

MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
March 22, 2011

PRESENT:

Councillor Grant Arnold
Councillor Mary-Lynne Hunt
Councillor Robert MacMaster
Councillor Robert Rydholm

ALSO PRESENT: Jana Roy, Auditor, Rosie Brizi, Auditor Grant Thornton, Jim Garriock Solar Logix

ABSENT: Reeve Kevin Holland

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Resolution No. 2011- 48

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

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 Solar Logix

Mr. Garriock presented Council with information on their proposal to use Township property for power generation under the MicroFit program. The word MicroFit, means Micro – under 10KW/hour production, and FIT is Feed-in-Tariff. This program has been copied from Germany, who has run it for 12 years.

Mr. Garriock noted that Solar Logix has completed 50 installations at the Airport, First Nations, and various private locations. He estimates that a 10kw system will generate \$1000.00 per month, and that they will sign a 20 year contract.

Councillor Rydholm questioned whether Solar Logix will guarantee that we can hook up to the grid, due to the news reports of the system being at capacity. Mr. Garriock advised that OPG has changed the application system to ensure that pre-approval for connection is given. Mr. Garriock also advised that half of the problem areas have already been resolved.

Mr. Garriock was questioned on the area needed to install a 10kw system and he advised that 1000 square feet would be required. The Community Centre roof would supply that area. Mr. Garriock also advised that 2000 square feet were required for ground mount.

Councillor MacMaster questioned the 10kw figure and was advised that Solar Logix builds the system to a 12kw size, so that during low sun

conditions the system can still produce the 10kw. He also noted that the system will require snow removal from about December to February, until the sun becomes strong enough to keep the panels clean. Also, the system is no longer designed with the panels linked together, as any shading of one panel used to reduce the overall production of all the panels. Now something like a leaf will lower production on the panel it is sitting on only. Mr. Garriock noted that this area receives approximately 2150 hours of sunshine per year.

Mr. Garriock was questioned on whether the Community Centre could take advantage of the power, but he replied that Hydro will not allow that, as this power will run through a separate “out-going” meter, and not our “in-coming” meter. However, because the system feeds right into the grid, the systems do not require the battery storage and are therefore cheaper to install.

Mr. Garriock advised that the timeline from initial study to implementation is approximately 3 to 9 months.

Councillor MacMaster advised that he had some questions on the hardware and technology, including energy losses and life expectancy. Councillor MacMaster requested that Mr. Garriock forward information on the actual hardware to be installed.

Mr. Garriock was questioned on the maintenance of the system and the roof. He advised that if the roof needed to be replaced they would send people out to lift and replace the panels. There would be a fee for this. He noted that the maintenance of the panels would be their responsibility and that the panels they use are made in Sault St. Marie.

Mr. Garriock was questioned on whether this program would cause hydro bills to be higher for the next generation, due to the high returns being paid to the generators. Mr. Garriock agreed, but noted that the next generation will be paying somehow, due to the need to change the generation system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Garriock noted that each individual property in Conmee is eligible for the MicroFIT program, but only one system per property was allowed.

Acting Reeve Rydholm thanked Mr. Garriock for attending and advised that the Township will discuss the issue and contact him with their decision.

4.2 Auditors – Grant Thornton

Jana Roy and Rosie Brizi attended Council to present and explain the draft Financial Statements.

It was noted that the Financial Statements are no longer consolidated with the local boards, making it easier to understand the financial position of the Township.

Several issues were discussed, including the funding of the sick-leave liability, setting up the insurance as a pre-paid expense and setting up a reserve for doubtful accounts.

Ms. Brizi advised that although Council does have the right to place properties into tax registration to recover unpaid taxes, one particular property in Conmee has reached a stage where even if it sold for fair market value it may not cover the outstanding taxes. She advised Council to start funding for the eventuality that some or all of the taxes will need to be written off. No action would be taken to write off any taxes at this time,

however, a reserve is needed to ensure the Township does not have a large liability in one year. If the taxes are paid on the property, the reserve amounts would be freed up for other uses, or left to offset other problem properties at Council's discretion. Ms. Brizi suggested that some of the surplus dollars from the 2010 budget should be used for this purpose. Council gave her verbal authority to proceed with this item.

Ms. Brizi also noted in their management letter that the statements are qualified due to the fact that there is no information on the post-closure costs for the landfill, therefore there is an un-known, un-funded future liability.

Acting Reeve Rydholm thanked the Auditors for attending.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Resolution No. 2011-49

Moved by **Councillor Arnold**
Seconded by **Councillor MacMaster**

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on February 22, 2011 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

Councillor MacMaster requested changes to his report on ROMA, to include the statements that ROMA is an extension of AMO and Council should become more familiar with the Caucus system used at AMO.

