

MINUTES - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 27th, 2025 – 6:00 pm

PRESENT Mayor Sheila Maxwell
Councillor Chris Kresack
Councillor David Maxwell

REGRETS Councillor David Halvorsen
Councillor Grant Arnold

ALSO PRESENT Karen Paisley, Clerk
Leanne Maxwell, Treasurer
Leonard Arps, Public Works Supervisor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
Mayor Maxwell provided a statement of land acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Clerk requested the addition of Item 13.4 regarding a proposed or pending acquisition of land.

RESOLUTION 2025 – 101

Moved by: Councillor Kresack

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the regular council meeting of May 27th, 2025, be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations were made.

4. TOWN HALL SEGMENT

No members of the public had registered to speak at the Town Hall Segment.

5. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were scheduled for this evening's meeting.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

6.1 Minutes – Regular Council Meeting – May 13, 2025

Members present reviewed the minutes. Councillor Maxwell requested an amendment.

RESOLUTION 2025 - 102

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Kresack

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes for the open session portion of the regular council meeting of May 13th, 2025, be approved as amended.

7. DISBURSEMENT LIST

7.1. Payroll Report

There was no payroll report for this meeting.

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7.2. Payment Register

Council reviewed the payment register. The Treasurer responded to questions from members present.

RESOLUTION 2025-103

Moved by: Councillor Kresack

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approved the disbursements represented by electronic bank payments, check numbers 7409 to 7432, totalling \$27,295.53.

8. REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

8.1. Clerk's Report

Clerk Paisley overviewed the Clerk's report to Council and responded to questions. In addition to the information in the report, the Clerk advised NOHFC contacted her with follow up questions for the intern grant. She is awaiting further response or approval for the grant. The Clerk received correspondence supporting the Township of Conmee's opposition to the City of Thunder Bay's proposed designated truck route (DTR). Submissions were received from the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition and the Townships of Gillies, O'Connor and Shuniah, who forwarded their support to the City of Thunder Bay. The Clerk forwarded the Township of Gillies' support at their request. The office received a request from Thunder Bay Ventures to use the Township of Conmee's logo in a business confidence index survey. This was deferred for approval to item 8.7. The Clerk provided an overview of the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) registration process and a draft appeal notice. OLT now requires municipalities to use an e-portal for submitting land appeals. The Clerk drafted a notice for Council review. The Clerk will confirm the French language translation of the draft notice. Discussion for approval was deferred to item 8.7. The Clerk contacted OPP regarding issues with vulnerable sector checks. OPP advised records checks are now processed through Triton. Clerk contacted Triton and submitted both the previous and a revised letter and is still awaiting a response from Triton. The Clerk advised the estimated date of delivery for the Food Cycler units is June 3rd, 2025.

8.2. Treasurer's Report

No Treasurer's Report was presented at this evening's meeting.

8.3. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer's Report

No Deputy Clerk-Treasurer's Report was presented at this evening's meeting.

8.4. Public Works Report

Public Works is actively engaged in summer maintenance and infrastructure projects. The Township has decided not to hire a belly dump contractor due to budget constraints. Instead, approximately 50 loads of gravel have already been transported using Township-owned equipment. Public Works will proceed with contouring the Township roads. Public Works is also looking into collaborating with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to extend road aprons during upcoming paving projects. This initiative aims to prevent damage caused by hot tires hitting short aprons. The Public Roads Supervisor will follow up with MTO representatives. There was discussion about the possible closure of the Hacquoil gravel pit. Concerns were raised about the Township potentially being responsible for site rehabilitation. Council recalled a previous deputation with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and noted the availability of the Management of Abandoned Aggregate Properties (MAP) fund, which could help cover rehabilitation costs. An increase in truck traffic has been observed in the area, likely linked to hydro projects and material transport. Public Works confirmed that trucks are both entering and leaving

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the area, including from the local pit. While the Township's backhoe is under repair, a temporary replacement was borrowed from Bay City. The Public Works Manager is tracking its usage and will reconcile with Bay City. The borrowed equipment has been effective for brush clearing and other tasks. Grounds maintenance continues. New tires were installed on the 550 truck, replacing the previous set that lasted only 30,000 km. New stingers have also been ordered for the grader due to wear. The loader remains out of service, with suspected issues in the drive motors. Mechanics have ruled out pump faults, and the machine is currently disassembled for further diagnostics. If the issue isn't resolved, contamination could recur, leading to higher repair costs. The loader has 977 hours of use, and the repairs will be covered under warranty. A proposal was made to haul scrap metal from the landfill using Township equipment during rain days or downtime. This would eliminate contractor fees and generate revenue to help offset the cost of new grader tires. Councillor Kresack suggested coordinating with scrap yards for efficient weigh-in/out processes. Council supported the idea. Due to dry weather and dust concerns, calcium application was cancelled. Councillor Maxwell noted the success of last fall's application on Holland Road. Public Works emphasized that proper application rates and techniques are crucial for long-term effectiveness. Council also discussed the importance of moisture retention and reducing fire risk. Gord Blanchard of Lakehead Ironworks proposed a shared maintenance plan for municipal equipment, involving scheduled inspections and welding services across multiple municipalities to reduce service call costs. This was discussed at the Thunder Bay District Municipal League meeting. While Council saw potential benefits, they questioned whether Conmee's limited welding needs, possibly once a month or less, justified participation. Conmee currently shares services like bylaw enforcement and building inspection with neighboring municipalities. While Council values shared services, they were unsure about the cost-effectiveness of joining the proposed welding program. Most Township equipment, including the backhoe, is in good condition and doesn't require frequent welding. The backhoe's bucket and thumb were recently upgraded with new teeth and minor welding. Council expressed appreciation for the Public Works Manager's efforts to manage the budget creatively and efficiently. With no further questions, the Public Works Manager was excused from the meeting.

The Public Works Manager left the meeting at 6:40 pm.

8.5. Fire Chief's Report

No Fire Chief's Report was presented at this evening's meeting.

8.6. Council Member Reports

Mayor Maxwell advised on May 20th she attended the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) meeting. Most municipalities were represented. Discussions included fire services, MNR service agreements, and bylaw comparisons across municipalities. The goal was to understand how others are managing similar issues. Conmee has already submitted its fire bylaw, while others are still in progress. The DTR (Designated Truck Route) was a major topic. The mayor emphasized that the issue is not just about rerouting traffic but also about driver training and safety. A photo was taken near the kindergarten yard at the school in Kakabeka Falls, to highlight how close the road is to young children, only about 10 feet from the fence, raising safety concerns. On May 21st, a meeting was held with the Clerk and a resident to discuss restarting community events. Although another interested resident couldn't attend, the group plans to meet again in June. The goal is to begin with small events, such as movie nights, to rebuild community engagement. Mayor Maxwell has a meeting for union negotiations to prepare and gather necessary information on May 29th. Mayor Maxwell assisted in preparing deputations for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). Submissions are due by May 29. Council members were encouraged to send any suggestions to the Clerk to support the Township's request for a ministerial meeting. Mayor Maxwell reported that she ordered new tea towels for the Township's downstairs facilities due to a noticeable shortage. Previously, there were multiple sets of towels stored in the bar area, kitchen, and janitor's room, but most have gone missing. To replenish supplies, she ordered a 24-pack of kitchen tea

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towels and additional towels for cleaning purposes, including designated sets for windows and general use. The new towels are expected to arrive between Friday and Monday. It was noted that a member of the Food Bank board had also recently provided two bundles of tea towels, likely for use during food distribution. Mayor Maxwell also purchased pens and lanyards for the Fire Department, as requested, using local and online sources.

Councillor Maxwell clarified that the Thunder Bay District Municipal League meeting took place on May 21, not May 14 as previously stated. A deputation was presented by Gord Blanchard of Lakehead Ironworks. The discussion focused on shared municipal services, particularly welding and fabrication support. This model could be especially beneficial for remote communities such as Red Rock, Dorian, Nipigon, Terrace Bay, and Marathon, where service calls may require extended travel. The possibility of using Ironworks for fabrication needs was also considered as a potential option for Conmee and was also discussed during the Public Works report to Council. The next in-person Municipal League meeting is scheduled for July in O'Connor. Councillor Maxwell also has a union negotiations meeting scheduled for May 29. On Sunday morning, Councillor Maxwell conducted a routine inspection of the Township's generator and confirmed it is functioning properly. He also believes he successfully deactivated the ring plate lights to prevent them from turning on in the evening. He plans to verify this after the Council meeting.

Councillor Kresack attended the regular Council meeting on May 13 and the Food Bank's Annual General Meeting on May 14. Mark Halasbecki was re-elected as Chair. One new board member joined, while the rest of the board remains the same. He also attended the regular Food Bank meeting and the current Council meeting. Councillor Kresack was tasked with identifying individuals who have been issued keys for the Food Bank. Previously, the records only listed "Food Bank" as the keyholder. He has since provided a list of names to ensure accurate tracking and accountability. Council acknowledged this as a helpful and successful initiative.

8.7. Other Agencies' Reports

Council reviewed a letter from Minister Robert Flack regarding Bill 17: Protecting Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025. The bill proposes changes to development charges, building code standardization, and approval processes, primarily aimed at high-growth urban areas. Key elements include deferring development charges until occupancy, exempting long-term care homes from charges, and requiring municipalities to follow the Ontario Building Code without additional local requirements. Mayor Maxwell noted that while the bill is largely intended for larger municipalities, some provisions, such as those affecting long-term care and rental housing, could have implications for Conmee. Council agreed that the legislation does not currently warrant formal feedback, as its impact on small municipalities like Conmee appears limited. Council approved a request from Thunder Bay Ventures to use the Township's logo in their Business Confidence Index survey materials. The initiative is focused on supporting local small businesses, and Council expressed support for the project as it aligns with the Township's commitment to local economic development. The Clerk presented the required registration information for the Township's participation in the Ontario Land Tribunal's new e-file portal. Council was confirmed as the approval authority. The Clerk will act as the principal e-file administrator, with the Treasurer as an additional Level 1 administrator. A draft Notice of Appeal was reviewed and approved. It outlines the appeal process, deadlines, and the \$1,100 provincial appeal fee. Notices will be posted in both English and French on the Township website and in local newspapers. By consensus, Council approved the registration details and the draft notice.

RESOLUTION 2025-104

Moved by: Councillor Kresack

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

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BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council received the reports presented as listed in Section 8 of this evening's agenda.

CARRIED

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Pumper Fire Truck

Council reviewed three options for acquiring a new fire pumper truck including a quote from Fort Garry Fire Trucks, including a full build and equipment package, a quote from Dependable Emergency Vehicles, which includes a mini pumper/tanker, and a chassis-only quote from Maxim, intended for conversion with an existing unit. Concerns were raised about the risks of converting older equipment, including compatibility issues, rust, and long-term reliability. A formal quote for the conversion was not received despite efforts. The Township's current pumper remains out of service due to a split PTO driveshaft, with parts difficult to source. Mayor Maxwell reported that at a recent LRMC meeting, the Mayor of Oliver Paipoonge expressed concern about the sustainability of mutual and automatic aid, particularly when neighboring municipalities lack adequate equipment or staffing. Oliver Paipoonge has invested significantly in its fire services and is hesitant to continue supporting municipalities that cannot reciprocate. Conmee must improve its own fire response capacity to maintain mutual aid relationships. A used pumper in Sioux Lookout was identified by Chief Day, priced at approximately \$11,000–\$12,000. While potentially affordable, Council noted the risk of significant repair costs following inspection and certification. A loaner vehicle from Fort Garry was discussed, but no cost or availability details have been received yet. Leasing was also considered, but a 72-month lease would cost nearly \$10,000/month, which was deemed financially unfeasible. Council discussed potential financing options, including Infrastructure Ontario, which offers biannual payments and has been reliable in the past. The Township's current banking institution was also discussed, which may offer competitive rates due to the long-standing relationship. The final quote from Fort Garry came in at \$647,319, including add-ons such as shelving, ladders, hoses, and other equipment requested by the Fire Chief. Some equipment, such as ladders and hoses, recently passed inspection and may not need immediate replacement, potentially reducing costs. A full breakdown of included equipment is available in a confidential package and may be reviewed in closed session. Council discussed the challenge of moving forward with a decision due to the ongoing absence of two members.

