

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – NOVEMBER 28, 2011

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, November 28, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Present: Councillors: Garbutt, Loan, Racicot, Vezina
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Staff Sergeant Dan Peters, Ontario Provincial Police
Fire Chief Henry Mattas, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Styles
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Linda Racicot

Acting Mayor Racicot called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: Councillor Racicot declared an interest in item 9 e) as his spouse is an employee of the Township.

1. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2011 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

2. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT MAYOR NELSON BE MARKED ABSENT DUE TO WORK.

Carried

Acting Mayor Racicot asked Mr. Styles if he wished to address Council on any personal matters and he replied no.

Staff Sergeant Dan Peters, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) was welcomed to the table. He was invited to the meeting to explain the OPP's absenteeism at recent O'Connor events. Staff Sergeant Peters explained that for O'Connor Day 2011 a Constable was assigned to attend but was busy on calls and unable to make it here. Another Constable did stop in on his motorcycle for a period of time. He will ensure that someone from his department will attend next year. The Clerk-Treasurer will email the 2012 date to him now so it can be marked on their calendar. The Table Top Exercise held on November 7, 2011 also had no one attend from their department. Staff Sergeant Peters had assigned a Sergeant and an Officer to attend and they did confirm they would be there. Staff Sergeant Peters was disappointed and apologized for this.

The Crime Statistics Report for 2011 to date for the Township of O'Connor was presented. The total incident number is down from last year.

A Community Policing Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting has been scheduled for December 6, 2011. Councillor Loan will attend.

The old Township office was again offered to the Ontario Provincial Police to use as a community policing office. Staff Sergeant Peters has spoken with his staff about this and they would require a computer to be there with a hard line for internet usage and the office would have to be strictly setup for the OPP only. The Clerk-Treasurer will check with Tbaytel to see if there is still a hard line there and the matter will be looked into further.

The OPP staffing levels were discussed. The detachment currently has 40 Constables, 6 Sergeants and 1 Staff Sergeant. There are at this time a couple of vacancies, 1 in Upsala and a couple in Thunder Bay. Currently 27% of the officers are unavailable for different reasons and cannot be replaced.

Council thanked Staff Sergeant Peters for attending.

Fire Chief Mattas, Deputy Chief Styles and Deputy Clerk- Treasurer Racicot were welcomed to the table.

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The Fire Department report was read. There was one First Response call since the last report. This call was on Highway 590 and the first page for the incident went out to Oliver Paipoonge. Fire Chief Mattas reported that the Fire Department members have been out during the month of November collecting food from our residents for the Rural Cupboard Food Bank. The residents have been very responsive. While they are out they are also checking emergency number signs to ensure they are compliant with the Township's By-law. So far there have only been a couple of minor concerns and the property owners will be addressing them.

The balance of Fire Department's Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) from 601 to 1901 were reviewed. Minor changes will be made and they will all be brought back for final approval of Council. Once they have been approved every member of the Fire Department will sign off that they received a copy, they will be required to read, follow and maintain their copy as amendments are made. The Fire Department will also use these guidelines in their training. The Fire Department does have a committee assigned to review these documents on a regular basis.

The outdoor skating rink was discussed. The Fire Department will start flooding it as soon as the weather permits. Fire Chief Mattas will look into putting white plastic down prior to flooding to try to extend the length of time the ice will last in the spring.

Fire Chief Mattas and Deputy Fire Chief Styles were thanked for attending.

Policies were reviewed as follows:

Information with regard to the Progressive Discipline and Substance Abuse policy and the changes that were made were read.

The Policy for Progressive Discipline was brought back with amendments made as per Council's recommendations and it was

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

THAT THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S POLICY FOR PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE BEING A POLICY TO ESTABLISH A CONSISTENT METHOD OF DISCIPLINING ALL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES AND TO ENSURE WORK DUTIES ARE CARRIED OUT BE ENDORSED.

Carried

The Policy for Substance Abuse was also brought back with amendments made as per Council's recommendations and it was

4. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF EMPLOYEES, FIRE AND FIRST RESPONSE MEMBERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS, PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES IN A SAFE AND PREDICTABLE MANNER

AND THAT TO PROTECT THESE SAME INDIVIDUALS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC FROM RISKS WHICH MAY RESULT FROM EMPLOYEE OR MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVE DRUG OR ALCOHOL INDUCED BEHAVIOUR THE POLICY FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE BE ENDORSED.

Carried

The draft policy for an Employee and Family Assistance Program was read. A draft copy of the implementation agreement was also read. Council would like confirmation on the proposed eligibility for use as well as the definition of "significant others" to ensure that this includes family members not just spouse. This policy will be brought back to Council for final approval.

Councillor Racicot left the room. Councillor Loan continued as Acting Mayor of the meeting for this agenda item.

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The draft policy for Administration Benefits and wage review was read and discussed. This policy describes the benefit package of the Clerk-Treasurer and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer as there currently was been nothing in writing. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to confirm that the rates of pay for both hours of work and meetings are in a separate document. Council would like to add that this policy be reviewed annually.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting and continued as Acting Mayor.

Notes with regard to amendments to the Code of Conduct of Council By-law and the current By-law were discussed. Council would like to have a signature page added to this document with the Council signing this document when they are sworn in after an election. This will again be brought back to Council for final approval.

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

The Superior North Emergency Medical Services (SNEMS) Strategic Planning Recommendations and Corporate Report, which were deferred at the last meeting, were discussed. The City of Thunder Bay, at the November 14, 2011 meeting, passed a resolution with respect to this report regarding EMS Deployment - Options, recommending that Option 5: Expansion in Thunder Bay, Phased-In Changes to Service in District be approved in principle. With this decision the Conmee EMS station will be relocated to the Kakabeka Falls urban area.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of Chisholm seeking amendments to the Municipal Act with regard to pregnancy/parental leave was filed.
 - b) County of Huron – regarding the including of woodlots as eligible assistance in the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program (ODRAP) was filed.
 - c) Town of Atikokan – regarding the Repowering of the Atikokan Generating Station and it was
5. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by B. J. Loan

WHEREAS THE OPERATION OF THE ATIKOKAN GENERATING STATION (AGS) OF ONTARIO POWER GENERATION (OPG) HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE VERY CRITICAL TO THE ECONOMY OF THE TOWN OF ATIKOKAN; AND

WHEREAS THE JOBS WHICH EXIST AT THE AGS ARE VITAL TO THE WORKERS AT THE STATION, THEIR FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY OF ATIKOKAN; AND

WHEREAS THE PROPOSED CONVERSION OF AGS TO BURN BIOMASS AS A FUEL SOURCE TO REPLACE COAL WOULD ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS, WOULD CREATE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FOREST INDUSTRY, AND WOULD MAINTAIN AGS JOBS VITAL TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND ECONOMY; AND

WHEREAS THE ONTARIO POWER AUTHORITY HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO NEGOTIATE AN ENERGY SUPPLY AGREEMENT FOR ATIKOKAN BIOMASS POWER WITH OPG;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR STRONGLY SUPPORT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO IN THE REPOWERING OF THE AGS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO MEET THE 2014 DEADLINE.

Carried

- d) Town of Ingersoll – recognizing and supporting the pledge to end bullying was filed.

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Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board Area One meeting set for November 30, 2011 was discussed. Council did not receive support on their decision made at the last meeting to have full Council's attend an Area One DSSAB meeting. It was therefore

6. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY DSSAB AREA ONE MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE OLIVER PAIPOONGE COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN MURILLO ON NOVEMBER 30, 2011.

COUNCILLOR RACICOT

Carried

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) – Draft 2012 Capital and Administration Budget/Levy information. If the budget remains as is the Township of O'Connor's levy will decrease slightly.
- b) Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) – 2012 Levy. The leagues levy will remain the same as last year. The league will await Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association's (NOMA) levy before requesting payment.
- c) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) –i) Watch File – November 17, 2011
ii) Watch File – November 24, 2011
iii) Ontario Throne Speech Promises Continued Uploading of Municipal Social Services Costs
iv) Provincial Government delivers 2011 Fall Economic Statement
- d) AMCTO – Advice and Actions on Ontario's 2011 Throne Speech and Economic Update
- e) Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) – Report of the OGRA nominating Committee
- f) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – Chris D. Lewis, Commissioner – Updated municipal policing cost recovery formula
- g) Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA)– i) C.D. Howe Institute Releases Backgrounder on Municipal Fiscal Management
ii) Bulletin - 2011 Speech from the Throne
iii) Ontario's Fall Economic Statement

The balance of correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Discussion with regarding to a possible Christmas Party was held. Pricing for dinner was reviewed and it was

7. Moved by B. J. Loan
Seconded by G. Garbutt

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR HOLD A 2011 CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR COUNCIL, STAFF, FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRST RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS AT THE KAKABEKA HOTEL ON FEBRUARY 4, 2012. SPOUSES AND GUESTS WILL PAY FOR THEIR OWN DINNER.

Carried

- b) Update on Ministry of Transportation issues – Brushing along Highway 595 was completed November 21- 24, 2011 and the mailbox post on Highway 590 has been repaired. Council would like an email sent to Mr. Smith and Mr. McColl of the Ministry of Transportation thanking them for their assistance in this matter. Council would like the Leadhand to take some photos of the finished job for our records.

Under further new business, Council discussed the Fire Departments driver training. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to check with the Fire Chief to see where they stand with their training.

Councillor Garbutt left the meeting.

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Under New Business, Council discussed

a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario – Charting your Future - upcoming training sessions. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO CHARTING YOUR FUTURE WORKSHOP: EMCP 2 – CHALLENGES OF 2011 & BEYOND – AN OVERVIEW TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON FEBRUARY 3, 2012.

REGISTRATION: \$350.00 + HST

COUNCILLOR LOAN

Carried

This workshop will be held in 2012 and therefore will be included in the 2012 budget.

b) A Vacancy applications for a commercial/industrial property was discussed. Council discussed the issue and the comments from the lawyers on this matter and it was decided that at this time the vacancy will not be approved.

Under further new business, Council discussed the Road Departments timesheets which are presented to Council usually at the first meeting of the month. Council discussed the information that is presented on these timesheets and agreed that they do not require having them in the current format. Council would only like to see once a month a general report informing them of status of the projects they are working on and if there is equipment problems, etc. The Clerk-Treasurer will inform the Leadhand of their decision.

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

- a) Local Health Integration Network – LHINfo Minute – Health Care Update – November 28, 2011.
b) Virtual Shows Canada – Northern Ontario Virtual Summit – December 6, 2011. No one will participate.
c) The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the hot water tank in community centre has broken down and needs to be replaced. The Township is currently renting a 60 gallon tank from Reliance Home Comfort. It was decided that this tank will be replaced with a new purchased 40 gallon tank. The Road department staff will take care of the replacement.

For information purposes a building permits was approved for 449 Earl Road for an addition to the home.

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

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 10:30 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer