

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, September 12, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers.

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

Visitors: Mr. Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Ms. Lorna Krieg

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

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

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

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 8, 2011 AND THE O'CONNOR DAY PLANNING MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 9, 2011 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

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

THAT MAYOR NELSON BE MARKED ABSENT DUE TO WORK.

Carried

Acting Mayor Garbutt asked the visitors if they wished to address Council. They replied no. Ms. Krieg is interested in hearing the discussion about O'Connor Day.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand was welcomed to the table. Timesheets for July 24 to August 6, 2011 and August 8 to 19, 2011 were read.

Roadwork in general was discussed. The road department has been working on the shed for the attendant at the disposal site. It should be painted tomorrow and will be ready for fall. The electronics at the disposal site have been taken into Pack Pro Plus for recycling. The summer students loaded them up onto the trailer and it was taken into Thunder Bay. Mr. Johnson is working on a request for proposal for ditching work to be completed on the Harstone road as part of the resurfacing project through the Federal Gas Tax project. The prices will be in for Council's approval at the next meeting. The road department still have to complete the lowering of the beam on the bridge on Smith road by Poohachoff's and the guide post project also is not complete.

Priority Health & Safety Inc. is offering a Snow Plow Training Course that also includes a Fuel Safety training in the Thunder Bay area. At this time they are looking to see if there is an interest. A date and location has not been set. The cost to register will also vary depending on the number of participants. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE SNOW PLOW TRAINING COURSE THAT INCLUDES FUEL SAFETY TRAINING. DATE, TIME AND LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED.

REGISTRATION FEE: BASED ON NUMBER OF ATTENDEES, MAXIMUM \$100/PERSON.

**KELLY JOHNSON, LEADHAND
BRENT DENNHARDT – EQUIPMENT OPERATOR #1
CATRIONA EARL – EQUIPMENT OPERATOR #2**

Carried

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A report was read from the Clerk-Treasurer with regard to a berm located on Mayo road. Mr. Johnson reported that he has gone and looked at the situation, has spoken with Mr. Jones and has placed a wooden barricade up so that people are aware of the berm. A meeting has been scheduled with Taranis Contracting Group, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to discuss the water issue. The berm will be removed when the issue is resolved.

The summer student report was read. Both students worked out well this year. It was noted that it was an asset to have a student with a drivers licence and who had previously worked for the Township.

The Health and Safety report for the garage from August 30th was read.

It was suggested that Mr. Johnson look into purchasing any salt that he might require early this year due to the tornado that hit in the Town of Goderich, where the main supplier of salt is located. Mr. Johnson will look into this.

It was agreed that items 15 b) c) and 16 e) be moved forward on the agenda to discuss with Mr. Johnson.

O'Connor Day 2011 was discussed. The draft Revenue and Expenditure spreadsheet currently shows a slight profit for the day. All expenses will still have to be confirmed with the financial statements to ensure that there are no expenses left outstanding. Overall the day was another success. There was some food left but most was sold. It was suggested that the crowd may have been slightly smaller early in the day but the evening hours for the fireworks may have been higher. Overall the day was a success. The fireworks were again excellent, the extra seating worked out well, the new tent system in the bar area and the setup for the beer worked well. It was suggested that the music might have been too loud. The popcorn ran out quickly and it was agreed that next year there would have to be a slight charge. The draw table was too crowded with all the prizes on it. The new food item, mushroom caps was a hit with the people but a nuisance for cooking. Council then discussed whether or not to continue next year with O'Connor Day. Ms. Krieg would like to see it continue and would like to put her name forward as a volunteer for next year. There is a conflict with next years date and a number of our regular volunteer's family wedding. It was agreed that the day will continue next year but planning will have to start sooner to decide how to deal with the loss of those volunteers and what can be substituted for the children's carnival due to the conflict. A planning meeting will be set for January 2012.

Ms. Krieg left the meeting.

