

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 13, 2010

Minutes of the meeting held on September 13, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

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

Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand  
Jerry Loan, Jamie Binkley, Brian Wiese

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m..

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

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

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,  
AUGUST 9, 2010 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.**

Carried

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by J. Vezina

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

Carried

Mayor Nelson asked the visitors if they wished to address Council. They replied no.

Mr. Jamie Binkley was welcomed to the table. Mr. Binkley explained his concerns with regard to traffic on Strom road as well as the noise from the gravel pit throughout the night. They do not feel safe walking on the road. There have been concerns with regard to dust, excessive garbage been thrown on the road, as well as truck drivers who have been stopping and urinating on the roadway. Mr. Binkley stated that he has aerial photos from 1992 that show that Strom road was not the main entrance to that pit at that time. The trucks traveling on the road are not abiding by the posted speed of 40 km. Mr. Binkley has also spoken to the Ontario Provincial Police, the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Natural Resources about his concerns. He has also sent emails to Taranis Contracting directly.

Council addressed Mr. Binkley's concerns, some concerns have already been taken care of by staff and Taranis. Mayor Nelson will speak with the OPP about the speed on the road next week. With regard to the noise coming from the pit, the Township of O'Connor does not have any authority with regard to noise coming from the pit or their hours of operation as the pit is in Conmee Township. Council recommended that noise concerns be brought to their Council's attention. Council will continue to pursue the issue of Taranis's private road, which would remove their trucks and contractors off of Strom road. Mr. Jones has stated that if the private road is approved by the Ministries and once it has been built, they would only use Strom road in an emergency situation. Mr. Lambert, Regional Director of the Ministry of Transportation has retired so Council will now have to take their concerns to his replacement. Mr. Binkley was told to contact either Mr. Johnson or the office if there are any concerns with the happenings on the road and if possible it will be dealt with immediately.

Mr. Binkley was thanked for attending.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. Timesheets from August 9 to 21, 2010 and August 22 to September 4, 2010 were read. Fence posts at the cemetery have been replaced, the new grader is working well. Roadwork in general was discussed. Draining work on Cronk road started today using Federal Gas Tax funding. The roads are currently being graded because of all the recent rain. The brush at the entrance of the disposal site has been cut. Repairs to the box of truck #7 are being done and it will be going in for a safety soon. Mr. Johnson is hoping to get started on the salt pad footings soon. They are currently finishing up little jobs.

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A road department summer student report was read. The students did a good job, were well mannered and pleasant to work with. They both enjoyed their jobs and gave a thank you card to the road department for the experience. Having two students at a time is still a good number working with the road department.

The road agreements with the Township of Conmee and Gillies are both due for renewal at the end of this year. The agreements were reviewed and Mr. Johnson stated that the Townships continue to work well together and he did not see any major concerns with the agreements.

The Conmee agreement, item #6 will need to state the Township of O'Connor will be responsible for snowplowing and sanding on Fleming road in the 2010-2011 winter season. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Malonski also have a verbal agreement that whoever arrives first at Fleming road plows the road to ensure that it is open as soon as possible for the residents.

The Gillies agreement may need clarification with regard to the Township of O'Connor grading of Wheal road.

The Clerk-Treasurer will draft up new agreements and forward them to the other Township's for approval and signatures.

Mr. Johnson informed Council that the Ministry of Transportation pit on Strom road was also being used this summer and all of the concerns made by Mr. Binkley may not have all been directly related to Taranis Contracting Group. Mr. Johnson also clarified that Strom road has been the entrance to Strom pit since the sixty's or seventy's. Hacquoil Construction did build the road to access that pit.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending.

