

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – OCTOBER 11, 2011

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Dr. David Puskas, Aaron Puskas
Kelly Johnson, Leadhand

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

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: None

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

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2011 BE APPROVED AS PRINTED.

Carried

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

THAT COUNCILLOR RACICOT BE MARKED ABSENT FOR PERSONAL REASONS.

Carried

Mayor Nelson asked the visitors if they wished to address Council for any reason other than what was already on the agenda and they replied no.

Mayor Nelson invited Dr. David Puskas and his son Aaron to the table. Introductions were made. Dr. Puskas asked to speak to Council to request permission to have a private shooting range on his property at 412 Cronk Road.

Dr. Puskas presented Council with a slide presentation explaining the process of approval for a private shooting range, showing a video of the property, including the terrain, as well as google aerial views of his property where he would like to have his range. He explained to Council that a letter from the municipality, from where the range is located, is required for approval. The letter must state that the municipality has no objection to the private range being used within their jurisdiction and that the private range use will not contravene any municipal by-laws and regulations relating to the use of the range and the discharging of firearms. Proper signage will be installed on the property upon approval. A private range also authorizes Dr. Puskas only, to transport firearms to this range location only, for the sole purpose of target practice.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for questions of Council. The Clerk-Treasurer was asked if there were any Township By-laws in place that may disallow the use of this site.

By-law 2009-09 – the Noise By-law was noted. Dr. Puskas did not have a problem abiding by the time restrictions of the By-law between 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Council asked for a copy of the letter from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services with regard to the Request for Approval. A copy of the letter was made. Dr. Puskas reported that the local officer from the Canadian Fire Arms has been out to do a site visit and did not see any issue with the location. As one of the conditions of the approval is that a document showing evidence of at least \$2,000,000 liability insurance, with coverage on an occurrence basis be submitted to the Ministry, Council would also like to be named in the Liability Insurance policy. Council felt that as they are approving the range they could also be named in an insurance claim. Dr. Puskas did not see an issue with this request and will look into this further.

Council informed Dr. Puskas that this matter would be discussed further under new business and the Clerk-Treasurer will get back to him with any concerns or questions.

Dr. Puskas was thanked for attending the Council meeting.

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Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. Council was asked if they had any questions from the timesheets presented at the last meeting. Council did not have any questions. Roadwork in general was discussed. The road department has lowered the rails on bridge #3 on Smith road. KAK Contracting and the road department are currently working on the drainage project on the Harstone road. The road department is also doing some brushing on various other roads. Lex Construction is currently working on the soffit & fascia of the municipal garage. K.A. Vanderszwaag has not yet started on the installation of a Steel Flex Beam Guide Rail System for Bridge #2 on Smith Road over Whitewood Creek. Mr. Johnson will be calling him again to see when he plans on starting this project.

The wiring for the disposal site shed was installed today by SAE Electric. The Health & Safety items will be installed soon and it will be ready for winter. It was recommended that the staff wear safety glasses while working at the site.

Hacquoils Construction will be starting to mix their winter sand and salt soon and Mr. Johnson will get a price for the mix.

The Forum North Conference is coming to Thunder Bay. Council discussed the attendance at this conference and it was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE HEALTH & SAFETY
CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW – FORUM NORTH TO BE HELD IN
THUNDER BAY ON NOVEMBER 1 –2, 2011.
REGISTRATION: \$295.00**

**LEADHAND KELLY JOHNSON
ROSS CHESSELL – HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE**

Carried

Mr. Chessell will be asked if he is available to attend or if he sees anything of value for his position as Health and Safety Rep.

Items 17 a) & b) and item 14 b)iii) were moved forward on the agenda to discuss with Mr. Johnson.

Item 17a) - the reply letter from the Ministry of Transportation regarding the traffic volumes and winter maintenance on Highway 595 was read. The results of a traffic count held on August 10, 2011 were reviewed. The letter concluded that the current winter maintenance standard for Highway 595 is appropriate.

Council would like a follow up letter sent back to the Ministry requesting two more surveys be conducted, one at the intersection of Connolly road and Highway 595 and one at the intersection of Earl road and Highway 595. Council would also like to see the time of the survey changed. The original survey was conducted between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Council would like the survey time to begin at 6 a.m. until 10 a.m. and in the afternoon from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. as a lot of traffic heading to work in Thunder Bay from the Township are gone before 8 a.m.

Item 17b) with regard to the emergency generator training was discussed. Councillor Vezina reported that he had met with Mr. Derech from SAE Electric with regard to the JEPP funding and was asked who was trained to start the generator in an emergency. Councillor Vezina asked if Council felt more people should be trained to start up the generator in an emergency. Currently the road department staff and Mayor Nelson are aware of how to do the switch over and the instructions are clearly marked on the wall. Council felt that no further training is required at this time.

14 b) iii) An Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) notice with regard to fuel procurement through the Local Authority Services Ltd (LAS) was read. A free cost analysis is available. Council agreed to have the Clerk-Treasurer look into this matter further.

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Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending.

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 TOTTALLING \$75,300.68 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR OCTOBER 2011 BE PAID – THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE OCTOBER 2011 ROADS AND ADMINISTRATION VOUCHER.

CK#10444	MPAC	\$2,753.48
CK#10445	R. NELSON – HONOURARIUM	1,089.00
CK#10446	WILSON'S BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	164.03
CK#10447	TBAYTEL – PHONE	446.87
		<u>446.87</u>
		\$4,453.38

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to September 30, 2011 were reviewed.

A resolution for endorsement from the Township of Tiny regarding Publically Owned Water Treatment Facilities was read and it was

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

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF TINY OPPOSING PRIVATIZATION OF WATER TREATMENT SERVICES, INCLUDING P3'S, PREFERRING TO RETAIN THESE SERVICES IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND FURTHER CONTINUING TO LOBBY THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO SUPPORT MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE BY INVESTING IN NATIONAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUND BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) issues – a) Media Release – New TBDSSAB Integrated Client Services Delivery Model Underway was read.

The TBDSSAB Area one meeting held on October 5, 2011 in the Township of Conmee was discussed. As Mayor Nelson was unable to attend this meeting Council informed him of the issues that were discussed. Mayor Nelson then informed Council of how the original board was established. Council would like to see a copy of the Boards constitution for information purposes. The Clerk-Treasurer will look into this further.

It was noted that the TBDSSAB did have a surplus this year and the money was put into reserves for future use. The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) for each municipality is affected by this decision. The TBDSSAB is keeping this money and not giving it back to the municipalities and the OMPF is cutback to the municipalities because of the surplus.

The board structure was discussed. To change this structure there has to be a double majority vote of the board as it was set in Regulation by the Province. The Area One municipalities at a future meeting will discuss this further.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Thunder Bay District Municipal Association – Draft Agenda for Fall meeting
- b) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)– i) Watch File –September 29, 2011
ii) Watch File – October 6, 2011

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- b) iii) Local Authority Services Ltd. – regarding Fuel Procurement was discussed previously with Mr. Johnson, Leadhand.
- c) Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) – regarding Nominations for the 2012-2013 Board of Directors. No Council member will put their name forward at this time.

The balance of correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Update from Councillor Garbutt on the meeting with regard to the creation of a Rural Economic Development Committee. The group is looking at finding ways to promote the region, from the Township of Conmee to the Municipality of Neebing. It was decided not to include the Township of Shuniah as they are more in line with the Townships heading East of the City of Thunder Bay. The group would like to promote business in our area and need a motion from each Council if they are willing to setup a Committee. Funding may be available to hire an Economic Development Officer. The committee is looking at having twelve meetings a year, rotating between communities. The next meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2011 in the Township of Gillies.

Council discussed the creation of the committee and do not see a net benefit to the Township of O'Connor itself. Council do agree with focusing on the village of Kakabeka Falls to try to get some new ideas and new stores into the village as it will indirectly benefit the Township of O'Connor by having these services available, close for our residents. Council do not feel the need to meet monthly and feel that quarterly would be more appropriate. The next meeting scheduled for October 27 is also the same night as the Thunder Bay District Municipal League Board meeting and opening reception and Council would like to see that date changed. Mayor Nelson will also not be available.

- b) Reset meeting date with Mr. Murray Armstrong, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. It was
7. Moved by G. Garbutt
Seconded by J. Vezina

THAT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL WITH MR. MURRAY ARMSTRONG, MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING TO DISCUSS LEGISLATIVE CHANGES AFFECTING OFFICIAL PLANS BE RESCHEDULED FROM MONDAY, OCTOBER 3 TO TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2011 AT 7 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Carried

- c) Celebrate Ontario – questions from the Clerk-Treasurer with regard to the application for funding and the process involved were read. After reviewing the report it was agreed that no application will be submitted to Celebrate Ontario for funding for our 2012 O'Connor Day.
- d) JEPP Funding application – Council reviewed with draft application for funding and agreed with the wording and the project description. The application will be submitted upon receiving the budget estimates from Mr. Derech from S.A.E. Electric.

Under further Old Business, Council asked about the Welcome to O'Connor sign on Highway 590. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the property that the sign is located on did not sell as anticipated and at this time the sign does not have to be moved, therefore a new sign has not been ordered at this time.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) – Fall Training & Education was reviewed and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE MUNICIPAL FINANCE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO – ASSESSMENT & TAXATION 201: 1 DAY SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN THUNDER BAY ON OCTOBER 18, 2011.

REGISTRATION: \$265.00 + HST

CLERK-TREASURER BUOB

Carried

- b) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – regarding Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO) – EDCO's Regional Research Project Training is Unveiled – No one will attend.
- c) MADD Canada, Ontario Public Health Association, Centre of Addiction and Mental Health – requesting Council pass a resolution against the current campaign to allow beer and wine to be sold at convenience stores. Council will not be forwarding a resolution at this time.

Under further new business, Council discussed Dr. Puskas' request to have a private shooting range on his property at 412 Cronk road. Council agreed that they do not see an issue with private range. The Clerk-Treasurer will check with the Township's insurance company to see if they agree with Township being named on the Liability insurance policy. The Clerk-Treasurer will also contact the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to see if they know of any reason within the Ministry's guidelines that it cannot be allowed. The Official Plan and Zoning By-law will also be reviewed to ensure that it is allowed. If all the information collected does not result in any further concerns, a letter of approval will be forwarded to Dr. Puskas.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Ministry of Transportation – Engineering Office – regarding Traffic volumes on Highway 595 and b) Emergency generator training were moved forward on the agenda and were previously discussed with Mr. Johnson, Leadhand.
- c) Thunder Bay Immigration Forum – Moving Forward Together – November 8, 2011 in Thunder Bay. – No one will attend.
- d) Municipality of Neebing – regarding a Donation for Thunder Bay District Municipal League. It was

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

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR PROVIDE A DONATION OF A HISTORY BOOK AND A TOWNSHIP HAT TO THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE FOR THEIR UPCOMING CONFERENCE.

Carried

For information purposes building permits were approved for 90 Cliffmclean Road – accessory bldg., 146 Broome Road – new modular unit and addition, 14 Winslow Road - demolition permit for a garage.

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

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 10:10 P.M.

Carried