ENDORSED.**

Carried

Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board issues were discussed. The upcoming meeting with the Area 1 Mayors and Reeves set for November 30<sup>th</sup> was discussed. The Municipality of Shuniah is requesting that a meeting be set for full Council. Council were in agreement with this and would like a letter sent to the Area 1 municipalities recommending that the meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> be opened up to full Council's or a new date be set if the 30<sup>th</sup> cannot accommodate then.

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Council also discussed their position with regard to the Board structure and the possible options to be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Thunder Bay District Municipal League – regarding the Secretary-Treasurer position of the League. The President of the League will be contacted to see if he would like the Township to post the position on our website or if it is only for internal purposes that he is sending the email.
- b) Thunder Bay area Emergency Measures Organization Newsletter – 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2011.
- c) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Watch File November 3, 2011  
ii) Watch File November 10, 2011  
iii) AMO report to Members on September 2011 Board Meeting
- d) Honourable Bob Chiarelli – Minister of infrastructure and Minister of Transportation – introduction. This letter was referenced when speaking with the Ministry staff earlier in the meeting.
- e) The Premier of Ontario – reply to Council's resolution about municipal infrastructure
- f) Ontario Power Generation – regarding the biomass repowering project at the Atikokan Generating Station. A copy of the Biomass Sustainability Analysis Summary Report April 2011 was also available at meeting
- g) Linda & Brian Jones – regarding the book "Thoughts of our Canadian Soldiers at War"

The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Rural Economic Development Committee – discuss whether or not to appoint a member of Council to this committee. Council agreed at this time not to appoint anyone.

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

**TIME BEING: 10:30 P.M. THAT THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING CONTINUE.**

Carried

- b) Norwest Community Health Rural Health Fair Wrapup report was read. Council is willing to support the Rural Health Fair again next year. It was suggested that handouts be looked at as a line item in next year's budget.

Under further old business Council discussed the spring Thunder Bay District Municipal League. Rooms will be booked as soon as possible in Terrace Bay.

Council asked about the transfer switch for the new office and the Clerk-Treasurer confirmed that the JEPP Funding application has been submitted for this project.

Council asked Mayor Nelson if he was able to get any information with regard to water tank for the fire truck in Toronto. Mayor Nelson reported that the dealer he was checking with did not have any tanks.

Under New Business, Council discussed

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- a) Northwest Treasurers' Forum – Finance Information Session – November 24, 2011 in Thunder Bay. It was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING TREASURERS' FORUM TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON NOVEMBER 24, 2011.**

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**REGISTRATION: N/A****CLERK-TREASURER BUOB  
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT**

Carried

The office will be closed that day to allow staff to attend this session.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- b) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) update – Councillor Loan reported to Council that he visited the OPP station and spoke with Staff Sergeant Dan Peters on November 9<sup>th</sup> with regard to his concerns with the OPP's non-participation at our recent Township events. He discussed with him O'Connor Day and the tabletop exercise and noted that the Community Policing Advisor Committee (CPAC) meeting is long overdue. Staff Sergeant Peters was apologetic and informed Councillor Loan that he would look into why no one showed for O'Connor Day or the Table Top exercise. A CPAC meeting will be scheduled for the end of November or the beginning of December. After Councillor Loan left this meeting Staff Sergeant Peters also called the Township office to apologize for no one attending the table top exercise on November 7<sup>th</sup>.
- c) Superior North Emergency Medical Services (SNEMS)– regarding SNEMS Strategic Planning – recommendations. This item was deferred to the next meeting.
- d) The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario - Rural Voices Network to be held in Rosslyn on November 19, 2011. No one from Council will attend. This information will be forwarded to the O'Connor Women's Institute.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed.

- a) 911 Numbering System Compliance Order forms was review. The Fire Department will be inspecting the homeowners 911 Numbering signs while they are out collecting food for the Rural Cupboard Food Bank in November. A form has been designed for those who are not in compliance with the Township By-law and they are requesting Council approval of the form they will use if a resident is not in compliance. Council agreed with the use of the form as presented.
- b) Superior North Emergency Medical Services – Corporate Report regarding the EMS Strategic Plan/Deployment – Options – was deferred to the next meeting.
- c) Thunder Bay Ventures – regarding Program Information. They would like to come to a Council meeting to provide an update on their funding programs. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to contact their office and arrange for them to attend a Council meeting in the new year.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

- d) The Christmas office hours and closure were discussed. It was
8. Moved by B. J. Loan  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE BE CLOSED DECEMBER 26, 2011 TO JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2012 DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. NOTICE OF THE CLOSURE WILL BE IN THE CORNERSTONE.**

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- e) A possible staff and volunteer Christmas Party for this year was discussed. Last year a party was held in January and was a success. It was agreed that having it in January was a good idea. The Clerk-Treasurer will enquire into pricing, dates and location to possibly hold another one again in January. This information will be brought back to the next meeting.

For information purposes building permits were approved for: Conversion from dwelling to storage at 190 Highway 590, Addition to residence at 89 Earl Road, Garage at 93 Smart Road, New home at 232 Highway 595, Garage – 31 Pool road.

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- 9. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS A PERSONAL MATTER ABOUT AN IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING MUNICIPAL OR LOCAL BOARD EMPLOYEES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(E) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2011.**

**TIME BEING: 11:13 P.M.**

Carried

The Clerk-Treasurer reported to Council on the Township's involvement, as requested by the occupant, with a health issue in a residence in the Township of O'Connor.

- 10. Moved by B. J. Loan  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**TIME BEING: 11:30 P.M.**

**THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.**

Carried

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

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 11:31 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer