



MINUTES - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 12th, 2024 – 6:00 pm

- PRESENT: Mayor Sheila Maxwell
Councillor David Maxwell
Councillor Grant Arnold (virtual)
Councillor David Halvorsen
- ALSO PRESENT: Shara Lavalley, CAO/Clerk
Leanne Maxwell, Treasurer
Darren Smith, Acting Public Works Manager
Tara Wupori, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer (virtual)
Olabisi Hutka-Akinsanya, HR Assistant (virtual)
- REGRETS: Councillor Chris Kresack

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION 2024-043

Moved by Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the regular council meeting of March 12th 2024 be approved

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

4. DEPUTATIONS

None

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

5.1. Minutes – Special Council Meeting – February 26th 2024

RESOLUTION 2024-044

Moved by Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on February 26th 2024 be approved

CARRIED

5.2. Minutes – Regular Council Meeting – February 27th 2024

RESOLUTION 2024-045

Moved by Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 27th 2024 be approved

CARRIED

Clerk _____
Mayor _____

6. DISBURSEMENT LIST

6.1. Payroll Report
Received for information

6.2. Payment Register

RESOLUTION 2024-046

Moved by Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the disbursements represented by Check Numbers 6873 through 6893 totalling \$46,775.67 and electronic bank payments, totalling \$48,440.78

CARRIED

Councillor Arnold joined council chambers virtually at 6:05 p.m.

HR Assistant Hutka-Akinsanya joined council chambers virtually at 6:06 p.m.

7. REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

7.1. Clerk's Report

The Annual Roads Inspection will be scheduled for late summer – early fall after the capital works projects are completed. The Township was awarded a grant by FireSmart Canada to hold an event to promote wildfire preparedness. The Emergency Municipal Program Committee will organize the event. The Clerk was authorized to sign the necessary documents. The AMCTO spring meeting is scheduled to be held on April 30-May 1st. All staff were approved to attend; the office will be closed for those days. The appropriate notice to public will be made. The Clerk will be on bereavement leave from April 2nd – 8th 2024.

7.2. Treasurer's Report

a. Tax Arrears Report

Reserve funds: The balances in the reserve funds do not match any dollar amounts in the township ledger. The auditor recommended to zero them out and start fresh with this years' budget. The plan is to have a dedicated bank account for the reserve funds.

Budget: two budget committee meetings held thus far. Treasurer is waiting for preliminary numbers from two departments before presenting it to council.

Resolution 2024-047

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

Be it resolved that Council approves for the Treasurer to reduce the reserve fund accounts (working fund, landfill, OCIF, mainstreet, operating, gas tax, sick leave plan) to zero (0), and to start building them back up to equal the amount in the TD bank account dedicated to the reserves.

CARRIED

7.3. Public Works Report

Activities included maintenance and sanding. Preparations have begun for the spring thaw. The steamer is being repaired as well as the brush-head. Grading has started where possible. Fleet management software is being researched for the public works vehicles/equipment.

Clerk _____
Mayor _____

Public Works Manager Smith left council chambers at 6:38 p.m.

7.4. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer / Health & Safety Representative Report
Council approved pre-budget purchasing for the 2024 cemetery capital project.
Council approved the purchase of training in workplace violence & harassment & discrimination for all employees, council and volunteers.

7.5. Councillor Reports
Mayor Maxwell attended Budget Committee meeting and Social Committee meeting. The Social Committee is unable to commit time or staff for an application to the Seniors Community Grant Program. The Mayor asked if there were any objections to the Township submitting an application. No objections; municipal office staff will coordinate with the Mayor to create an application in the intent of obtaining funding for events.

Councillor Arnold attended the LRCA monthly meeting.

Councillor Halvorsen reported on the LRPB and LPSB activities. The LRPB has received funding from the province to assist with planning costs; the LPSB merger is still in process.

Councillor Maxwell attended the TBDML monthly meeting. He also attended the Budget Committee meeting.

7.6. Other agencies' report
a. LRCA minutes – January 31st 2024
Filed for information

8 NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Community Emergency Preparedness Grant
The Clerk provided an update on the status of the grant. The Clerk shall be the main contact for the grant.

8.2. Foodcycler
The Clerk provided a report on the survey results. There was insufficient data to determine the desire of the residents. Council committed to the purchase of 20 units with municipal subsidization if sufficient names could be collected to guarantee the participation in the program. The municipal office shall create a waitlist and report back to Council at a later date.

9 BY-LAWS

9.1. Review of By-Law 1384 – Social Committee Terms of Reference

Whereas Terms of Reference are not required for committees but are recommended, Council directed that the Social Committee conduct a review of the Terms of Reference and report back to Council.

Clerk _____
Mayor _____

9.2. By-Law 1434 – Social Committee membership

Resolution 2024-048

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 1434 be passed;

AND, FURTHER, THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized on behalf of the Township of Conmee to affix their signatures to By-law No. 1434, being a By-law to amend By-law 1187 - section 4 regarding Membership of the Social Committee

CARRIED

10 CORRESPONDENCE

- 10.1 NOMA – Board Meeting Summary
 - 10.1.1 Partnership letter of support for Thunder Bay & Northwestern Ontario Local Immigration Partnership Agreement Holder - Thunder Bay Multicultural Association
 - 10.1.2 Resolution 2024-02: Northern Ontario Transportation Task Force
 - 10.1.3 Resolution 2024-03: AMO Social and Economic Prosperity Review
 - 10.1.4 Resolution 2024-04: Conservation Office Reclassification
 - 10.1.5 Resolution 2024-05: International Bridge between Fort Frances and International Falls
 - 10.1.6 Sample letter regarding Securing access to natural gas for our community and Ontario
 - 10.1.7 Sample resolution regarding Securing access to natural gas for our community and Ontario
 - 10.1.8 Enbridge info sheet

WHEREAS Access to natural gas is important to residents and businesses in our community for affordability and reliability.

WHEREAS The Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) decision on Phase 1 of the Enbridge Gas 2024 rebasing application, issued on 21 December 2023, has concerning implications including putting into question the future access to natural gas that support of economic development, affordable housing growth, and energy reliability in communities such as the Township of Conmee.

AND WHEREAS Ontario is growing and access to affordable energy to support this growth for homes and businesses is crucial, and is a measured approach to energy transition as not having access to natural gas will stifle economic growth and put housing and energy affordability at risk.

Resolution 2024-049

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Conmee supports a measured approach to Ontario's energy transition.

AND THAT the Township of Conmee recognizes that there may not be enough electricity available to replace the energy provided by natural gas and meet the increased demand from electrification.

AND THAT Natural gas must continue to play an integral role in meeting the energy needs of Ontario.

AND THAT the Township of Conmee supports the work the Government of Ontario has done to date, including the Natural Gas Expansion Program and Electrification and

Clerk _____
Mayor _____

Energy Transition Panel's call for a clear policy on the role of natural gas to secure access to affordable energy.

AND THAT this resolution be circulated to the President of AMO, Colin Best, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Hon. Todd Smith, the Minister of Energy, MPP Kevin Holland Member of Provincial Parliament – Thunder Bay Atikokan, as significant actors to ensuring the need for natural gas in Ontario as part of a measured approach towards energy transition, and submitted to municipalaffairs@enbridge.com.

CARRIED

10.2 Township of Lincoln – resolution – increase funding to libraries and museums

Resolution 2024-050

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Conmee supports the resolution by the Township of Lincoln regarding funding for libraries and museums

AND THAT copies of this support be provided to Premier Ford, MPP Kevin Holland, Ontario Minister of Tourism Culture and Sport, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

CARRIED

10.3 County of Lambton – resolution – highways funding

Resolution 2024-051

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Conmee supports the resolution by the County of Lambton requesting the Province of Ontario to either take responsibility for major municipal roads or increase funding for same

AND THAT copies of this support be provided to Premier Ford, Ontario Minister of Transportation, MPP Kevin Holland, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

CARRIED

10.4 Municipality of Brighton – resolution – ridesharing regulations

Resolution 2024-052

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Conmee supports the resolution by the Municipality of Brighton requesting the migration of ride-share regulations and licensing from the municipal level to the provincial level

AND THAT copies of this support be provided to Premier Ford, MPP Kevin Holland, Ontario Minister of Transportation, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Ontario, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

CARRIED

10.5 Municipality of Environment – annual Provincial Day of Action on Litter
The annual Provincial Day of Action on Litter is scheduled to take place on May 14th 2024. Council directed that participation by the Township consist of social media and website announcements.

Clerk _____
Mayor _____

- 10.6 We the Nuclear Free North
Filed for information
- 10.7 LRCA – legislative and regulatory changes affecting LRCA development
permitting
Filed for information
- 10.8 TBDSSAB – Strategic Plan 2024
Filed for information
- 10.9 Other correspondence

11 UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Mar 26 th , 2024	Regular Council Meeting
April 9 th , 2024	Regular Council Meeting
April 23 rd , 2024	Regular Council Meeting
May 14 th , 2024	Regular Council Meeting
May 28 th , 2024	Regular Council Meeting
June 11 th , 2024	Regular Council Meeting
June 25 th , 2024	Regular Council Meeting
July 9 th , 2024	Regular Council Meeting
July 23 rd , 2024	Regular Council Meeting

12 CLOSED SESSION

Resolution 2024-053

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 8:19 p.m., Council resolve into closed session, under the authority of paragraph 239(2)(b)(d) of the Municipal Act, 2001 to discuss Item 12.2-12.4 regarding identifiable individuals and labour relations

AND under the authority of those paragraphs of the Municipal Act, 2001 for which they were authorized to be closed, to review the minutes of the closed session of the meeting of February 26th 2024 and the minutes of the closed session of the meeting on February 27th 2024

CARRIED

- 12.1 Closed Minutes – February 26th 2024
- 12.2 Closed Minutes – February 27th 2024
- 12.3 Human Resources
- 12.4 Human Resources

Councillor Halvorsen left council chambers at 8:39 p.m.

- 12.5 Human Resources

Clerk _____
Mayor _____

12.6 Human Resources

Resolution 2024-054

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 9:37 p.m., Council rise from closed session and report in open session

AND THAT the Closed Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on February 26th 2024 be approved

AND THAT the Closed Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on February 27th 2024 be approved

AND THAT the contract with Treasurer Maxwell be renewed for July 2024 – July 2026

AND THAT Administration proceed as directed

CARRIED

13 CONFIRMING BY-LAW

13.1 By-law 1435 – To Confirm the Proceedings of the Meeting

Resolution 2024-052

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 1435 be passed;

AND, FURTHER, THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized on behalf of the Township of Conmee to affix their signatures to By-law No. 1435, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of this evening's meeting.

14 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Sheila Maxwell, Mayor

Shara Lavallee, Clerk