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

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

**THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR AUGUST 31, 2010 TOTTALLING \$240,463.45 BE APPROVED AND PAID.**

Carried

- 4. Moved by Bishop Racicot  
Seconded by G. Garbutt

**THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2010 BE PAID – THESE BILLS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE SEPTEMBER 2010 ROAD AND ADMINISTRATION VOUCHER.**

<b>CK#9684</b>	<b>R. NELSON</b>	<b>\$ 161.00</b>
<b>CK#9865</b>	<b>NOMA (REGISTRATION)</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>CK#9686</b>	<b>HYDRO ONE</b>	<b>47.04</b>
<b>CK#9687</b>	<b>TBAYTEL (TELEPHONE)</b>	<b>372.37</b>
<b>CK#9688</b>	<b>LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD</b>	<b>16,107.30</b>
<b>CK#9689</b>	<b>THUNDER BAY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BD</b>	<b>1,921.49</b>
<b>CK#9690</b>	<b>CSDC DES AURORES BOREALES</b>	<b><u>110.88</u></b>
		<b>\$19,720.08</b>

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to July 31, 2010 were reviewed.

The Township of O'Connor's final 2009 Financial Statements from Grant Thornton were given to Council for review.

A Consent Application 1B/07/10 for KAK Contracting (Tom Smart) for a proposed lot addition was read as well as the decision of the board. It was

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5. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE CONSENT APPLICATION 1B/07/10 FOR KAK CONTRACTING (TOM SMART) LOT 1, CONCESSION 7, BEING PART 1, 9, 10 & 11 CONCERNING A PROPOSED LOT ADDITION CREATING ONE BUILDING LOT BE APPROVED.**

Carried

Mr. Smart plans on selling this property once the lot addition is finalized and currently our Welcome to O'Connor sign is located on this property. If the new owner wants the sign removed it was suggested that Leo Nygard be contacted to see if the Township could move the sign to his property.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) The Township of Wellington North requesting that the province introduce a tax credit patterned after the federal "Children's Fitness Tax Credit" was filed.
- b) Correctional Service Canada regarding Restorative Justice Week 2010 was filed.

A media release from the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board announcing the retirement of Mary Lucas, Chief Administrative Officer, was read. A retirement card will be sent to Ms. Lucas from the Township.

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Letter to Mayor Nelson, Chair of the Thunder Bay Emergency Management Organization from the Township of Gillies requesting a special meeting with the Thunder Bay EMO to discuss the 2011 budgetary requirements. A meeting has already been set up during the Thunder Bay Regional Conference coming up at the end of the September. The Township of Gillies will be notified to ensure that they are aware of the meeting.
  - b) AMO i) Communicate – AMO Report to Members – August 2010 Board Meeting  
ii) Watch File – August 12, 2010  
iii) Watch File – August 26, 2010  
iv) Watch File – September 2, 2010
  - c) NOMA – regarding the final price for ground-mounted solar PV projects announced
  - d) Municipality of Neebing – Notice of passing of their Zoning By-Law on August 11, 2010.
  - e) Superior North EMS – 2009 Municipal Report
  - f) LRCA – 2009 Audited Financial Statements
  - g) OGRA – Welcomes newly appointed Minister of Infrastructure, The Honourable Bob Chiarelli, MPP for Ottawa West-Nepean
  - h) MEPCO – regarding the Second Phase of Pension Reform Unveiled by Minister of Finance
  - i) MNR – regarding the Review of Major Amendment Dog River Matawin Forest
- The balance of correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed the 2010 O'Connor Day and Municipal Office grand opening. The Grand Opening went well. Bill Mauro, MPP, was in attendance to congratulate the Township for their funding success. The new grader and fire truck were also on display for the residents to see.

The results of the 2010 O'Connor Day were discussed. The schedule of events was reviewed. Two emails were read from participants of O'Connor Day complimenting the day and thanking us for hosting it. Several compliments were also given during the event. A brief financial report was given. The full revenue and expense sheet for the day has not yet been completed. Cash donations were up from last year.

The large deep fryer used for O'Connor Day was discussed. It had been looked over and some parts were changed prior to O'Connor Day but it still did not work properly. The deep fryer will be tested with a 30lb tank to see if it is the tank or the fryer that is the cause of the problem. Council agreed to have the big one looked at by a qualified propane company and request an estimate for the work that would be needed to get it working properly so this doesn't happen next year. If the cost to fix it is going to be too high it will not be repaired. The second small one needs a probe and if it can be

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replaced using a probe from another fryer Council would like it checked over as well.

The table top exercise scheduled for September 14, 2010 has been cancelled. Council would like the exercise rescheduled after the Municipal election on October 25, 2010 so that the new Council will participate. Council suggested November 9, 2010. The Clerk-Treasurer will check with Mr. Coupland to see if he would be available on that date.

Under further old business Council asked if there has been any word on the sale of the fire truck to Pays Plat. The Fire Chief or Clerk-Treasurer have not heard back from them at this time.

Councillor Racicot was unable to attend the Slate River Plowing Match as previously planned so Mayor Nelson went in his place.

Under New Business, Council discussed

a) Ontario Power Authority – Power Savings Blitz – regarding a lighting energy audit which was done on the municipal buildings and estimates for retrofit measures. The program offers \$1,000.00 per business hydro meter and the balance of the retrofit expense would be paid for by the municipality. Council reviewed the estimates provided and agreed to go forward with the garage changes as estimated but would like to reduce the amount of work suggested in the community centre and fire hall if possible, to take advantage of the funding but not impact the municipality with the full amount at this time. The Clerk-Treasurer will look into this matter further. It was

6. Moved by G. Garbutt  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH THE ONTARIO POWER AUTHORITY FOR THEIR POWER SAVINGS BLITZ FOR THE O'CONNOR MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS AND THAT THE CLERK-TREASURER BE GIVEN THE AUTHORITY TO SIGN THE WORK ORDER FORM AND CUSTOMER AGREEMENT FORM.**

Carried

- b) O'Connor Free Methodist Church – Invitation to the Dedication of New Church Sanctuary and Christian Education Facilities. Mayor Nelson will be attending and speaking on behalf of the municipality.  
c) Hymers Agricultural Society requesting a donation of the O'Connor History Book for a fundraising event. It was

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

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR GIVE A DONATION OF ONE HISTORY BOOK TO THE HYMERS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR THEIR 2010 AUCTION.**

Carried

- d) MMAH i) Five Year Review of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2005 deadline for providing feedback has been extended to October 29, 2010.  
ii) Invitation to Provincial Policy Statement Five Year Review Regional Workshops. Councillor Garbutt will be attending on behalf of NOMA.

Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to contact NOMA and ask them for a copy of their comments to the policy.

- e) Sarah Kerton, Community Environmental Action Plan Coordinator regarding the upcoming events – September 23 – Provincial Policy Statement Open House  
f) Networking and Knowledge Exchange – regarding Bill C-45 – Six Years Later Registration. No one will attend.

Under further new business Council discussed Steps to Leadership information. Councillor Turk from the Township of Gillies has requested that the Township add this information to the website. Council agreed that when the information is sent to the

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office it will be put on the website.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

a) Erin LaForest, a resident of the Township, has inquired into the use of the hall for preschool music class one hour a week for seven weeks. The current rate of \$50 per day is out of their price range and she would like to know if Council would possibly consider a lower rate. It was

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

**THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR REDUCE THE HALL RENTAL FEE FOR PRESCHOOL MUSIC LESSONS FOR A SEVEN WEEK PERIOD TO \$50.00 AS REQUESTED BY ERIN LAFOREST. LESSONS TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY MORNINGS.**

Carried

The Clerk-Treasurer will contact Ms. Laforest to see if the group would be interested in the hall at this rate.

- b) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing re: Student Vote and Local Government Week, October 17 – 23, 2010.
- c) Fire Con 2010 – Firefighting 101 – Municipal Delegate session – This session has been cancelled due to lack of participation.

Information purposes: Building permits were approved for the following properties - 126 Sitch road – addition, 265 Blaikie road – manufactured home, 1084 Hwy 588 – accessory building, 26 Whittaker Road – new dwelling and demolition of current dwelling

9. Moved by J. Vezina  
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

**THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIME BEING: 10:15 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer