

## TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES BUDGET MEETING – APRIL 22, 2024

Minutes of the Road Department Budget meeting held on Monday, April 22, 2024 at 6 p.m. in the O'Connor Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Vezina  
Councillors: Crane, Rea, Sobolta, Torkkeli  
Clerk-Treasurer Buob  
Road Superintendent Kelly Johnson

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. Moved by J. Sobolta  
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

**THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.**

Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none.

Mr. Johnson was welcomed to the table to present the Road Department Draft #1 budget. Mr. Johnson went through the budget line by line. In the Road employee training, it was noted that as the Township will have a new hire coming on board and this amount could change depending on what training will be required for them. The insurance included in the draft budget included the prepaid amounts paid in 2023 for 2024 coverage and an estimated 5% increase for the balance of 2024. Mr. Johnson explained his plans for the building repairs and maintenance. As the funding for a new generator has been approved for the both the garage and the fire hall, excavation, and protection of the generator are included, as well as new lighting in the old portion of the garage, similar to those installed in Shop B, as it is a Health and Safety concern. The Annex building sign storage area will be repaired this year, however until the employees take it apart, they will not know the extent of the repairs, so only an estimate is included at this time.

The loan payments for both the Truck #10 and Shop B, principal only, are included in line 5330. The interest on the loan is in an administrative account.

Mr. Johnson explained his concerns with the box on Truck #9 and his option to repair or replace it. At this time, he has included the cost to repair only. Under Minor Capital a new riding lawnmower is included.

The employee wages are currently based on the current wage. It was noted that Union negotiations will take place this year and the wages will most likely increase.

The equipment operating and maintenance costs were discussed. Mr. Johnson informed Council that two of the half load restriction signs posted along Highway 590 were recently stolen and will have to be replaced. Also, one road name sign has also gone missing.

Road Materials - Gravel includes the royalty fee charged for the pit in Marks Township that the Township has the right to, as well as gravel used for flood repairs and miscellaneous maintenance. Mr. Johnson has currently budgeted for three loads of calcium dust control, with additional calcium costs included in the roads resurfacing projects. Winter sand and salt was purchased in 2023 from the Township of Conmee. The order was to cover two winter season and the costs of the sand, salt, hauling of salt and the screening were originally broken down to be  $\frac{1}{4}$  in the fall/winter of 2023 calendar year,  $\frac{1}{2}$  year for the 2024 spring and fall/winter season and  $\frac{1}{4}$  for the spring of 2025. As a result of the limited use of materials this past winter season, it was agreed to change the ratio of costs for 2024 and 2025 to divide the balance of the prepaid expense equally for each year.

The bridge repairs were discussed. Each of the three bridges will require some guideposts changed out this year. Some of the railings may also need to be replaced. It was suggested that Mr. Johnson contact Wilco to see if they might have some good,

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used rails. Under the "Roads Other" account Mr. Johnson has included the bridge and structure bi-annual inspection, weed cutting on the sides of the roads and the cutting down of three large spruce trees close to the annex building on Broome Road, which were cut down today.

The Road Project #1 will once again be brushing and ditching, in locations as determined by the Road Superintendent. Funding program projects were discussed. It was noted that the Township was successful in getting one summer student for the Road Department, which is included in the budget. Under the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) and Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) he has included the resurfacing of 3.2km of Garbutt Road, and 1.6km of Pool Road, as well as the installation of four new culverts. Under the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) Loghrin Road was once again discussed. As this fund has restrictions on how it is to be spent, it was agreed in the past that the funding would be used on the Loghrin Road road surface. Discussions in the past included the options of resurfacing with asphalt, chip seal or keeping gravel with calcium. In 2023 an additional lift of gravel was put on the road as it would be required for either of the other two options. Mr. Johnson informed Council that he has spoken with several people who have discouraged him from surfacing the road with chip seal. With the heavy truck traffic on the road and turning on and off of the road with these trucks they do not feel that it will last. Mr. Johnson provided an estimated cost for asphalt for the full distance of the road. The amount is higher than what is currently available in the fund, however, there is another installment of funding coming in 2025. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact NORDS and confirm if the Township can put the funds received next year towards the project if it is completed this year. Additional funding from the CCBF could also be used to cover the costs if NORDS will allow. The funding options will be looked into further and discussed further at the next budget meeting. Mr. Johnson will continue to confirm what would be required if the Township was to move forward this year with an asphalt surface on Loghrin Road. It was also noted that if the road was asphalted additional maintenance would be required for shouldering and dressing of the driveways. The Shop B renovation project has been completed and the final claim for funding has been submitted.

Mayor Vezina asked Council if they had any questions regarding the budget to this point. No questions arose.

The Five-Year Road Plan for 2024 – 2028 was reviewed. It was noted that the NORDS project in the plan will be amended upon Council's final decision on how it will be surfaced.

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

2. Moved by Brendan Rea  
Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

**THAT THE BUDGET MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 22, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE O'CONNOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

**TIME BEING: 7:10 P.M.**

Carried

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer