

MINUTES - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 25th, 2023 – 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Sheila Maxwell
Councillor David Maxwell
Councillor Grant Arnold
Councillor David Halvorsen

ALSO PRESENT: Shara Lavalley, CAO/Clerk
Len Arps, Public Works Manager
Darren Smith, Acting Public Works Manager
Leanne Maxwell, Treasurer

REGRETS: Councillor Chris Kresack

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0147

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the regular council meeting of July 25th 2023
be approved as amended

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

4. DEPUTATIONS

None

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

5.1. Minutes – Regular Council Meeting – July 11th 2023

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0148

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 11th 2023 be approved

CARRIED

6. DISBURSEMENT LIST

- 6.1 Payroll Report
- 6.2 Payment Register

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0149

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the disbursements represented by Check Numbers 6501 through 6520, totalling \$47,945.35

CARRIED

7. REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

7.1. Clerk's Report

The Clerk provided a summary of the administrative activities. The consultants, FOTENN, will be providing final drafts of the Official Plan and Zoning By-Law for the upcoming Aug 8th council meeting. Then the draft Official Plan will be sent to the Ministry. Once the Official Plan is approved by the Ministry, then the Zoning By-Law can be approved by Council. A letter of support was sent to the Township of O'Connor for its proposed Seniors Active Living Centre. As a show of support, the Township confirmed that in-kind contributions would be provided when appropriate, especially to assist with programming held at the Conmee Centre. Council was misinformed about the tax rate change for 2022 and 2023. There were errors in the spreadsheet used to make such calculations. The tax change for 2023 shall be 0.82%. Leanne Maxwell has been hired as the new Treasurer for the Township. The Clerk provided a draft of a letter to be sent to Canada Post regarding the frequent issues encountered by the mailing addresses currently being provided to the property owners.

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0150

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Conmee requests an investigation by Canada Post on the alignment of the mailing addresses and the civic addresses of the properties located in the Township

CARRIED

7.2. Public Works Report

Public Works Manager Arps provided a summary of the recent weeks. Grading was completed on several roads. Wiljala Road is being cleaned up. The roadside brush was cut by a local business. A turnaround is being installed on Maxwell Rd to assist with winter maintenance. Public Works Manager Arps will be retiring and the new Acting Public Works Manager Smith shall be taking his place. All councillors gave best wishes and congratulations on the retirement.

7.3. Councillor Reports

Mayor Maxwell provided a summary of her activities. She and the Clerk met with Senior Machine Operator Smith, who accepted the position of Acting Public Works Manager. Mayor Maxwell also attended a meeting with a consultant from the insurance company regarding risk management for public works. The consultant agreed to visit the township in person for further discussion and analysis.

Councillor Arnold is still scheduled to attend the annual AMO conference.

Councillor Halvorsen attended the LRPB meeting. He is scheduled to attend the upcoming quarterly LPSB meeting.

Councillor Maxwell also attended the meeting with the risk consultant from the insurance company.

8 NEW BUSINESS

None

9 BY-LAWS

9.1 By-Law 1404 – Appoint Treasurer

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0151

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 1404 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. 1404, being a By-law to appoint Leanne Maxwell as Treasurer

CARRIED

9.2 By-Law 1405 – Cheque Signing Officers

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0152

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 1405 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. 1405, being a By-law to appoint Cheque Signing Officers

CARRIED

9.3 By-Law 1406 – Appoint Acting Public Works Manager

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0153

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 1406 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. 1406, being a By-law to appoint Darren Smith as Acting Public Works Manager

CARRIED

9.4 By-Law 1407 – Appoint LPSB

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0154

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 1407 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. 1407, being a By-law to appoint Mr. Greg Croft as the community representative to the Lakehead Police Service Board.

CARRIED

10 CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 CN Rail

10.1.1 Resolution in support rail safety week

WHEREAS Rail Safety Week is to be held across Canada from September 18 to 24, 2023;

WHEREAS, 232 railway crossing and trespassing incidents occurred in Canada in 2022; resulting in 66 avoidable fatalities and 43 avoidable serious injuries;

WHEREAS, educating and informing the public about rail safety (reminding the public that railway rights-of-way are private property, enhancing public awareness of the dangers associated with highway rail grade crossings, ensuring pedestrians and motorists are looking and listening while near railways, and obeying established traffic laws) will reduce the number of avoidable fatalities and injuries cause by incidents involving trains and citizens; and

Whereas Operation Lifesaver is a public/private partnership whose aim is to work with the public, rail industry, governments, police services, media and others to raise rail safety awareness;

Whereas CN has requested City Council adopt this resolution in support of its ongoing efforts to raise awareness, save lives and prevent injuries in communities, including our municipality;

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0155

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Conmee support Rail Safety Week to be held from September 18 to 24, 2023

CARRIED

- 10.2 TBDSAB
 - 10.2.1 Resolution – AMO position papers
 - 10.2.2 Position paper – HPP Investment Plan
 - 10.2.3 Position paper – increase social assistance housing rates

Received for information

- 10.3 FONOM
 - 10.3.1 Resolution – housing

WHEREAS the Federal and Provincial Governments need to support their most vulnerable households, the ones who are or are at risk of becoming homeless. Overall, housing and services for low-income, vulnerable, or marginalized people should be a primary consideration moving forward so we help those who need it the most.

WHEREAS the Township of Conmee understands every community across Ontario is impacted by a need for affordable housing and support for people at risk of homelessness. Municipal governments are working in collaboration with all orders of

government to invest in permanent solutions to the housing and homelessness crisis in Ontario.

WHEREAS the Township of Conmee understands that the Federal **National Housing Strategy** allocation formula to provinces and territories for jointly funded housing initiatives, roughly follows their share of the national population. This approach leaves Ontario underfunded because, as per the 2021 Census figures, the number of Ontario households in **Community Housing Network** as a share of the national total is 44.1 percent, which is well above the provincial share of the national population at 38.5 percent. This is also by far the highest share of national **Community Housing Network** relative to every other province and territories.

WHEREAS receiving a by-population allocation from the federal government hampers Ontario's ability to reach more of those households in need that require assistance with housing.

WHEREAS the lack of ongoing federal operating funding for **National Housing Strategy** initiatives leads to significant underfunding for subsidized housing projects and can undermine the physical and financial viability of the community housing stock.

WHEREAS a similar situation occurs with federal homelessness funding to Ontario through **Reaching Home**, where the share allocated to Ontario is also below the provincial share of **Community Housing Network** nationally.

WHEREAS there is an inequitable distribution of **Reaching Home** funding in Ontario as only 25 of 47 Service Managers have designated communities receiving funding under the program, despite the prevalence of need across the entire Province.

WHEREAS Township of Conmee understand the federal government takes the position that its role is to provide capital funding while Provinces and Territories are to fund operating expenses, but this approach does not create an equitable sharing of the burden of funding long-term operating costs, which continue for the life of a project.

WHEREAS taken altogether, the underfunding to Ontario for housing and homelessness relative to its share of national **Canadian Housing Network** amounts to approximately \$480 million over the term of the Federal **National Housing Strategy**.

WHEREAS the federal government previously provided leadership in ensuring the long-term financial and physical viability of the social housing stock under the **Social Housing Agreement** for several decades through federal social housing operating agreements that provided funding for both mortgages and operating costs.

WHEREAS without some flexibility on the part of the federal government, Ontario and its municipalities will be poorly positioned to take advantage of this funding, and this will turn into a significant missed opportunity, leading to a further deterioration in the long-term physical and financial sustainability of the community housing stock.

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0156

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Township of Conmee also supports the provincial ask for federal operating funding for **National Housing Strategy** initiatives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED would appreciate the federal effort to repurpose this funding quickly from the main **National Housing Co-Investment Fund** program line, Service Managers across the province have indicated their challenges with meeting the terms of the federal proposal, particularly as they relate to cost matching and meeting the requirements for greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and accessibility.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Township of Conmee would like need-driven indicators incorporated into the funding allocation formulas for all federal programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that FONOM appreciates the federal government's commitment to end chronic homelessness and wishes this to be inclusive across all areas of our province by expanding Reaching Home funding to all Service Managers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, FONOM also supports the provincial position in relation to the provinces and territories **Repair Fund** under the **National Housing Co-Investment Fund**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, FONOM supports the Province of Ontario position on the application-based \$4 billion federal **Housing Accelerator Fund**. We wish to emphasize the importance of providing municipalities with maximum support in preparing applications to the HAF, understanding that some rural and northern municipalities may face capacity challenges in applying to this program on the anticipated tight timelines.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Township of Conmee wish to request that **Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation** consider actions taken by municipalities under the province's **Housing Supply Action Plans** into account

