

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES
ROAD DEPARTMENT BUDGET MEETING – APRIL 11, 2022

Minutes of the Road Department budget meeting held on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6 p.m. in the O'Connor Council Chambers and virtually.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Handy, Loan, Racicot
Clerk-Treasurer Buob
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot

Visitors: Leadhand Kelly Johnson
Administrative Assistant Erin Laforest (virtual)

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

2. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

Mayor Vezina welcomed Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, to the meeting. The Road Department draft #1 budget was reviewed. Items were discussed line by line.

The Revenue accounts were briefly discussed. Funding will be provided once again from the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF), formally the Federal Gas Tax Fund, and the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF). As was noted in 2021, funding has been approved for the Township's garage, Shop B renovations, through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – COVID Resilience fund and the construction will take place this year. The funding will only cover a portion of the expense and Council will have to determine how the balance of the expense will be covered. Council will also be hiring a replacement Intern through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) for the Road Department. An application has been submitted to the Canada Summer Jobs Program for two summer students, however approval has not yet been announced. Additional funding, above the 2022 allocation, is also available for projects if needed from the deferred accounts for the OCIF and the CCBF. An estimate of income from ratepayer's projects was also included.

The Administration and the Building Maintenance accounts for the municipal garage were reviewed. The insurance amount presented currently only includes the prepaid. The insurance company still has to be contacted to provide an estimate for this year. The heating costs have increased significantly and are currently higher to date than the total for 2021.

In the Major Capital equipment account, Mr. Johnson has included in the notes the cost of a new combination plow and sander for Council's consideration.

As funding has been secured through the ICIP COVID stream for the replacement of a portion of the Road Department garage, Shop B will be replaced this year and the balance of the estimated expense, beyond the funding, will have to be included as a Capital – Facilities expense. No estimate has been considered at this time.

Road Employee wages and payroll costs were reviewed. It was noted that at this time no salaries for the road employees are distributed to the different departments, such as cemetery or disposal site, or to any different projects.

Mr. Johnson continued his presentation with the equipment operating costs. These costs include fuel to run the equipment, safety checks, the licence plates and CVOR for the trucks. With the increase in fuel costs the operating expense have been increased. Maintenance for each piece of equipment was also discussed. If a new truck is purchased, some of the maintenance may not be required.

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Road signs were discussed. Mr. Johnson will be purchasing more warning signs and posts for the roads.

Road Materials were discussed. The cost of gravel and calcium has once again increased from last year. Mr. Johnson has budgeting for three loads of calcium. This amount does not include the calcium used for the resurfacing projects, as that cost will be included with the project. The winter sand was purchased from the Township of Conmee last year and a portion of the expense has been deferred to this budget.

At this time no bridge repairs are being considered for 2022. Bridge and Structure Inspections will be completed this year as required. The cutting of the weeds along the sides of the roads is also included in the budget.

Under Road Projects Mr. Johnson would like to see more brushing and ditching, in areas to be determined by himself, completed under the Township’s portion of the budget. Mr. Johnson is proposing to do three gravel road resurfacing projects, including the resurfacing of portions of Connolly Road, Garbutt Road and Wheal Road. The projects will be considered under the different funding options available, as noted above.

The balance in the Reserve Funds available were also provided. The portion of the amounts equal to repayment to the Reserves for the previous purchase of the Leadhand’s 4 x 4 truck in 2019, and the grader repairs in 2021 were included, as agreed upon at previous meetings.

The budget amounts will continue to be updated as actual expenses occur. Any changes will be discussed further at the full budget meeting yet to be scheduled.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and presenting his budget.

It was

- 2. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE ROAD DEPARTMENT BUDGET MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIRTUALLY.

TIME BEING: 6:59 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer