

MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

August 9, 2011

PRESENT: Reeve Kevin Holland
Councillor Robert MacMaster
Councillor Robert Rydholm

ALSO PRESENT: Ken Malinoski Road Superintendent, Norm Gale, Superior North EMS, Agata Doucette, HAGI

ABSENT: Councillor Grant Arnold, Councillor Mary-Lynne Hunt

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Resolution No. 2011- 132

Moved by Councillor MacMaster

Seconded by Councillor Rydholm

THAT the Meeting Agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

The Meeting Agenda was amended by adding a Closed Session to discuss and issue about an identifiable individual.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Reeve Holland declared a pecuniary interest in 7.2, the Disbursement List, as well as with one item on the Clerk's Report regarding the office upgrade. Drawings for the upgrade were produced by Reeve Holland's spouse.

4. DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS

4.1 Norm Gale, Superior North EMS

Mr. Gale attended the meeting to advise Council on the progress of the strategic planning which SNEMS has been engaged in. Mr. Gale advised that SNEMS is the result of the amalgamation of several different agencies in 2001. The current ambulance deployment is based on historical factors and no one knows how or why the ambulance bases were placed where they are now.

Mr. Gale noted that patient outcomes are the paramount consideration when doing this strategic planning. Mr. Gale provided call statistics that show a 70% increase in 911 calls since 2001. He also agreed that the closure of hospital beds for mental health and drug addiction has compounded this problem as an ambulance is often called to put these people into the hospital since there is nowhere else for them to go.

Mr. Gale advised that his goal is a 6 to 8 minute response time. Currently the response time is closer to 10 to 11 minutes. Reeve Holland noted that if the response time is modeled on a Southern Ontario response time, it may be impossible to achieve this because of the geography of Northwestern Ontario and the vast distances that must be covered.

Mr. Gale noted another problem is the off-load delay at the hospital. If the hospital staff are too busy to admit a patient, the paramedics must stay with them. An off-load delay may be 30 minutes or more. Mr. Gale advised that more paramedics are required.

Mr. Gale advised that a study shows that currently paramedics in rural stations use only 9% of their on-duty time for actual patient services. The strategic review will study ways that the paramedics could be used for health services other than ambulance transportation. Flu shots would be one possible task they could perform.

Mr. Gale advised that each ambulance station costs approximately \$649,000 per year to operate, with the Province providing ½ the funding and the member municipalities the other half.

Mr. Gale advised that he will be making a report to the Thunder Bay City Council on September 12 regarding his findings and recommendations. Mr. Gale noted he does not want to increase or decrease the number of stations but that the current stations may need to be re-deployed. Mr. Gale advised that SNEMS is owned by the City of Thunder Bay, and he is a City employee, however he feels there should be some accountability to the other municipalities that use the service. It was suggested that a Committee similar to the current Community Policing Advisory Committee could be developed.

Reeve Holland noted that the rural areas pay their share of the costs for the ambulance service, and that they should not lose service in order to lower the response time in Thunder Bay. The ambulance based in Conmee Township currently responds to calls in the City if all City ambulances are busy, and in fact, can be “staged” at Twin City Crossroads if needed in order to respond faster to the City. This increases the response time to the rural areas.

Mr. Gale noted there will probably be a budget increase in 2012.

Reeve Holland questioned whether any political action was needed to assist SNEMS with funding or other issues. Mr. Gale responded that the non-urgent patient transfer issue is still a problem. He noted that they have always provided this service, however since the call volume for 911 calls has increased there is a time problem now. Mr. Gale noted it is not SNEMS responsibility to do non-urgent patient transfers and he could stop immediately, but that would only hurt the patients.

Reeve Holland thanked Mr. Gale for attending the meeting.

4.2 Agata Doucette – HAGI Community Services for Independence

Ms. Doucette attended the meeting to provide information on the services that HAGI provides to the City, and to see if those services could be extended to the Rural areas. Ms. Doucette provided an overview of the HAGI services, such as how clients book trips and the costs involved as well as the Wilderness Discovery Centre at Shebandowan and the Assisted Living housing in Thunder Bay.

Reeve Holland questioned what Ms. Doucette would like to see from the Township. Ms. Doucette advised that funding would be needed to purchase more vans if the services were to be extended to the rural areas as they are already over-booked with waiting lists. She noted that Mayor Ron Nelson felt that funding could be used from the Federal Gas Tax. A van costs approximately \$40 per hour, plus \$1.00 per hour in fuel to operate.

Reeve Holland requested that a survey be developed that could be placed in the newsletter and on the web site to research the need for the services. Ms. Doucette agreed that this should be the first step. Reeve Holland also advised that the issue will be discussed at the Shared Services Meetings.

Reeve Holland thanked Ms. Doucette for attending the meeting.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Resolution No. 2011-133

Moved by Councillor Rydholm
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on July 12 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

6. REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

6.1 Road Superintendent's Report

The Road Superintendent was requested to make a formal report to Council regarding the options for cutting roadside brush.

Council also set a meeting date on September 6 regarding the position of a new trench at the landfill.

- Landfill Report - filed

6.2 Fire Chief's Report – filed

6.3 Clerk's Report

Council discussed whether repairs should be made to the rink in order to have ice this winter. It was noted that vandalism has been a problem and moving the rink to a more exposed area may help. Reeve Holland and the Road Superintendent will review this issue.

The Clerk advised that a resident who has a Zoning Amendment to allow a Garden Suite was requesting assurance that the Amendment would be extended before he did major repairs to the unit. Council advised that they did not see any barriers to this extension, but that they would have to take into consideration any comments made by outside agencies such as the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.