The brush along Highway 595 was discussed. A letter has been previously sent to the Ministry of Transportation in June with a reply coming back in July. TWD have cleared some brush from the intersections. Council still have a concern with the amount of brush coming up along the road allowance and it coming onto the Highway, as well as the danger of the deer coming out of that brush with no warning for the drivers. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to contact the Ministry again with their concerns. The brush growing up around fire numbers was also discussed. This will be looked into further to confirm whose responsibility it is to keep it clear.

Councillor Racicot left the room.

The Health & Safety Ontario – Networking & Knowledge exchanges were discussed with Mr. Johnson. At this time he would not be interested in the sessions available.

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

The Road and Administration voucher for August 31, 2011 was reviewed and it was

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

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER FOR AUGUST 31, 2011 TOTTALLING \$76,398.58 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to July 31, 2011 were reviewed.

The Health & Safety Ontario – Networking & Knowledge exchanges were again discussed. Councillor Racicot again left the room.

There are two session coming up that could apply to administration and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE NETWORKING & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE, DRUGS AND ALCOHOL IN THE WORKPLACE TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 26, 2011 IN THUNDER BAY.

**REGISTRATION: \$11.00 + HST
DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER RACICOT**

Carried

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE NETWORKING & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE, ERGONOMIC CHANGE TEAMS TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2011 IN THUNDER BAY.

**REGISTRATION: \$11.00 + HST
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

The By-law Number 2011-13 to appoint a closed meeting investigator and the agreement to appoint Mr. Paul Heayn in this position were reviewed and it was

7. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2011-13 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT A CLOSED MEETING INVESTIGATOR FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

The Lakehead Rural Planning Board copy of the Decision for severance application 1B/08/11 was reviewed.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows

- a) CUPE – requesting that Council proclaim October 26, 2011 as Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day was filed.
- b) Correctional Service Canada – requesting that Council proclaim Restorative Justice Week 2011, November 13 to 20, 2011 was filed.
- c) Town of Ingersoll – regarding the transfer of authority of vehicle impoundment from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). A report to Council from the Clerk-Treasurer with regard to their questions from the last meeting and answers from the local MTO on this issue were read. The resolution was then filed.

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The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) issues were read and discussed as follows:

- a) An Area 1 members meeting with the TBDSSAB to be held on October 5, 2011 at 6 p.m. at the Conmee Community Centre. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE THUNDER BAY DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD AREA 1 MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5TH, 2011 AT THE CONMEE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

**MAYOR NELSON
COUNCILLOR GARBUTT, LOAN, RACICOT, VEZINA
CLERK-TREASURER BUOB**

Carried

- b) Media Release - TBDSSAB Proposes Recommendations to Improve Social Assistance in Ontario
c) A copy of the Briefs being presented to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) delegates at the Annual Conference
d) Summary of Party Leaders' Speeches at AMO Annual Conference

Correspondence were read as follows:

- a) Superior North EMS – 2010 Municipal Report for the Township of O'Connor.
b) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority – regarding Cedar Creek Watershed Assessment update 2010. A full report is available for review. Council would like a further explanation on the exceedances of the Provincial Water Quality Objectives noted even though the letter stated that they are considered to be the result of naturally occurring conditions. Councillor Vezina will look into this further. Councillor Vezina also reported that a set of stairs will be installed at Cedar Falls this year.
c) Ministry of Transportation – copy of letter to Reeve Holland, Township of Conmee, with regard to preferred route for a future four-lane Highway 11/17.
d) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association – Media Release – Northern Issues put forward to Provincial Leaders.
e) Slate River Plowman's Association – Plowing Match September 10th, 2011. Councillor Racicot participated in the match.
f) Ministry of Natural Resources – Review of Draft Planned Operations for Phase II (2012-2017) Lakehead Forest 2007-2017 Forest Management Plan.
g) AMO – i) Watch File – August 11, 2011.
ii) Watch File – August 18, 2011.
iii) Watch File – August 25, 2011.
iv) Watch File – September 1, 2011.
v) Watch File – September 8, 2011.
vi) AMO Breaking News – The Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and Municipal Governments.
vii) AMO Breaking News – Ontario Liberal Party "Forward.Together" Platform – Highlights of Municipal Related Policies.
viii) Ontario Party Leaders Address AMO's Top 12 Asks.
ix) AMO's 2011 Municipal Insurance Survey Results.
h) Association of Municipal Managers and Clerk-Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO – i) Local Government Week and You – Oct 15-22, 2011. The Township will not be participating.
ii) AMCTO Legislative Express – New Special Occasion Permit Rules Clarified.
i) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) – regarding the Announcement of New President and Chief Administration Officer. Mr. Carl Isenburg will be retiring and effective September 1, 2011 Mr. Antoni Wisniowski will be selected as the new President and Chief Administrative Officer. Mr. Wisniowshki will officially assume his role at MPAC on January 1, 2012.
j) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – letter from the Minister, Rick Bartolucci with regard to the government working in partnership with the municipal sector.

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- k) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – regarding the Ontario Housing Policy Statement and the proclamation for the Housing Services Act, 2011 which has been confirmed as January 1, 2012.
- l) Statistics Canada – Thanking the Township of O'Connor for supporting the 2011 Census and National Household Survey (NHS)
- m) Accessibility Directorate of Ontario – Status of the Accessible Built Environment Standard is not yet law. Once it becomes law, the standard will apply to new construction and extensive renovation only, as in the case with the Ontario Building Code now.
- n) DigNorth call before you dig inc. – i) regarding Private Members bill introducing the Ontario One Call Act 2011. This Act will make it mandatory for every municipality to join Ontario One Call. GIS coordinates will have to be provided which could be a burden on municipal budgets. Dig North already has this system for municipalities in the North and allows municipalities to build their records as their budgets allow. It was noted that currently Bell Canada and Hydro One are not members of the Ontario One Call which offers false security to the caller.
ii) DigNorth letter to Council regarding this is the age of CHOICE! There is now a choice in Ontario for utility locate notification.
- o) Ontario Property and Environmental Rights Alliance (OPERA) – 911 Municipal Bulletin regarding Closing Down Rural Ontario.
- p) Novatech Engineering Consultants Ltd. – requesting that they receive public notice of the Township of O'Connor's Official Plan Review and of any comprehensive planning documents review. The Clerk-Treasurer will confirm whether or not this is mandatory to notify them if requested.
- q) Confederation College – 16th Annual Community Partners' Evening – September 22, 2011. No one will be attending.
- r) Gordon Pow – Resident of the Township of Pelee - regarding Health Care Cutbacks. The balance of the correspondence was passed around table.

Under Old business, Council discussed

- a) The meeting scheduled with Murray Armstrong on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 has again been post-poned by Mr. Armstrong and a new date will be set. It was
9. Moved by J. Vezina
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

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 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 TO OCTOBER 3, 2011 AT 7 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Carried

Council was asked if they would you like Ms. Cheryl Maki, Chief Building Official to attend this meeting and it was agreed to invite her to attend.

- b) The discussion regarding O'Connor Day 2011 was previously held earlier in the meeting.
- c) The discussion with regard to the brush along Highway 595 was also previously discussed.

Under New business, Council discussed

- a) NOMA – i) 29th Annual Northwestern Ontario Regional Conference – September 21, 22 & 23, 2011. The proposed agenda was reviewed and it was

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

**THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE 29TH ANNUAL NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21 – 23, 2011 IN THUNDER BAY.
REGISTRATION: \$185.00
MAYOR NELSON
COUNCILLOR GARBUTT, RACICOT VEZINA**

Carried

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ii) Prosperity Northwest Forum – Sept 21, 2011. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE PROSPERITY NORTHWEST FORUM TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2011 IN THUNDER BAY.

REGISTRATION: \$125.00 + HST

COUNCILLOR GARBUTT

Carried

Councillor Racicot left the room

b) AMCTO – Zone 9 Fall meeting and conference to be held in Thunder Bay on September 20 & 21, 2011. It was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSON/S ATTEND THE AMCTO ZONE 9 FALL MEETING AND CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20 & 21, 2011 IN THUNDER BAY.

REGISTRATION: \$100.00

CLERK-TREASURER BUOB

Carried

Councillor Racicot returned to the meeting.

- c) Stephanie Ash, President/CEO Firedog Communications Inc. – regarding Immigration Portal newcomer videos from communities around the region. Council were not aware of any names to put forward.
- d) Jim Lochrie – Parliamentary Procedures Workshop October 14, 2011 in Thunder Bay. No one will attend
- e) Health & Safety Ontario – i) & ii) were previous discussed.
- f) Ontario Association of Cemetery and Funeral Professional – 2011 Funeral, Burial & Cremation Services Act (FBCSA) – information training seminars to be held in Thunder Bay on October 3, 2011. No one will attend at this time.
- g) Counties, Region and Single Tier Municipalities & DSSAB Boards Conference Oct 16-18, 2011. No one will attend
- h) Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry - Celebrate Ontario 2012 is now open for applications. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to look into this funding further to see if we could use it to help support O'Connor Day.
- i) A possible date for a table top exercise was discussed and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE BE SET FOR A TABLE TOP EXERCISE

NOVEMBER 7, 2011 AT 7 P.M.

THE EXERCISE WILL BE HELD IN THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Carried

- j) Discussion with regard to possible topics to suggest for the Thunder Bay District Municipal League meeting was held. Council would like to see a presentation from the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority describing their roll for the municipalities and possibly a presentation from the Ministry of Transportation to inform everyone of the winter maintenance and construction plans.

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- k) An email was read from Rocky Mountain Recycling from Winnipeg, Manitoba wanting to purchase the Township's scrap metal. Council are not interested at this time as the Township does not have a lot of scrap metal and currently Mr. DeCorte does come and pick it up. Council agreed to have their information passed on to Mr. DeCorte.
- l) Municipality of Greenstone – new office opening. Council would like a letter of congratulation set to the Municipality.
- m) Northwestern Ontario Visionary Awards – 2012 Nomination Form. No nominations will be submitted.
- n) A letter was read from the Ministry of Consumer Services regarding an upcoming Cemetery Inspection of the O'Connor cemetery. Ms. Cindy Wang, Compliance Inspector will be at the Township office on September 14, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. to conduct a general inspection of the Township's books and records and to do a cemetery site inspection.

Under further new business, Council discussed the current construction delays on Highway 11/17. Currently there our waits of twenty minutes or longer and this is unacceptable. There are school buses full of school children in these lineups. Also during peak rush hours these lineups are too long. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to contact the Ministry of Transportation to see what the set standard is for traffic delays. A phone call will be made followed by a letter to the Ministry.

Issues brought forward or letters received after the agenda was mailed were read as follows:

- a) Township of Conmee requesting the appointment of one or two persons to sit on a Regional Economic Development Committee. Councillor Loan explained that at the shared services meeting that he attended, on behalf of Mayor Nelson, this topic was discussed. They would like to see all the municipalities in the rural area speaking as one voice and would like to form this committee. Council would like to speak to Mayor Nelson about this matter before any member of Council is appointed to this Committee. This matter will be brought back to the next meeting.
- b) Administration Summer Student Report was read. Staff was very pleased with Ms. Kramer's performance and would give her a high recommendation to any future employers if asked.

For information purposes building permits were approved as follows: 668 Hwy 590 – garage, 60 Whittaker Road – addition to dwelling, 201 Sitch Road – carport

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

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 10:30 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer