

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – OCTOBER 28, 2014

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, October 28, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas

Absent: Mayor Nelson, Councillor Garbutt

Acting Mayor Loan called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

1. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the table. Fire Chief Mattas congratulated Council on their success in the municipal election and their return as Councillor's for another term on Council. He also commented that he hopes that the Fire Department and Council will continue the same relationship for another term. Council informed Fire Chief Mattas that at the candidates night held prior to the election a resident asked about Council's support for the Fire Department and all candidates feel that the Fire Department is very important to the Township.

The Fire Department report was read. There were two First Response calls since the last report. The recent joint training of the Fire Departments from Nolalu, Gillies and O'Connor was discussed. They have been meeting once a month. The last training was on powersaw use and seven members from O'Connor attended. The trainer was a certified trainer and the members all received their certification. During the training they were also able to use the department powersaw which was purchased by the Auxiliary a couple of years ago but they have not had the opportunity to use. Fire Chief Mattas commented that it is an excellent piece of equipment and could be used for concrete or metal building and possibly for auto extrication.

Fire Chief Mattas noted that they have had some new members join the team and it was

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by J. Vezina

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

1. EDWARD CHARETTE
2. JOHN MAZUR
3. JAMIE BILLARD
4. CHRISTAL HUNEAULT

Carried

A new regulation has come into effect as of October 15, 2014 with regard to carbon monoxide alarms in all residential homes in Ontario. The Fire Department is currently selling alarms to our residents from the municipal office to help with compliance within our township.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for attending and he left the meeting.

Bills to be paid were passed around the table and it was

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3. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2014 BE PAID. THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE OCTOBER 2014 ROAD AND ADMINISTRATION VOUCHER.**

|          |   |                     |
|----------|---|---------------------|
| CK#12528 | ARMTEC  | \$107.40            |
| CK#12529 | G. GARBUTT                                    | 77.00               |
| CK#12530 | CANADA POST (POSTAGE)                         | 273.74              |
| CK#12531 | CANADA POST (ELECTION FLYER)                  | 48.73               |
| CK#12532 | H. NEUDORF (REPLACEMENT CHEQUE)               | 42.00               |
| CK#12533 | L. JACOBSON (DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER)        | 295.00              |
| CK#12534 | D. BUSCH (ELECTION OFFICIAL)                  | 265.00              |
| CK#12535 | KGS GROUP<br>(BROOME ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT) | 9,543.17            |
| CK#12536 | BAY CITY CONTRACTORS<br>(BRIDGE REPLACEMENT)  | 101,795.05          |
| CK#12537 | MIKE STEVENS (SHOP SUPPLIES)                  | 108.48              |
| CK#12538 | LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES                      | 775.74              |
| CK#12539 | K. JOHNSON (MEDICAL/DENTAL)                   | 35.00               |
| CK#12540 | HYDRO ONE                                     | 543.01              |
| CK#12541 | PERCY HARRIS<br>(REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT WORK) | 106.32              |
| CK#12542 | LARRY BOCKUS<br>(REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT WORK) | 106.54              |
|          |   | <u>\$114,122.18</u> |

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to September 30, 2014 were reviewed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario –
  - i) Watch File – October 16, 2014
  - ii) Watch File – October 23, 2014
  - iii) AMO Communications – Members' Policy Update – Elliot Lake Inquiry Recommendations Released
  - iv) AMO Breaking News – Good Start to New Legislative Sessions: POA Tools Re-Introduced Road Safety Bill
  - v) Office of the President – 2013 Annual Expenditure Report for the Federal Gas Tax Fund in Ontario is available for review.
- b) Energy Task Force – Information and letters from the Ontario Power Authority regarding the plans for the East West Tie. Councillor Vezina also provided information with regard to the East West Tie and the recent meeting between the Energy Task Force and the Ontario Power Authority(OPA). The OPA is asking them to trust them and their numbers. The in-service date for the East West Tie expansion has been moved from 2018 to 2020.
- c) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) – 2014 Property Assessment Notice Mailing. The notices will begin to be mailed to property owners between October 24 and November 7, 2014, with amended property assessment notice delivered on November 21, 2014.

