

MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

April 12, 2011

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

ALSO PRESENT: Ken Malinoski, Road Superintendent, Aime Spencer, Fire Chief

ABSENT:

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Resolution No. 2011- 57

Moved by Councillor Rydholm
Seconded by Councillor Hunt

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 Mr. Hill – did not attend

5. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Resolution No. 2011-58

Moved by Councillor Rydholm
Seconded by Councillor Arnold

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on March 22, 2011 be approved as amended.
CARRIED.

The word “long” was changed to “longer” 4.1.

6. **REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICERS**

6.1 Road Superintendent’s Report

The Road Superintendent advised that there was a water problem on Hume Road East near the intersection of Torrie Road. Water is running onto the road because the system forces a 90 degree turn, and during high water times, the water does not always flow the way it should. Council will discuss this matter further on road inspection.

Council requested the Road Superintendent to research costs to float the equipment to town rather than drive it when repairs are needed. Council also discussed the Road Department capital budget, and requested that the Road Superintendent provide them with some ideas of what he will need in the up-coming term as well as prices for this equipment. This discussion was the result of information provided by the Road Superintendent that the 951B at the landfill has been down all winter and is still causing trouble. It may be time to replace the machine rather than spend any more time or money on repairs.

The landfill report was discussed, and it was noted that the landfill should be the first department review due to operational issues.

6.2 Fire Chief's Report

Chief Spencer provided his January, February and March reports and apologized for their lateness, due to computer problems. Chief Spencer thanked Council for the approval to purchase a new pump before the budget was finalized.

Chief Spencer provided a short history of the radio and paging systems, with an explanation of why the Township is being charged for fire department callouts. When the Ministry of Health requested Fire Departments to set up First Response teams, they provided assistance in setting up the system and began calling out the teams. This somehow expanded to include the fire department calls. In 2008, the Ministry of Health was doing some routine upgrades to the equipment, when someone started questioning why the Ministry was paying for our radio equipment and the callouts. From there, the Ministry determined that they would continue to call out first response for free, but would charge the departments for fire calls. The Zone was required to upgrade the equipment at that time. Currently, there appears to be uncertainty over whether the fire departments will be allowed to use the low band frequency or will have to use a high band which would require changing all pagers and radios.

Chief Spencer noted the department is in complete compliance with all of the Fire Marshal's training and competency requirements. The department is in good shape overall.

Chief Spencer noted that they have begun to groom the next Chief and Deputy-Chief as both the current Chief and Deputy are planning retirement.

Reeve Holland thanked Chief Spencer for the update.

6.3 Clerk's Reports

Clerk's Report on Attendance at EMO Annual Meeting – filed

Clerk's Report on Attendance at Planning Workshop – filed

Clerk's Report on Attendance at Recreation Meeting – filed

Deputy-Treasurer's Report on Banking Needs

Resolution No. 2011-59

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

THAT the staff be directed to move the Township Accounts from the Royal Bank of Canada to the Provincial Alliance Credit Union – Kakabeka Falls Branch.

CARRIED.

- 6.4 Reeve Holland provided an update on his activities, including a meeting with the Council of Gillies Township regarding the DSSAB. Reeve Holland also attended the NOSDA conference in Sudbury on behalf of DSSAB. Reeve Holland noted he had raised the issue of having representation from the Native community at the DSAAB Board, since the largest growing population of clients at DSSAB are native. Along with this representation there needs to be funding as well. Currently, our tax dollars are given to the Native bands to take care of their people, but if they leave the reserve and come to Thunder Bay, we pay again because they come into our Social Services system. Reeve Holland noted that although this idea originally met with some opposition, it appears as though a representative of NOSDA took the suggestion to heart and will review the issue.

Reeve Holland also provided a suggestion that a “Rural” Ministry should be established to oversee communities with a population of 10,000 or less, as it seems that the only focus on rural affairs by the Province pertains to agriculture.

Reeve Holland also would like to see an organization representing the region of Kakabeka Falls. A web site could be established to promote the region and the area municipalities.

Reeve Holland also spoke about what has happened recently regarding the Highway Upgrade and noted that a newsletter article should be circulated to update the residents.

Councillor MacMaster provided Council with information on solar panels. He noted that there are other options for panels than the ones used by Solar Logix. Councillor MacMaster also noted that there are issues with power loss through inverters and lines, so there may not be as much power generated as was claimed by the company. Solar panels have an efficiency rating of approximately 18%, with the losses noted above bringing the efficiency down to 15%.

Councillor MacMaster noted that solar power is not as “green” as its proponents would have you believe, since there is significant greenhouse gas emissions in the making, using, and decommissioning of solar panels. Councillor MacMaster also noted that turbine power (either wind or water) is probably the best system with lowest costs and a longer life.

Councillor MacMaster also provide a short explanation on the core elements of electrical systems, along with the common symbols used.

Councillor Hunt provided information on her attendance along with the Clerk at the Planning Workshop held in Thunder Bay, as well as her attendance as Council representative to the Recreation Committee.

All reports are on file in the office.

7. DISBURSEMENT LIST

Disbursement List No 04A, 2011

Resolution No. 2011- 60

Moved by Councillor Rydholm
Seconded by Councillor Arnold

THAT the accounts in the amount of \$54,193.28 as per Disbursement List No. 04 2011 be approved for payment.

