

## MINUTES - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 6:00 pm

PRESENT Mayor Sheila Maxwell  
Councillor Chris Kresack  
Councillor David Maxwell  
Councillor Grant Arnold

REGRETS Councillor David Halvorsen

ALSO PRESENT Karen Paisley, Clerk  
Leanne Maxwell, Treasurer  
Robb Day, Fire Chief

### 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 9.2: Conmee Community Foundation Charitable Organization.  
The Clerk requested a correction of a typographical error for item 15. The confirming bylaw should be shown as Bylaw 2025-019 on the agenda.

#### RESOLUTION 2025 – 114

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the regular council meeting of June 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Members present reviewed the minutes. Councillor Kresack and Councillor Maxwell requested amendments of typographical errors.

#### RESOLUTION 2025 - 115

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 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, be approved as amended.

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#### 6.2 Minutes – Special Council Meeting – June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Members present reviewed the minutes. The Clerk advised the title should be "Special" instead of "Regular".

#### **RESOLUTION 2025 - 116**

**Moved by: Councillor Maxwell**

**Seconded by: Councillor Kresack**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the special council meeting of June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, be approved as amended.

### **7. DISBURSEMENT LIST**

#### **7.1. Payroll Report**

Council reviewed the payroll report. There were no questions for the Treasurer.

#### **7.2. Payment Register**

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

#### **RESOLUTION 2025-117**

**Moved by: Councillor Kresack**

**Seconded by: Councillor Arnold**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approved the disbursements represented by electronic bank payments, check numbers 7433 to 7459 totalling \$27,868.01.

### **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 reported that the Ontario Land Tribunal registration process has been completed. A local francophone resident assisted in reviewing the French translation of the draft notice to ensure accuracy. Additionally, the Food Cycler units were delivered ahead of schedule on May 28th. Residents who ordered units were notified by email, and most have since picked up and paid for their units. A follow-up email was sent to the Food Cycler team with questions about using the system, and a gardening guide provided by the Food Cycler team to assist with these questions. This document was shared with residents who ordered the system. This information will also be published on the municipal website for future reference.

#### **8.2. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Maxwell reported that the certified cheque for the fire truck purchase was sent via Canada Post and is expected to arrive within two days. She presented four payment options for Council's consideration: full payment from the operating account, partial use of fire department reserves, or financing through a bank loan. She recommended using approximately 40% of the fire department reserves and covering the remainder from the operating account to avoid interest charges. Council supported this recommendation.

She also noted that the Canadian Legion is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, and the Township will continue its tradition of placing an advertisement in their commemorative publication.

In addition, Councillor Kresack shared that Twin City Industrial has begun building fire trucks locally and may offer a more cost-effective and more expedient alternative to other vendors. He noted that a resident, is now working at Twin City and has experience building fire trucks. Council discussed the urgency of securing a new truck due to rising costs and limited availability, with the current quote from Fort Garry



expiring on June 22. Administration was directed to explore the possibility of obtaining an extension on the quote and to request a comparable quote from Twin City Industrial to allow for timely decision-making. Further discussion was deferred to New Business.

### 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

No Public Works Report was presented at this evening's meeting.

### 8.5. Fire Chief's Report

Fire Chief Day provided a comprehensive update on recent fire department activity. Over the past six weeks, the department has responded to several calls, most of which were false alarms. On May 5th, the department's pumper truck failed during a mutual aid call and was sent to RS Mechanical for repairs. The truck was returned the following Thursday and is now operational, though Chief Day advised it should be used primarily for hauling water due to its age and reliability concerns.

The department temporarily received a loaner truck from the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), which may be recalled at short notice. OFM has inquired about the Township's progress in securing a replacement, and Chief Day confirmed that a new truck is in process and should arrive soon. RS Mechanical will also perform the MTO safety inspection upon delivery.

Chief Day emphasized the ongoing regional fire ban due to dry conditions and limited MNR resources. He noted that mutual aid departments are also overextended, and volunteer recruitment remains a critical issue. The department is currently down to eight volunteers, having recently lost two members—one due to relocation and another due to the demands of training and certification. He expressed hope that once the new apparatus is in service, the department can launch a recruitment drive.

He also reported that the selected replacement truck has a pump capacity of 6,000 litres per minute at 1,000 kPa and 1,530 RPM and has been fully tested and certified. The truck is located near Beeton, Ontario, and will be delivered directly to RS Mechanical for inspection. Chief Day confirmed that the truck's previous owner worked with Freightliner dealers, ensuring future maintenance support.

Mayor Maxwell acknowledged positive community feedback regarding the fire truck purchase, with several residents expressing support and noting the need for updated equipment. Mayor Maxwell highlighted the importance of continued advocacy for provincial support, particularly in Northern Ontario where volunteer shortages are more acute. Council to revisit discussions with the Solicitor General and MPP Holland regarding expanding OCIF funding eligibility to include fire service equipment.

Finally, Chief Day recommended that the Township explore newly available FireSmart program funding to promote fire safety education and property preparedness. Clerk Paisley confirmed that she received the same correspondence from OFM, and she and Chief Day will review the program materials and plan to develop community outreach initiatives. Chief Day expressed appreciation for the support of Council and staff, noting that recent progress has been the result of strong collaboration.

Chief Day left the meeting at 7:02 pm.

### 8.6. Council Member Reports

Mayor Maxwell reported attending a special Emergency Management Committee (EMC) meeting on May 31st with Clerk Paisley and Fire Chief Day. The meeting focused on contingency planning in the event of no emergency response availability within the community. She also attended the Special Council Meeting on June 4th, which was dedicated to discussions regarding the fire truck acquisition. Mayor Maxwell reminded Council that the next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 25th, not the 24th.

RD  
SMV

Councillor Arnold reported attending the Special Council Meeting on June 4th. He advised Council that he may attend the upcoming June 25th meeting virtually, as he will be away attending a family event. He also confirmed his intention to continue serving in his roles with the Conservation Authority and Public Health, participating virtually if necessary.

Councillor Maxwell reported attending the Special Council Meeting on June 4th. He also provided an update on improvements to the Council's audio equipment. After consulting with Steve Lazar, a cost-effective solution was identified involving the purchase of a new mixer and USB audio interface, estimated at approximately \$500–\$600. This upgrade will enable the microphones to function properly during Zoom meetings. Councillor Maxwell confirmed that the equipment has been ordered and that he provided the necessary delivery and contact information.

Councillor Kresack reported attending the Special Council Meeting on June 4th. He advised that the next Food Bank date has been rescheduled to June 18th due to scheduling conflicts and requested that the Clerk arrange a Zoom meeting for that date. He also raised concerns about the presence of Pharaoh ants in the Food Bank area and recommended that the Township contact the pest control provider, Toodaloo, to conduct a follow-up inspection and ensure the issue is addressed promptly.

#### 8.7. Other Agencies' Reports

Council reviewed the other agency reports. The reports were provided primarily for information purposes. Council briefly noted the relevance of proposed amendments to the Forest Fire Prevention Act under Bill 27, which align with ongoing discussions around emergency preparedness and FireSmart initiatives.

#### **RESOLUTION 2025-118**

**Moved by: Councillor Maxwell**

**Seconded by: Councillor Arnold**

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. Purchase of a New Pumper Fire Truck**

Council held an in-depth discussion regarding the potential purchase of a new pumper fire truck. The conversation reaffirmed that the long-standing plan has been to acquire a new build to replace aging equipment, with the recently purchased 2004 unit serving as an interim solution. The original strategy involved securing a loaner from Fort Garry while awaiting delivery; however, due to increased demand and wildfire activity, no loaners were available, and rental costs were deemed prohibitive.

The current quote from Fort Garry, valid until June 22, 2025, prompted Council to consider whether to proceed or request an extension to allow time for further vendor exploration. Staff were directed to pursue an extension and continue gathering quotes, including from Twin City Industrial, a local manufacturer that may offer a more cost-effective and expedient alternative.

Council discussed the financial implications of the purchase, including the potential use of Infrastructure Ontario financing. Treasurer Maxwell is scheduled to consult with Infrastructure Ontario to determine available options. It was noted that the upfront cost of the chassis (approximately \$160,000) could be paid immediately, with the remaining balance financed over the two-year build period. Council emphasized the importance of understanding the tax impact of proceeding with or without financing.

Concerns were raised about high-pressure sales tactics from some vendors, and Council expressed a preference for working with suppliers who offer transparent and collaborative service. The possibility of

implementing a temporary tax levy or surcharge to support the purchase was also mentioned as a potential funding strategy.

Council agreed that maintaining fire protection services is essential, both for public safety and to avoid significantly increased insurance premiums for residents. Council members emphasized that the fire truck replacement has been under consideration for some time and that the Township must be prepared to invest in critical infrastructure. Staff will continue to monitor vendor responses and financing developments, and a follow-up meeting may be scheduled prior to the quote expiry date if needed.

#### 9.2 Conmee Community Foundation Charitable Organization

Council deferred a decision pending input from Acting Clerk Evans, who initiated the foundation. Clerk Paisley to follow up and report back.

### **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 a request for support from another municipality regarding proposed provincial legislation. No action was taken.

### **12. UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

The list of upcoming regular Council meeting dates was available for review. No changes were proposed. Council was reminded that the next meeting will be on Wednesday June 25, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

### **13. CLOSED SESSION**

#### **RESOLUTION 2025-0119**

**Moved by: Councillor Maxwell**

**Seconded by: Councillor Arnold**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the time being 7:52 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 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 relations. Item 13.4 was added during closed session under paragraph 239(b) of the same legislation regarding personal matters about identifiable individuals.

**CARRIED**

Council stood down for a brief recess.

Council resumed in closed session at 8:00 p.m.

During closed session, the following procedural resolution was passed:

#### **RESOLUTION 2025-120**

**Moved by: Councillor Maxwell**

**Seconded by: Councillor Kresack**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 8:21 p.m., Council rise from closed session and report in open session.

**CARRIED**

*SM*  
*TP*

Open session resumed.

**14. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

**RESOLUTION 2025-121**

**Moved by: Councillor Maxwell**

**Seconded by: Councillor Kresack**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Closed Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, be approved; AND, FURTHER, THAT Administration be authorized to proceed as directed in closed session.

**CARRIED**

**15. CONFIRMING BY-LAW**

By-law 2025-019

**RESOLUTION 2025-122**

**Moved by: Councillor Maxwell**

**Seconded by: Councillor Arnold**


BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2025-019 be passed;

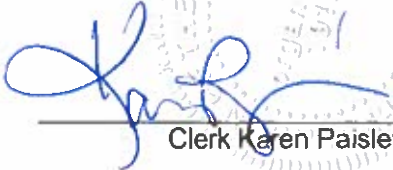
AND, FURTHER, THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized on behalf of the Township of Conmee to affix their signatures to By-law No. 2025-019, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of this evening's meeting.

**CARRIED**

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to attend to, the mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

  
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Mayor Sheila Maxwell

  
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Clerk Karen Paisley

SM