

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – APRIL 26, 2021

Minutes of the Council meeting held virtually on April 26, 2021 at 7 p.m.

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

Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas
Paul LeBoeuf

The meeting was delayed due to internet connection issues at the Township office. Staff then left and worked from home.

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

2. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021 AND THE BUDGET MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

The visitors were recognized as being in attendance.

Fire Chief Mattas was welcomed to the meeting. The Fire Department report from March 18 to April 25, 2021 was read. There have been two calls in this time period, one fire related and one first response.

As the Fire Call was in regard to a tree on the hydro wires, Council asked the Fire Chief if we could bill Hydro One for the call. This will be looked into.

It was noted that there is still no training for the team taking place due to COVID-19.

The question of when the department members will be able to get their vaccinations was asked. Fire Chief Mattas informed Council that members will have to book their own as there is no group bookings. Mayor Vezina, the Township's representative on the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, will check with the Health Unit on this matter.

The Area's Fire and First Response Monthly Stats to March 31, 2021 were reviewed.

Fire Chief Mattas was thanked for presenting his information.

The Administration and Roads Voucher to April 26, 2021 was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2021-08 DATED APRIL 26, 2021 TOTTALLING \$59,256.52 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to March 31, 2021 were reviewed. It was noted that these reports show the total to date in each account, however they do not show a variance until the final budget for the year is set.

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – APRIL 26, 2021

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

a) City of Cambridge request for Paid Sick Leave and it was

4. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by W. Handy

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE URGING THE PREMIER OF ONTARIO TO REQUIRE ONTARIO EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE NO LESS THAN FIVE PAID SICK DAYS ANNUALLY TO WORKERS – AFTER THREE MONTHS OF EMPLOYMENT, BY AMENDING THE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ACT, 2000, AND TO PROVIDE NECESSARY FUNDING, FISCAL RELIEF AND/OR SUPPORT TO EMPLOYERS SO THAT ALL WORKERS IN ONTARIO HAVE ACCESS TO NO LESS THAN 10 PAID SICK DAYS ANNUALLY IN THE EVENT OF A DECLARED INFECTIOUS DISEASE EMERGENCY, AND ENSURE ALL ONTARIO WORKERS HAVE ACCESS TO PROTECTED AND PAID EMERGENCY LEAVE SO CARE CAN BE PROVIDED TO CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND/OR OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS WHO MAY BECOME ILL AND THAT ALL WORKERS MAY RECEIVE PAID TIME OFF TO ENABLE THEM TO RECEIVE THE COVID-19 VACCINE BE ENDORSED.

Carried

b) Township of The Archipelago regarding Road Management Action on Invasive Phragmites was filed.

c) Town of Plympton-Wyoming requesting Support for 988, a 3-Digit Suicide and Crisis Prevention Hotline. It was

5. Moved by W. Handy
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF PLYMPTON-WYOMING ENDORSING THE 988 CRISIS LINE INITIATIVE TO ENSURE CRITICAL BARRIERS ARE REMOVED TO THOSE IN CRISIS AND SEEKING HELP BE ENDORSED.

Carried

d) Town of Mono regarding Cannabis Licencing and Enforcement was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition – Minutes of the March 16, 2021 meeting.
b) Superior North Emergency Medical Service – 2021 Levy Information. The Township of O'Connor's levy for 2021 will be \$59,089, an increase of \$7,664 from 2020. Council would like to confirm how much the Township's Weighted Assessment increased from 2020. This information will be brought back to Council at the next meeting.
c) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board – Update from the Board – April 12, 2021.
d) Township of Springwater regarding Clean Fuel Standard.
e) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – i) Policy Update – April 12, 2021 – Back to Remote Learning, Connecting Links Funding, and Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act Regulation Changes.

It was noted that the Administrative Assistant did participate in the Cemeteries Workshop with regard to the changes in the Act.

- ii) Policy Update – April 14, 2021 – Municipal Code of Conduct Consultation Launched.
iii) Policy Update – April 16, 2021 – New COVID-19 Enforcement Measures and Two-Week Extension of Emergency Declaration, and Emergency Child Care.
iv) Policy Update – April 19, 2021 – Federal Budget Highlights, Revised COVID-19 Measures, and Red Tape Bill.

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – APRIL 26, 2021

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Hydro One's Community Fund Application – The Township of O'Connor was successful in their application and will receive funding in the amount of \$15,000 for a new backup generator.

The Clerk-Treasurer reported to Council that the application was originally submitted for \$25,000.00 for a backup generator for both the office and the community centre. The cost of a generator to power both buildings is significantly higher than the amount provided. It was confirmed that if Council chose to instead purchase a generator for the Township office, it would still be eligible for the funding and the price would be more in line with the funding provided. It was also suggested that administration look further into whether or not another source of funding was available if we were to move forward with both buildings. Council would also like the administration to have a Hydro One technician come out to look at our current setup to see if there is anyway to save additional monies going to one meter for all Township buildings.

- b) Councillor Loan reported on Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – Detachment - Wide Police Services Board structure. He provided an update on the matter from the Lakehead Police Services Board (LPSB) meeting held on April 14, 2021 and the meeting held on April 20, 2021 with the Solicitor General's office. There are several questions being asked of the Province and they currently do not have answers. The Thunder Bay Detachment area currently has two separate Police Services Boards and includes First Nation communities. This geographical area is massive and members do not feel that one board is acceptable. At the LPSB meeting it was suggested that the two local boards get together to discuss their options and how each would like to see this proceed. However, at the meeting with the Solicitor General, it was noted that it is not the Boards who should be submitting a decision on how the Board should be structured, it should be each individual municipality and the First Nations within the Detachment area. There is a second meeting with the Solicitor General on May 4, 2021, in which Mayor Holland, Chair of the LPSB, will be attending. There is hope that perhaps the Province will have more answers to the members questions by that time.

Councillor Loan's report also included the quarterly calls to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) for the Township of O'Connor from January to March 2021. There were eleven calls in that time period. Councillor Loan will follow up with the OPP on how many of those calls are billable to the Township.

- c) The Township of O'Connor's application to the Canada Summer Jobs program has been approved for two students. As the Township will also be applying for an intern for the Roads Department, Council was asked if they still wanted to accept both or either student position. Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, will be preparing a pros and cons report for the next meeting to discuss further with Council on the matter, if they would like to wait to make the decision. Council agreed that they would like to hear from Mr. Johnson before a final decision is made.

Under further old business, CEMC and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot reported that Ms. Laforest, Administrative Assistant and Alternate CEMC, and herself attended a virtual meeting with Sharon Bak, Field Officer from the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management with regard to the non-compliance issues for 2020. All the issues have been ironed out. Each individual Council member will now be named in the plan rather than their position and other minor changes will be made to the plan and brought to Council for approval.

Under New Business, Council discussed

- a) Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) items to discuss with Council following the April 20, 2021 meeting - i) Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day. A summary of the work to date on this event was read. A similar event was previously held in 2014. Currently the LRMC has tabled the item until fall. As the event was suggested to the group by the Clerk-Treasurer, Council was asked if they would support her continuing to get an estimate as to what a smaller scale event would cost if the members of the LRMC are not interested in moving forward in the fall. After

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – APRIL 26, 2021

discussion on the matter it was agreed to have the Clerk-Treasurer move forward with getting a better estimate as to what an event would cost.

- ii) Primary Health Care in Kakabeka Falls. Recently the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge was approached by the owners of the Evergreen Pharmacy looking for assistance in establishing primary care in Kakabeka Falls. Oliver Paipoonge is currently working with the owners to draft a primary care needs assessment survey and they are looking for support on the initiative from the LRMC member municipalities. Council agreed that this is a fantastic idea and they would be willing to support the initiative.
- iii) Tbaytel regarding the LRMC's funding application for Broadband in the member communities. The members have been requested to submit letters to the local MP and MPPS with regard to the funding application encourage them to support the applications in any way they can. Council agreed to have the Clerk-Treasurer send letters.
- iv) Lakehead University – Message from the President regarding The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM). The Ontario government has decided to sever the NOSM from Lakehead University and Laurentian University. Lakehead University is requesting municipalities support to inform the Ontario government that we must keep medical education at Lakehead. Council agreed that this is very important and will have comments submitted.
- b) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – Copy of letter to Minister Ross Romano, Ministry of Colleges and Universities regarding The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM).
- c) Michael Gravelle, MPP, copy of letter submitted to Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and the Honourable Ross Romano, Ministry of Colleges and Universities regarding the NOMA letter to Minister Romano regarding the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.
- d) A meeting date for a Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) program committee meeting and review of Emergency Plan was discussed and it was

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

THAT THE FOLLOWING DATE AND TIME BE SET FOR A MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY CONTROL GROUP (MECG) PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING AND TRAINING.

MAY 17, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

THE MEETING WILL BE VIRTUALLY HELD FROM THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Carried

- e) Marcus Powlowski, MP, Thunder Bay – Rainy River regarding a new Infrastructure Funding Opportunity: Green and Inclusive Community Building Program. It was agreed that no application will be submitted to this program.

For information purposes, no building permits were approved since the last meeting.

- 7. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON MAY 10, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

TIME BEING: 9:13 P.M.

Carried