Given the urgency of the fire protection issue, Council considered scheduling a special Council meeting to accommodate Councillors availability, potentially on a weekend or via video call. Council discussed proceeding with a decision at the next regular meeting if quorum is met, regardless of full attendance. Councillor Kresack emphasized the importance of full Council input before committing to a purchase of this scale. Councillor Maxwell noted that the Township cannot delay indefinitely, especially with fire season underway and limited mutual aid support. The Clerk will reach out to the absent Councillors to determine availability for a special meeting or provide proxy input. Council emphasized the need to move forward as soon as possible, once all necessary information and input are available.

10. BY-LAWS

There were no bylaws presented at this evening's meeting.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

List of Resolution Support Requests from other Municipalities

Council reviewed the list of resolutions. Council expressed its desire to support all resolutions listed.

RESOLUTION 2025-105

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Kresack

JP SM

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Corporation of the Township of Conmee Council supports the May 21st, 2025 correspondence from the City of Kingston with regard to the opposition of Bill 5 and this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to Premier Doug Ford, The Honourable Stephen Lecce, M.P.P. Minister of Energy and Mines, The Honourable Rob Flack, M.P.P. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, M.P.P. Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, MPP Kevin Holland – Thunder Bay Atikokan, MPP Lise Vaugeois – Thunder Bay-Superior North, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the City of Kingston.

RESOLUTION 2025-106

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Kresack

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Corporation of the Township of Conmee Council supports the May 15th, 2025 correspondence from the Town of the Blue Mountains requesting fair provincial tax treatment for Ontario-made craft cider, aligning it with the tax structure for craft beer; and that this supporting resolution and originating correspondence be circulated to the the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Kevin Holland – Thunder Bay Atikokan, MPP Lise Vaugeois – Thunder Bay-Superior North, the Association of Municipalities in Ontario (AMO) and the Town of the Blue Mountains.

12. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

The list of upcoming regular Council meeting dates was available for review. No changes were proposed.

13. CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 2025-0107

Moved by: Councillor Kresack

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the time being 7:49 p.m., Council enter closed session, under the authority of those paragraphs of the Municipal Act, 2001 (S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended) for which it was authorized to be closed, to review Item 13.1 on the agenda, being the minutes of the closed session from the meeting of May 13th, 2025; and under the authority of paragraph 239(b), and 239(d) of the same legislation in order to consider Items 13.2, and 13.3 of the agenda, regarding personal matters about identifiable individuals and labour relation; an additional item 13.4 under the authority of paragraph 239(2)(c) to consider an item involving a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality, and an additional item 13.5 under paragraph 239(2)(b) to consider a matter regarding the township facilities, involving personal matters about identifiable individuals.

CARRIED

Council stood down for a brief recess.

Council resumed in closed session at 8:02 p.m.

During closed session, the following procedural resolution was passed:

RESOLUTION 2025-108

Moved by: Councillor Kresack

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 9:19 p.m., Council rise from closed session and report in open session.

CARRIED

Open session resumed.



14. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 2025-109

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Kresack

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Closed Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 13th, 2025, be approved; AND, FURTHER, THAT Administration be authorized to proceed as directed in closed session.

CARRIED

15. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

By-law 2025-017

RESOLUTION 2025-110

Moved by: Councillor Kresack

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

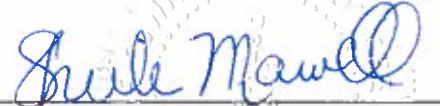
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2025-017 be passed;

AND, FURTHER, THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized on behalf of the Township of Conmee to affix their signatures to By-law No. 2025-017, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of this evening's meeting.

CARRIED

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to attend to, the mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.



Mayor Sheila Maxwell



Clerk Karen Paisley