Councillor Loan informed Council of a recent discussion that he had with a ratepayer of the Township and their concern with MPAC and their assessment of their home. He was informed that the resident had sent in a Request for Reconsideration on their property and MPAC replied that they felt the assessment was accurate, yet he knows a neighbour who has a similar home with an assessment that has a much lower value. Councillor Loan informed the resident that Council was not aware of his concern and if no one tells them they don't know there is a problem. Council would like a note to go into the next newsletter informing the residents that if they have any issue within the Township that when they are addressing a concern they forward a copy of their correspondence to the Township. The Council may not be able to act on behalf of an individual but if several complaints on the same issue are received they could work on behalf of the Township to help address them.

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The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

a) Thunder Bay District Municipal League Fall Conference scheduled for December 5 & 6, 2014 and the new Councillor training to be held on December 4, 2014 and it was

4. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 5 & 6, 2014 IN THUNDER BAY.**

**REGISTRATION: \$150.00**

**MAYOR NELSON  
COUNCILLOR LOAN, RACICOT, VEZINA  
COUNCILLOR – ELECT FOEKENS  
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

Carried

5. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE NEW COUNCILLOR SESSION TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 4, 2014 IN THUNDER BAY.**

**REGISTRATION: \$30.00**

**COUNCILLOR ELECT – KEVIN FOEKENS**

Carried

- b) O'Connor Community Centre – Platform lift inspection results. The lift has passed its inspection by TSSA and is ready for use. There was some minor rubbing against the wall during the test which has since been corrected, however minor repairs to the wall are required. A maintenance program must also be put in place to ensure continued licensing by TSSA as well as to keep the warranty terms valid. Thompson Accessibility Solutions Inc. (TAS) is offering to enter into a service agreement with the Township. It was agreed by Council that a request for quote be put out for this service as per the Township's policy for procurement. The staff has been trained on the use of the lift and additional training will be arranged for the organizations who use the community centre on a regular basis and for all renters of the community centre who may require its use for persons with disabilities.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Municipal Election results for the Township and Northwestern Ontario were discussed. The Township's voter turnout for the Township of O'Connor was very low with only 22.22% of the eligible voters voting. The lack of media attention for the Councillor positions was also discussed.
- b) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund – Formula-Based Funding Allocation Notice. The Township of O'Connor will be receiving the minimum annual amount of \$25,000.00 for their 2014 – 2016 Annual Grant Allocation which will flow in the spring of 2015, subject to the return and execution of the completed OCIF – Formula Contribution Agreement.
- c) Township of Gillies – Notice of Public Meeting to Enact Comprehensive Zoning By-law to be held on Monday, November 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Council will not attend.
- d) Lakehead Search & Rescue Unit – request for a letter of support to be submitted with their application for funding in order to obtain a new Mobile Command Centre to better serve Northwestern Ontario. Council were in agreement to have the Clerk-Treasurer submit a letter of support.
- e) Municipality of Neebing - Rosalie Evans regarding a Thunder Bay Police Services meeting. The Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee has been discussing the Ontario

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Provincial Police's new billing model and want to look at all options available for their policing service. At the last meeting of the committee it was suggested that a meeting be held with the City of Thunder Bay Police Department to discuss whether or not they could offer services to any or all of the surrounding Township's and if so on what terms. A meeting for preliminary discussion has been set for Wednesday, October 29, 2014. It was

6. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND A MEETING WITH THE CITY OF THUNDER BAY POLICE CHIEF J-P LEVESQUE AND DEPUTY CHIEF ANDY HAY TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 29, 2014 IN THUNDER BAY.**

**COUNCILLOR VEZINA  
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

Carried

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Ontario Provincial Police – 3rd Quarter report for the Township of O'Connor. During this quarter there were nine calls for service.  
b) Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade – calling for nominations for the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award. No nominations will be made at this time.  
c) Thunder Bay & Area Food Strategy – October Newsletter was read.

The current agreement with Mr. Cuthbertson, the Chief Building Official, with the Township of O'Connor expires on December 1, 2014. A proposal was brought forward for discussion. It was

7. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NEXT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS; PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 239(2)(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001.**

**TIME BEING: 8:56 P.M.**

Carried

The proposal was discussed and will be brought back to the next meeting for approval.

8. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**TIME BEING: 9:12 P.M.**

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

Carried

9. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by J. Vezina

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 9:15 P.M.**

Carried