CARRIED.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 By-law No. 988 – Tax Ratios

Resolution No. 2011-61

Moved by Councillor MacMaster
Seconded by Councillor Rydholm

THAT the Reeve and Clerk be authorized on behalf of the Township of Conmee to affix their signatures to By-law No. 988, being a by-law to establish the 2011 Tax Ratios.

CARRIED.

8.2 Waste Recycling Plan – deferred

8.3 Solar Logix – deferred

8.4 Statement of Administrative Responsibility/Management Letter

Resolution No. 2011-62

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Arnold

THAT the Reeve and Clerk be authorize to affix their signatures on behalf of the Township of Conmee to the Statement of Administrative Responsibility letters from Grant Thornton, Township Auditors.

CARRIED.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 LRCA Levy Request

Council had some questions regarding the LRCA budget and deferred this item to the next meeting when Councillor Arnold is in attendance.

9.2 SolPowered Energy Corp – filed

9.3 Clerk's Request to Attend Manager's & Supervisors Conference

Resolution No. 2011-63

Moved by Councillor MacMaster
Seconded by Councillor Hunt

THAT the Clerk be authorized to attend the Manager's and Supervisors conference to be held on June 24, 2011 at the Prince Arthur Hotel.

CARRIED.

9.4 Clerk's Request to Attend Zone 9 AMCTO Spring Meeting - Terrace Bay May 4th and 5th

Resolution No. 2011-64

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

THAT the Clerk be authorized to attend the AMCTO Zone 9 Spring Conference to be held May 4th and 5th, 2011 in Terrace Bay.

CARRIED.

9.5 National Heritage Information Exchange Agreement

Resolution No. 2011-65

Moved by **Councillor Arnold**
Seconded by **Councillor Hunt**

THAT the Reeve and Clerk be authorized on behalf of the Township of Conmee to affix their signatures to the National Heritage Information Exchange Agreement between the Township of Conmee and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

CARRIED.

9.6 Resolution Support Request

Resolution No. 2011-66

Moved by **Councillor Rydholm**
Seconded by **Councillor MacMaster**

THAT the Township of Conmee supports the resolution from Halton Region regarding returning a portion of the HST collected on gasoline and diesel to the municipalities;

AND THAT this support be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation and our local MP.

CARRIED.

9.7 Motocross Race Dates – filed

Resolution No. 2011-68

Moved by **Councillor Rydholm**
Seconded by **Councillor Hunt**

THAT we extend this meeting time past 9:30 pm.

CARRIED.

9.8 Dinner with Tim Hudak

Resolution No. 2011-68

Moved by **Councillor Rydholm**
Seconded by **Councillor Hunt**

THAT the following persons be authorized to attend a dinner with PC leader Tim Hudak on April 20, 2011.

Reeve Holland, Councillor Rydholm

CARRIED.

Reeve Holland made it clear that the fee for this dinner would be the responsibility of those attending.

9.9 Resolution Support Request – Township of Ignace – Emergency Medical Services Funding – deferred.

9.10 MNDMF – Summer Student Program – filed

9.11 Public Services Health and Safety Association

Resolution No. 2011-69

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

THAT the Clerk be authorized to sign the letter from Loieuse Logan, President and CEO of the Public Services Health and Safety Association and that the Township commits to working with the organization on matters of health and safety.

CARRIED.

9.12 MNR Forest Operations Review – filed

9.13 Northwestern Fur Trappers Association Inc. – deferred

9.14 Resolution Support Request re Township of Terrace Bay – Improving Highways

Resolution No. 2011-70

Moved by Councillor Arnold
Seconded by Councillor Rydholm

THAT the Council for the Township of Conmee supports the resolution from the Township of Terrace Bay regarding upgrading of roads. (copy attached.)

CARRIED.

9.15 NOMA Call for Nominations – filed

9.16 2009 OMPF Reconciliation – filed

9.17 Thunder Bay Mayor`s Breakfast – filed

9.18 Lakehead Rural Planning Board Agreement – filed

9.19 Local Services Board of Nolalu re Jr. Fire Cadet Program - filed

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Letter from AbiBow re Certified Forest Areas – table file

10.2 Ontario Heritage Trust – Nominations for Volunteer Recognition Program – table file

10.3 Letter from Ministry of Infrastructure re Ontario's 10 year Plan – table file

10.4 Canada Post Literacy Awards – table file

10.5 North of Superior Tourism Association – Board Members Needed – table file

10.6 Minutes – LRCA Source Protection Committee – March 2, 2011 – table file

10.7 Minutes – LRCA – February 23, 2011 – table file

10.8 Mun. Of Shuniah – Resolution Support re Bill 130 (Use of Private Information for Insurance)- table file

10.9 Township of Gillies – Resolution Support re Bill 130 – table file

10.10 Drinking Water Guide – table file

Resolution No. 2011-71

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

THAT we do now adjourn to a closed session to discuss personnel issues at 9:53 pm.

CARRIED.

Council discussed personnel issues relating to workplace violence and harassment.

Resolution No. 2011-72

Moved by **Councillor Hunt**
Seconded by **Councillor Rydholm**

THAT we do now adjourn the Closed Session and return to the Open Session at 10:26 pm.

CARRIED.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 2011-73

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

THAT we do now adjourn this meeting at 10:27 pm.

CARRIED.

Reeve

Clerk