The Clerk advised that a resident had offered a used regulation size blackboard to the Township. Council discussed the issue, but did not feel the Township would have a use for it.

The Clerk advised that the Fire Chief will be providing fire extinguisher training for the Facilities Manager. It was suggested that this could be a public education issue for the Fire Department and that the training be opened up to residents. Council discussed the costs that would be involved and suggested that the participants could bring their own extinguishers and then have someone like Superior Safety available for refills. This will be reviewed again after the summer holidays.

The Clerk advised that KGS was requesting information on the type of surface to be put on the Maxwell Road Bridge. Council decided to replace the wooden surface.

The Clerk advised that since the Deputy Clerk is on holidays, the office will need to be closed until 10 am on Friday, August 12 so that the Clerk can attend the DSSAB meeting.

The Reeve declared a conflict with the next issue and left the room.

The Clerk provided an update on the office upgrades. Drawing for the new layout and storage options were provided by Lori Holland. The windows and cabinets are being installed shortly and the new filing cabinets will be ordered. Council approved of the layout and design and directed the Clerk to continue with the upgrades.

6.4 Councillor Reports

Reeve Holland reported on the Meeting with Gillies and O'Connor regarding shared services. The issue of an economic committee was also discussed. Reeve Holland noted that everyone felt this would be good for the Townships and further meetings will be held.

Reeve Holland reported on the meeting with Oliver Paipoonge regarding the highway issue and the Minister's decision to postpone a decision on the route. It was noted that we were able to clarify some misconceptions surrounding this issue.

Reeve Holland reported on a DSSAB meeting regarding DSSAB representatives meeting with Ministers at AMO. During the meeting Reeve Holland was advised that Aboriginal women who are involved in domestic disputes receive preferential treatment for housing services, and in fact may "bump" other women who are also victims of domestic violence but are not Native. Reeve Holland noted that the Federal Government does not provide any funding to DSSAB to offset the Aboriginal use of services. Reeve Holland also noted that he has requested that the funding and levy formulas for the rural areas be reviewed.

Reeve Holland gave an update on the Rural Health Fair. We have ordered recyclable bags as a handout. Reeve Holland noted that we have decided not to move forward with a banner at this time in order to allow us time to decide what we want on a banner. Council approved the Reeve to consult with a corporate imaging consultant.

The Clerk provided an update on the last meeting of the Recreation Committee on behalf of Councillor Hunt and provided a list of possible activities planned for the next few months.

Resolution No. 2011-134

Moved by Councillor Rydholm
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

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

7. **DISBURSEMENT LIST**

7.1 Disbursement List No 08A 2011

Resolution No. 2011- 135

Moved by Councillor MacMaster
Seconded by Councillor Rydholm

THAT the accounts in the amount of \$ 170,403.73 as per Disbursement List No. 08A 2011 be approved for payment.

CARRIED.

7.2 Disbursement List No. 08A1 2011

As Reeve Holland declared a pecuniary interest on this Disbursement List there were not enough people present for a quorum. The Disbursement List will be returned to the next meeting.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 LRCA Response re Gravel on Brule Creek – filed

8.2 Policy on Kitchen Rentals

Resolution No. 2011-136

Moved by Councillor MacMaster
Seconded by Councillor Rydholm

THAT the Policy on Kitchen Rentals be approved (copy attached).

CARRIED.

Council directed the Clerk to return a By-law to the next meeting to increase the Facilities Managers wage and to advertise a date to hold a public meeting on amending the Fees and Charges By-law to off-set the increased costs. Council also directed the Clerk to advertise for a second employee to assist with the set up and take down of the hall as well as monitoring of liquor functions.

Resolution No. 2011-137

Moved by Councillor MacMaster
Seconded by Councillor Rydholm

THAT the Council for the Township of Conmee directs the Clerk to advertise for a second employee for set-up and take-down of the hall as well as monitoring functions in conjunction with the Facilities Manager.

CARRIED.

Resolution No. 2011-138

Moved by Councillor Rydholm
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

THAT the Council for the Township of Conmee directs the Clerk to purchase non-flammable chef coats to be used in the kitchen during rentals where the stove is used.

CARRIED.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 EMO Quarterly Newsletter – filed

9.2 Quotation on Outside Lights

Council directed the Clerk to have the lights repaired at this time as the issue of the parking lot lighting will be reviewed at a later date.

9.3 Email from Hydro One re PCB Spill on Sovereign Road

Council directed the Clerk to follow up on this issue.

Closed Session

Resolution No. 2011-139

Moved by Councillor MacMaster
Seconded by Councillor Rydholm

THAT we do now adjourn to a closed session to discuss an issue regarding an identifiable individual at 9:53 pm.

CARRIED.

Council discussed the illegal use of trailers on a property.

Resolution No. 2011-140

Moved by Councillor MacMaster
Seconded by Councillor Rydholm

THAT we do now adjourn this closed session and return to the open meeting at 10:00 pm.

CARRIED.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- 10.1 AMO Provincial Election Chick List – filed
- 10.2 TB District Health Unit – 2010 Annual Report – filed
- 10.3 Thank you Card from L. Holland – filed
- 10.4 Source Protection Committee Minutes – July 6, 2011 – filed
- 10.5 Newsletter – Northern Ontario School of Medicine – filed
- 10.6 St. Joseph's Care Group – 2010-2011 Community Report – filed
- 10.7 MMAH – Provincial Policy Statement Information – filed

11. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 2011-141

Moved by Councillor MacMaster
Seconded by Councillor Rydholm

THAT we do now adjourn this meeting at 10:02 pm.

CARRIED.

Reeve

Clerk