when assessing municipal applications, recognizing that these initiatives have the potential to significantly increase the supply of housing in our communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Township of Conmee believes the lack of ongoing federal operating funding for **National Housing Strategy** initiatives leads to significant underfunding for subsidized housing projects and can undermine the physical and financial viability of the community housing stock.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Township of Conmee believe the federal government should heed the precedent of the **Social Housing Agreement** and recommit itself to funding operating costs that often stretch out over decades for the lifetime of a housing project. As an example, the **Rapid Housing Initiative's** 20-year affordability requirement and lack of federal operating dollars will very likely result in housing providers asking Service Managers and the provincial government to fund operating expenses to ensure the long-term affordability of units given housing providers' limited revenue-raising capacity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED This lack of ongoing federal operating funding for **National Housing Strategy** initiatives leads to significant underfunding for subsidized housing projects and can undermine the physical and financial viability of the community housing stock.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Township of Conmee urges the Federal Government provide additional funding for Ontario so that we can deal with our shortages of safe and affordable housing and at the same time build safer and healthier communities for all our residents.

FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED THAT a Copy of the Resolution be forward to the individuals listed below for consideration and support, Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Ahmed Hussen, MP Marcus Powlowski, Premier Ford, Minister Clark, MPP Kevin Holland, Leaders of the Federal and Provincial Opposition Parties, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

- 10.4 Municipality of Wawa
 - 10.4.1 Resolution – OHIP coverage for chronic pain

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0157

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Conmee supports the resolution passed by the Municipality of Wawa regarding OHIP coverage for chronic pain treatments

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to MPP Kevin Holland, Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Health, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and the Associate of Municipalities of Ontario

CARRIED

10.5 Town of Bradford-West Gwillimbury – resolution – right to repair

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0158

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Conmee supports the resolution passed by the Municipality of Bradford-West Gwillimbury regarding the right-to-repair movement

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Innovation Science and Economic Development; the Minister of Agriculture; MPP Marcus Powlowski; the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

CARRIED

10.6 Municipality of North Perth – resolution – vacant CBO positions

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0159

Moved by: Councillor

Seconded by: Councillor

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Conmee supports the resolution passed by the Municipality of North Perth regarding the vacant CBO positions

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford; Hon. Steve Clark, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; MPP Kevin Holland and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

CARRIED

10.7 Municipality of North Perth – resolution – proposed New Provincial Policy Statement

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0160

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Conmee supports the resolution passed by the Municipality of North Perth regarding the proposed New Provincial Policy Statement

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to

Premier Doug Ford; The Hon. Steve Clark – Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; The Hon. Lisa Thompson – Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; The Hon. David Piccini – Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks; Kevin Holland, MPP (Thunder Bay-Atikokan); the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association.

CARRIED

10.8 Other correspondence

11 UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Aug 8 th , 2023	Regular Council Meeting
Aug 22 nd , 2023	Regular Council Meeting
Sept 12 th , 2023	Regular Council Meeting
Sept 26 th , 2023	Regular Council Meeting
Oct 10 th , 2023	Regular Council Meeting
Oct 24 th , 2023	Regular Council Meeting

12 CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0161

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 7:12 p.m., Council resolve into closed session, under the authority of paragraph 239(2)(b) and (d) of the Municipal Act, 2001 to discuss Item 12.2-7 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 July 11th 2023

CARRIED

12.1	Closed Minutes – July 11 th 2023
12.2	HR – Treasurer
12.3	HR – Human Resources Assistant

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0162

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 7:12 p.m., Council rise from closed session and report in open session

AND THAT the Closed Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on June 27th 2023 be approved

AND THAT the employment contract for Leanne Maxwell as Treasurer be approved

AND THAT the employment contract for Olabisi Akinsanya-Hutka as Human Resources Assistant be approved

AND THAT administration proceed as directed

CARRIED

13 CONFIRMING BY-LAW

13.1 By-law 1408 – To Confirm the Proceedings of the Meeting

RESOLUTION NO 2023-0163

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 1408 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. 1408, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of this evening's meeting.

CARRIED

14 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Mayor Sheila Maxwell

CAO/Clerk Shara Lavallee