

MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
February 22, 2011

PRESENT: Reeve Kevin Holland
Councillor Grant Arnold
Councillor Mary-Lynne Hunt
Councillor Robert MacMaster
Councillor Robert Rydholm

ALSO PRESENT: John Rafferty, MP, Brenda Spithoff, Township Resident,
Dawn Niemi, Deputy-Treasurer

ABSENT:

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Reeve Holland called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Resolution No. 2011-36

Moved by Councillor Rydholm

Seconded by Councillor Arnold

THAT the Meeting Agenda be adopted as prepared.

CARRIED.

3. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest on the part of any member of Council present.

4. **DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS**

4.1 John Rafferty – MP

Mr. Rafferty attended the Council meeting to discuss matters of mutual interest. Mr. Rafferty mentioned his request to the Minister of Finance to fund volunteer firefighters, as well as Bill C501 which attempted to protect worker's pensions, but has been reduced to a severance and termination bill .

Reeve Holland noted that it is not just fire departments that are struggling and that Townships need to get back to core services. As has been noted before, "one size does not fit all" when it comes to government policies and procedures. Reeve Holland noted that a "Rural" ministry would be appropriate to deal with concerns of areas with a population of 10,000 or less.

Mr. Rafferty agreed that the north, and small rural townships are not well represented. Mr. Rafferty noted that he has a minute to speak in the House and would like us to send him some "talking points" on our concerns.

Reeve Holland advised that the restrictions on the use of Gas Tax Funds are not appropriate to our size of Township, and that the requirement to prove a "greenhouse gas emissions" savings makes it difficult to use the money for what is needed.

Reeve Holland also noted that money was needed for social housing, and that the native population should have a seat at the table, as well as bring funding.

Mr. Rafferty noted that that the Federal Government often gives the Province money that is supposed to be spent on one thing but the Province spends it on another.

Reeve Holland thanked Mr. Rafferty for attending and advised that we would probably have him back again once the new Council has had an opportunity to review operations.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Resolution No. 2011-37

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on February 8, 2011 be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

The Resolution numbers were corrected.

Resolution No. 2011-38

Moved by Councillor Rydholm
Seconded by Councillor Arnold

THAT the Minutes of the Closed Meeting of Council held on February 8, 2011 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

6. REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

6.1 Road Superintendent's Report - filed
- Landfill Report – not at this meeting

6.2 Fire Chief's Report – not at this meeting

6.3 Clerk's Report
- Clerk's report on attendance at Essentials of Fire Protection Seminar

Council requested that this report be brought back to Council when they do the department review.

-Update on Recreation Committee

The Committee will be formed with 3 people. Council will set a representative to this Committee. Their first function is planned for Easter.

Deputy-Treasurer's Report

The Deputy-Treasurer provided Council with information on banking fees and interest. None of our accounts at our current bank earn interest. The bank also charges a fee to make a deposit. Mrs. Niemi provided a chart of the different banks and their fees. It was apparent that the Credit Union could provide the best value for our money. Council requested that the Deputy-Treasurer get a service agreement from the Credit Union for their review.

6.4 Councillor Reports

Reeve Holland gave an overview of his activities over the last two weeks. The DSSAB Board passed their budget even though Reeve Holland voted against it. There were no questions asked of Staff regarding the budget at this meeting. There was a 1.2 million surplus in 2010. Reeve Holland also noted that the staff were recommending that DSSAB access more Provincial funding dollars, however, this means that the municipal partners would also have to increase funding. Reeve Holland has been asked by the Council for Gillies Township to attend a meeting in March to discuss the DSSAB issues.

Reeve Holland noted that the OPP have advised of a rash of break and enters to vehicles on Hume Road.

Reeve Holland advised that Mr. Mauro will be unable to meet with the Township prior to OGRA/ROMA.

Council was advised that we have received an audience with the Minister of Transportation at OGRA/ROMA. Reeve Holland provided Council with an overview of the presentation that will be made to the Minister.

Councillor MacMaster presented a report on ROMA. He noted that ROMA appears to be closely affiliated with AMO, and that their main focus appears to be agricultural areas in Southern Ontario. Councillor MacMaster noted that there is no clear definition of "rural", and that for ROMA it seems to mean agricultural areas. Councillor MacMaster advised that we should be seeking a stronger representation on ROMA for northern municipalities. Zone 9, of which we are part, has 159 municipalities and only one representative. Councillor MacMaster also advised that ROMA appears to be an extension of AMO and that we should become more familiar with the Caucus system used by AMO.

Councillor Arnold provided an update on LRCA activities. Councillor Arnold noted that the February 3 meeting, held to discuss the new building, did not meet the objectives. There are two municipalities objecting to the new building. Councillor Arnold advised that he feels it may take some time to gather the property information requested.

Reeve Holland questioned Councillor Arnold on reports that the LRCA had approached the City for a 43% budget increase. Councillor Arnold replied that this was related to the source water protection group. Reeve Holland questioned whether the LRCA had considered housing the source water protection in a City owned building, or in Oliver Paipoonge since these are the municipalities that benefit from it.

7. **DISBURSEMENT LIST**

Disbursement List No 2B 2011

Resolution No. 2011-39

Moved by **Councillor Rydholm**
Seconded by **Councillor Arnold**

THAT the accounts in the amount of \$56,341.59 as per Disbursement List No. 2B 2011 be approved for payment.

CARRIED.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 ATV By-law No. 986

Resolution No. 2011-40

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

THAT the Reeve and Clerk be authorized to affix their signatures to By-law No. 986, being a By-law to permit ATV's on Township Roads.

CARRIED.

8.2 Response from MMAH re Resolution on MPMP Reporting – filed

8.3 Response from Minister Wynne re Highway – filed

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Planning Workshop – deferred

9.2 Request for Support of Bill 130 from Township Resident

Resolution No. 2011-41

Moved by Councillor Rydholm
Seconded by Councillor Arnold

THAT the Council for the Township of Conmee supports Bill 130, being an Act to prohibit insurers from using, in respect of personal property insurance, a person's credit history or rating as grounds for declining to issue, terminating or refusing to renew a contract or refusing to provide or continue any coverage or endorsement in respect of a contract, or classifying risks in the determination of rates for a coverage or category of insurance.

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to our local MP and the other Townships for support.

CARRIED.

9.3 AMO Alert re Gas Tax Fund – Eligible Categories – filed

9.4 Request for Support re Thunder Bay Ag. Research Station – deferred

9.5 Northwest Response Forum – Conference - filed

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Letter from Bill Mauro, MPP to Min of Finance re Fire Departments – filed

10.2 Province Introducing New Ontario Works Funding Model – filed

10.3 LRCA Minutes – December 8, 2011 - filed

11. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 2011-42

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

THAT we do now adjourn this meeting at 9:42 pm.
CARRIED.

Reeve

Clerk