Resolution No. 2011-50

Moved by **Councillor MacMaster**
Seconded by **Councillor Hunt**

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on March 8, 2011 be adopted as circulated

CARRIED.

6. REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

6.1 Road Superintendent's Report – filed

Councillor Arnold passed on a complement from a neighbor on the state of Mokomon Road West. It was also noted that Holland Road looked good. Mr. Malinoski advised that right now they can only grade for a little while after 3 or 4 o'clock when the road surface thaws.

- Landfill Report – not at this meeting

6.2 Fire Chief's Report – not at this meeting

6.3 Clerk's Report

The Clerk discussed the Action List provided to Council and requested permission to stop providing the report. The Clerk advised that this report was simply a list of actions that the Clerk took on the decisions of Council at the last meeting, and that Council should be expecting that the Clerk take those actions as a part of her duties. The Clerk advised that if any problems arose from implementing Council's decisions those would be reported at the next meeting, but that simply saying that the Clerk sent the requested letter, or registered the Councillors at a seminar for example,

was a waste of time. Council agreed that this particular report was not needed at this time.

The Clerk advised that she had registered both the Road Superintendent and the Senior Grader Operator at a "Gravel Road School", originally planned for Dryden but moved to Thunder Bay. Due to the short time frame for registration, the Clerk discussed this seminar with the Road Superintendent and made the decision to register the employees.

Council directed the Clerk to request that the new representative from Emergency Management Ontario for the Amethyst Sector be requested to attend a Council meeting.

6.4 Councillor Reports

Councillor MacMaster advised that he had reviewed the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority and had some comments. Councillor MacMaster noted that the Minutes as circulated do not have any attachments to explain references to items in the budget, and that there appeared that the LRCA had many in-camera meetings. Councillor MacMaster asked if the Township received notice of any applications to the LRCA from our Township. The Township does not currently receive, or is able to comment on applications. We are not circulated any decisions and in fact we may not even be aware of applications or decisions unless we read the Minutes. The Clerk noted that for planning applications Council is circulated and allowed to comment, but not make a decision. When the Planning Board reaches a decision a copy is forwarded to the Township. It was suggested that the LRCA should be following this format to ensure that the Township is aware of decisions being made by an outside agency

7. **DISBURSEMENT LIST**

Disbursement List No 3B 2011

Resolution No. 2011- 51

Moved by Councillor Arnold
Seconded by Councillor Hunt

THAT the accounts in the amount of \$55,737.88 as per Disbursement List No. 3B 2011 be approved for payment.

CARRIED.

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

8.1 Thunder Bay Agricultural Donation Request – filed

8.2 Waste Recycling Plan

It was noted that Reeve Holland had questions about this report so it was deferred to the next meeting.

8.3 Information from OGRA/ROMA re Vehicle Discounts – filed

8.4 Resolution from Shuniah re Provincial Funding for LRCA – filed

Resolution No. 2011-52

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Arnold

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

CARRIED.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Deputy-Treasurer's Request to Attend Seminar

Resolution No. 2011-53

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

THAT the Deputy-Treasurer be approved to attend the Municipal Finance 101 seminar to be held in Thunder Bay on May 2nd and 3rd, 2011.

CARRIED.

9.2 TB Veterinary Assistance Program

Resolution No. 2011-54

Moved by Councillor Arnold
Seconded by Councillor Hunt

THAT the Township of Conmee pay \$100.00 for the Veterinary Assistance Program.

CARRIED.

9.3 Summer Student Incentive – filed

9.4 Appointment of Weed Inspector

Resolution No. 2011-55

Moved by Councillor MacMaster
Seconded by Councillor Arnold

THAT the Township of Conmee appoints Ken Malinoski as the Township Weed Inspector.

CARRIED.

9.5 Invitation to Canadian Municipalities re Aboriginal Gathering – filed

9.6 Resolution Request from NOMA – Deadline for Submission – filed

9.7 MMAH – Planning Request

It was unclear whether this request was directed at the Council or NOMA representatives. Council directed the Clerk to determine whether this is something that should be attended and if so to register herself.

9.8 Notification of Rate Increases re MNR – filed

9.9 Oliver Paipoonge Official Plan Update

Councillor MacMaster will review the Plan for information that may be useful in our Official Plan.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Response from MTO re Highway Maintenance – filed

10.2 Resolution Support from O'Connor re Bill 130 – Insurance – filed

10.3 Minutes – Source Water Protection Committee – February 2, 2011 – filed

- 10.4 Minister Responsible for Seniors – Senior of the Year Award – filed
- 10.6 Letter from Minister of Correctional Services re Mandatory Activities - filed

11. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 2011-56

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

THAT we do now adjourn this meeting at 10:00 pm.
CARRIED.

Reeve

Clerk