

MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
September 10, 2013

PRESENT: Mayor Kevin Holland
Councillor Grant Arnold

Councillor Robert MacMaster
Councillor Robert Rydholm

ALSO PRESENT: Ken Malinoski, Road Superintendent, Darren Smith, Resident
ABSENT: Councillor Mary-Lynne Hunt

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Resolution No. 2013- 161

Moved by Councillor MacMaster
Seconded by Councillor Rydholm

THAT the Meeting Agenda be adopted as amended.
CARRIED.

The Agenda was amended by the addition of 9.6 – Benefit Package

3. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Mayor Holland declared an interest in item 7.2 – Disbursement List No. 9AA 2013.

4. **DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS**

There were no deputations or petitions for Council's consideration.

5. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

5.1 **Resolution No. 2013- 162**

Moved by Councillor Rydholm
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on August 27, 2013 be approved as circulated.
CARRIED.

5.2 **Resolution No. 2013 – 163**

Moved by Councillor Arnold
Seconded by Councillor Rydholm

THAT the Minutes of the Closed Meeting of Council held on August 27, 2013 be approved as circulated.
CARRIED.

6. **REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICERS**

- 6.1 Road Superintendent's Report - filed
- Landfill Report - filed

6.2 Fire Chief's Report

The Clerk advised that the Fire Chief forwarded a memo to Council regarding the recent loss of 4 members of the Department, with a 5th having limited response capability. The Fire Chief noted that a recruitment drive has been kicked off with a notice in the Conmee newsletter, but that if no new members are forthcoming, it may require Council to review the level of service we can provide.

6.3 Clerk's Report – filed

6.4 Councillor Reports

Mayor Holland reported on his activities since the last meeting, including a planning board meeting, contractor meetings, and working to clear the auditorium of construction materials so that the wedding rental could proceed. Mayor Holland also noted that he has upcoming meetings with Robert Whiteside, True Grit, Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee, a Business Expo meeting, A DSSAB board meeting, and a Social Housing meeting. His full report is on file.

Councillor MacMaster reported that he had provided the office with a video made while the representative from GAL Power was showing the staff how to operate the generator. It was noted that regular start-up checks must be made.

Councillor MacMaster also reported on his meeting with Pioneer Construction regarding the parking lot paving. The issue was resolved by having the problem areas replaced.

Councillor Arnold reported that he had presented Council's concerns to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority regarding the White Paper. He noted that this is an on-going issue.

Councillor Arnold also noted that a rain gauge has been placed at the Municipal Office.

6.5 Other Boards and Agency Reports

Library Minutes – June 4, 2013

Council reviewed the Minutes of the Library Board dated June 4, 2013 and would note that the statement that the Board has not been informed regarding signage for the library is incorrect. They were informed that the Township was reviewing all Township signage. It was also noted that there is now a sign on the building advising that this is the Administration Office, Community Centre and Library.

7. **DISBURSEMENT LIST**

7.1 Disbursement List No 9A 2013

Resolution No. 2013- 164

Moved by Councillor MacMaster
Seconded by Councillor Rydholm

THAT the accounts in the amount of \$250,108.98 as per Disbursement List No. 9A 2013 be approved for payment.

CARRIED.

7.2 Disbursement List No 9AA 2013

Resolution No. 2013- 165

Moved by Councillor Rydholm
Seconded by Councillor Arnold

THAT the accounts in the amount of \$4,782.24 as per Disbursement List No. 9AA 2013 be approved for payment.

CARRIED.

Mayor Holland declared a conflict and left the room.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 Vanderzwaag/Township Agreement re MNR Bridge – Admin. Report #2013-14 – filed

8.2 Attendance at NOMA

Resolution No. 2013 – 166

Moved by Councillor Rydholm
Seconded by Councillor Arnold

THAT the following persons be approved to attend the NOMA Regional Fall Conference:

Councillor R. Rydholm

CARRIED.

8.3 Establishment of Hiring Committee

Resolution No. 2013 – 167

Moved by Councillor Rydholm
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

THAT the Hiring Committee to fill the position of Treasurer/Deputy-Clerk consist of Mayor Holland, Councillor Rydholm and CAO Maxwell.

CARRIED.

8.4 Letter from MOE re Landfill

Council reviewed the letter from the Ministry of the Environment regarding an inspection of the landfill site conducted on August 19, 2013. The letter notes two items requiring action.

The first item requires that the complaint process must be posted at the landfill. Council noted that a covered bulletin board was planned for the landfill and the complaint process could be posted there.

The second item concerns the recycle house or “Good Neighbour Centre” as the Township has been calling it. The inspector requests that the Township “implement measures to manage and operate the “recycle house” in order to minimize the potential for risk to human health”. The Road Superintendent advised that the inspector was concerned about birds and their droppings at the time of inspection, however the liability to the Township would extend to the safety of items, such as electrical cords, baby equipment etc. It was also noted that the Landfill Attendant is not able to monitor the recycle centre during open hours and should not be determining the safety of any item placed in the recycle centre. After some discussion, Council decided that the only way to manage the risk to

human health was to close the recycle centre. The Township could face liability of someone was harmed by any item taken from the recycle centre and under the concept of Joint and Several Liability, could be required to pay 100% of any monetary award given by the Courts. As it may be impossible to find out who put any particular item into the recycle in the first place, the fault would fall on the Township. For these reasons, the recycle centre will be closed and notices posted to that effect.

8.5 MNP Progress Report – filed

8.6 Resolution re Surplus Property

Resolution No. 2013 – 168

Moved by Councillor Arnold
Seconded by Councillor Rydholm

THAT the Council for the Township of Conmee hereby declares the property located at 3 Spruce Grove Lane as surplus to the needs of the Township.

CARRIED.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Invitation to Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy

Council discussed the invitation from the Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy group, and noted that it would be more appropriate to have someone from the Rural Food Cupboard attend on our behalf. The Clerk was requested to forward the invitation to the Food Cupboard.

9.2 Letter from Northern Development and Mines – filed

9.3 Questions from Minister of Finance

The questions from the Ministry of Finance were forwarded to Council by the Mayor of Oliver Paipoonge. These questions will be discussed at the next meeting of the Lakehead Rural Municipal Committee.

9.4 Clerk's Attendance at AMCTO

Resolution No. 2013 – 169

Moved by Councillor MacMaster
Seconded by Councillor Arnold

THAT the Clerk be approved to attend the AMCTO Zone 9 Fall Conference to be held in Thunder Bay on September 24th and 25th.

CARRIED.

9.5 Attendance at Thunder Bay's Solid Waste Management Seminar

Resolution No. 2013 – 170

Moved by Councillor Rydholm
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

THAT the following persons be approved to attend the Solid Waste Management Strategy to be held in Thunder Bay on September 25, 2013:

Mayor Holland

CARRIED.

9.6 Benefit Package

Resolution No. 2013 – 171

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

THAT the 2013 employee benefit package renewal, as presented by Gotlieb, Bronstine & Katz be approved.

CARRIED.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Darren Smith was asked if he wished to address Council. Mr. Smith stated that he had come to the Council meeting to see what was happening. He noted that his taxes had gone up again and that nothing had changed in the last 21 years he has been living here. He stated that he was angry about the condition of the roads.

Mayor Holland replied that there was a 3.4% raise in the budget this year, but of that amount 2.4% of it was paid to outside agencies that we are mandated to fund without any control over their budgeting. Mayor Holland noted that the work being done at the Community Centre was being done with the help of grants, and that even when you factored in our share of the projects, we still only had a 1% raise for municipal purposes. Mayor Holland also noted that many people saw their taxes go up because this was a re-assessment year. Mayor Holland advised that the Township is mandated to have an Emergency Operations Centre and the generator installed at the Community Centre is required to operate the EOC in the event of a power failure.

Mayor Holland also advised that a decision to do very little maintenance on the roads was taken this year because most of the roads will be dug up to replace or enhance culverts that were damaged during the flood in 2012. This work is paid for through the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program. It was felt that it would not be appropriate to fix the road surface just before it was dug up to replace culverts. Mayor Holland did express Council's frustration on how long it was taking to get the repairs done.

Mr. Smith felt that Council should do a better job in communicating what is happening. Mayor Holland replied that anyone could attend Council meetings or come to the office and ask for information.

Mayor Holland thanked Mr. Smith for attending the Council Meeting.

Resolution No. 2013 – 172

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

THAT we do now adjourn to a Closed Meeting to discuss:

1. Personal matters about an identifiable individual including municipal or board employees at 8:00 pm.

CARRIED.

Council discussed the retirement of an employee and a letter received from a previous employee.

Resolution No. 2013 – 173

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

THAT we do now adjourn the Closed Session and return to the Open Meeting at 8:55 pm.

CARRIED.

Resolution No. 2013 – 174

Moved by Councillor Arnold
Seconded by Councillor MacMaster

THAT the Council for the Township of Conmee accepts the retirement of Margaret Rothenberg, Landfill Attendant, effective December 31, 2013.

CARRIED.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Minutes – LRCA – June 19, 2013 - filed

11. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 2013- 175

Moved by Councillor Rydholm
Seconded by Councillor Arnold

THAT we do now adjourn this meeting at 9:15 pm.

CARRIED.

Mayor

Clerk