

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – JULY 8, 2024

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, July 8, 2024 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Rea, Sobolta, Torkkeli
Clerk-Treasurer Buob

Visitors: Fire Chief Greg Biloski
Road Superintendent Kelly Johnson
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Laforest

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Moved by Brendan Rea
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 J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2024 AND THE NOTES FROM THE DEPUTY TREASURER INTERVIEWS MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

The visitors were asked if they wished to address Council on any personal matters and they replied, no.

Fire Chief Biloski was welcomed to the table. Fire Chief Biloski provided a verbal Fire Department Report and apologized for not submitting a written report. There was one First Response call since the last meeting. Fire Chief Biloski and one member, Brittany Dumoulin, are currently taking the Auto ex course through the Oliver Paipoonge Regional Training Centre (RTC), with the hands-on portion of the training being held last weekend and this upcoming weekend. It is a very good course and they have learned a lot. While at the course, Fire Chief Biloski inquired into how to find more information on what is required for each course prior to logging onto the course, to allow more time to prepare. He has been informed of a library list on the RTC's website which describes what is required for each course. The Department will consider using Auxiliary funds to purchase some of the common training manuals for the courses to have on hand.

Fire Con will be held in Thunder Bay on September 6 – 8, 2024 and Fire Chief Biloski wanted Council to know that the tradeshow is open for anyone if they would like to stop in and check it out. Registration closes this Friday for the courses and currently no members from the Township are registered. There was one course that he was interested in, however he couldn't fit it into his schedule.

Fire Chief Biloski also noted that July 2026 is the deadline for members to be certified in Firefighter I and II. The RTC would look at holding another NFPA 1006 CPV Auto ex course this year if more people showed interest. He also noted that while our current Fire Services By-law does not say that the Township offers HazMat, it was brought to his attention during the Auto ex course, that without the HazMat training the certification of the FFII training is not complete.

The Fire and First Response calls from January to May 2024 were reviewed for the surrounding municipalities. The Township of O'Connor has had five medical calls and six fire calls in that time.

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The Automatic Aid Agreement with the Nolalu Emergency Services Team was reviewed. Fire Chief Biloski would like to request that Council defer entering into an Agreement at this time. He will be meeting with the Fire Chief's of the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) to discuss entering into agreements on July 9, 2024, and he would like to see what comes out of that meeting first. Council agreed to defer this item until a later date.

The Minutes of the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary meetings for December 12, 2023, March 12, 2024, and April 9, 2024, were read. No questions were asked regarding the minutes.

Fire Chief Biloski left the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Kelly Johnson, Road Superintendent, was welcomed to the table. A Road Department update and roadwork in general was discussed. The employees have been grading the roads and dealing with a couple of washouts due to broken beaver dams. There have also been trees blown down with the recent high winds. He has not started to apply any dust control to date as the rain has been controlling the dust. They have been cleaning up the area behind the cold storage building for the new generators and propane tank. The summer student started today. The trucks will be safetied this month.

The Loghrin Road resurfacing project was discussed. Mr. Johnson spoke with the contractor on July 5th, and they are hoping to start the project within two weeks. It was noted that more gravel may be needed on Loghrin Road for shouldering.

Council asked Mr. Johnson about the dead Jackpine trees in the O'Connor Cemetery. There is concern that the trees could take out power lines. Mr. Johnson noted that they will be looking into taking some trees down and doing some pruning of others in the cemetery this summer.

Mr. Johnson asked Council about the surplus tables left from O'Connor Day, which are currently stored in the annex building. The tables are heavy, and the wood is deteriorating. The Township has in the past advertised them as surplus and there was no interest. Mr. Johnson would like to pull the wood seats off and put the metal into the scrap metal bin. Council agreed to get rid of these tables.

Council agreed to move Item 13. Tenders and Quotes, forward on the agenda, to open while Mr. Johnson was present.

One quote was received and opened for weed/grass cutting on the sides of the roads. Council has in the past two years cut this line item out of the budget, however agreed that they do need to do it this year as the brush is also starting to grow in and is getting close to the road as a result. It was

3. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Brendan Rea

THAT THE QUOTE OF DANIEL VANLENTH MECHANICAL TO CUT THE WEEDS ON THE SIDES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR ROADS AT A COST OF \$4,500 + HST BE ACCEPTED.

WORK TO BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 19, 2024.

Carried

The Tenders for an Electrical Contractor to purchase and install backup generators and automatic transfer switches for the Township Garage and Fire Hall and a transfer switch from the Township Office current generator to the O'Connor Community Centre were opened. Four tenders were received. It was

4. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by J. Sobolta

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THAT THE TENDER OF GILBERT ELECTRIC, ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR, TO SUPPLY AND INSTALL TWO PROPANE POWERED BACKUP GENERATORS WITH AUTOMATIC TRANSFER SWITCHES, ONE FOR THE GARAGE AND ONE FOR THE FIRE HALL; AND ONE ADDITIONAL TRANSFER SWITCH AND JUNCTION BOX AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE TO SUPPLY BACKUP POWER TO THE O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE AT A COST OF \$27,532.66 PLUS INSPECTIONS AND HST BE ACCEPTED.

Carried

Additional work to prepare the site will be completed by the Road Employees.

Council has, during budget discussions, discussed the possibility of cutting the wood off the piece of property owned by the Township of O'Connor on Connolly Road to help bring in some income. The Clerk-Treasurer has reached out to a couple of companies to inquire what this might be worth. The information was discussed, and Council do feel that it would be worth pursuing. Council would like the Clerk-Treasurer to follow up further with the local residents in the forestry business to see if they may also be interested in providing a quote to ensure that it is a fair process, and the Township receives the highest revenue possible for the wood. Additional information will be brought back to the next meeting for acceptance of a proposal.

Mr. Johnson left the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Council agreed to move the Closed portion of the meeting forward on the agenda as it could affect the 2024 budget final numbers. It was

5. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Brendan Rea

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: 8:04 P.M.

Carried

The Deputy Treasurer position and interviews were discussed.

6. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by A. Crane

TIME BEING: 8:26 P.M.

THAT WE NOW MOVE TO OPEN MEETING.

Carried

The Administration and Roads Voucher was reviewed, and it was

7. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Brendan Rea

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2024-13 DATED JULY 8, 2024 TOTALLING \$72,215.44 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to June 30, 2024, was unavailable.

The Draft #3 Budget was presented to Council. The Clerk-Treasurer has made some changes from the previous meeting and confirmed all funding and project costs. The actual amounts of the tenders and quotes opened this meeting were adjusted from the estimates. Other line items were adjusted to lower the percentage increase as much as

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possible. Council agreed to finalize the budget with a 10.9% levy increase. The tax rates required for this increase were confirmed for the passing of the tax rate by-law later in the meeting.

The By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

a) Administrative Report required Disclosure Regarding Budget Impacts as Per Ontario Regulation 284/09. It was

8. Moved by Brendan Rea
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT DATED JULY 8, 2024 ENTITLED REQUIRED DISCLOSURE REGARDING BUDGET IMPACTS AS PER ONTARIO REGULATION 284/09 BE ADOPTED AS READ.

Carried

b) By-law Number 2024-20 – Being a By-law to establish the tax ratios for the year 2024. The Clerk-Treasurer confirmed that the tax ratios are currently at the maximum amounts and there is no room to change them, and it was

9. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2024-20 BEING A BY-LAW TO ESTABLISH THE TAX RATIOS FOR THE YEAR OF 2024 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

c) By-law Number 2024-21 – Being a By-law to adopt the estimates of all sums required during the year 2024 for the general purposes of the municipality, and to strike the levy for the year 2024 and to provide for the adoption of tax rates and to further provide for penalty and interest in default of payment thereof for 2024 and it was

10. Moved by Carly Torkkeli
Seconded by Brendan Rea

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2024-21 BEING A BY-LAW TO ADOPT THE ESTIMATES OF ALL SUMS REQUIRED DURING THE YEAR 2024 FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSES OF THE MUNICIPALITY, AND TO STRIKE THE LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2024 AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF TAX RATES AND TO FURTHER PROVIDE FOR PENALTY AND INTEREST IN DEFAULT OF PAYMENT THEREOF FOR 2024 BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

d) By-law Number 2024-22 – Being a By-law to amend By-law Number 2024-05, being a By-law Regulating the Running at Large and Controlling of Dogs. Amendments were made to the By-law as per the requirements of the Ministry of Attorney General regarding the fines, and as per the request of the By-law Enforcement/POA Officer regarding some of the definitions. It was

11. Moved by Brendan Rea
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2024-22 BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW NUMBER 2024-05 BEING A BY-LAW REGULATING THE RUNNING AT LARGE AND CONTROLLING OF DOGS BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

e) By-law Number 2024-23 – Being a By-law authorizing the execution of an Agreement for Automatic Aid with the Nolalu Emergency Services Team Inc. was

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deferred as per the Fire Chief's request. The By-law Number will be removed and used for the next By-law to be approved this evening.

- f) By-law Number 2024-24 – Being a by-law to appoint community representatives to the Lakehead OPP Detachment Board. The By-law Number was amended to 2024-23, as noted above. As per the Board's recommendations the representatives Ralph Falcioni and Lisa Laitinen-Egbuchulam were approved by Council.
12. Moved by J. Sobolta
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2024-23 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LAKEHEAD OPP DETACHMENT BOARD BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan regarding Regulations for the Importation and Safe Use of Lithium-ion Batteries was filed.
b) Township of Puslinch requesting for Royal Assent of Administrative Monetary Penalty System in the Ontario Building Code Act was filed.

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Ministry of Transportation providing Notice of Construction Highway 588 Double Surface Treatment.
b) Treasury Board Secretariat regarding Engagement on Proposed Modernization of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.
The balance of the correspondence was passed around the table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed the following:

- a) Clerk-Treasurer provided a Report regarding the Blaikie Road residents plumbing matter. Mr. Ostrowski, CBO, has spoken with the homeowner and informed them there is no order that the Township can issue in regard to his concerns.

Under Further Old Business, Councillor Crane again noted his concern for the continued power outages in the Township. The Clerk-Treasurer has been asked to send a letter to Hydro One requesting an explanation for these outages.

Under Further New Business, the Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that a resident has asked permission to make small paint markings on the concrete rink surface for a pickleball court, so they do not have to measure each time they come to play. Council would like to suggest something less permanent and suggested using duct tape. This information will be passed on to the resident.

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

- a) North Superior Workforce Planning Board regarding the Recruitment of New Board of Directors. No one on Council was interested in putting their name forward at this time.

13. Moved by Brendan Rea
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

TIME BEING: 9:45 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer