

MINUTES - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 – 6:00 pm



PRESENT Mayor Sheila Maxwell
Councillor David Maxwell
Councillor Chris Kresack

PRESENT VIRTUALLY Councillor Grant Arnold
Councillor David Halvorsen

ALSO PRESENT Karen Paisley, Clerk
Leanne Maxwell - Treasurer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
Mayor Maxwell provided a statement of land acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION 2025 - 047

Moved by: Councillor Kresack
Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the regular council meeting of March 11, 2025, be amended as follows:

a) Add item 9.2 – Proposed Designated Truck Route to New Business

AND, FURTHER, THAT the agenda, as so amended, be approved.

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 – February 25, 2025

Members present reviewed the minutes. Councillor Arnold requested an amendment to his report.

RESOLUTION 2025 - 048

Moved by: Councillor Arnold
Seconded by: Councillor Kresack

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes for the open session portion of the regular council meeting of February 25, 2025, be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

kp gm

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. There were no questions for the Treasurer.

RESOLUTION 2025-049

Moved by: Councillor Arnold
Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the disbursements represented by electronic bank payments, check numbers 7324 to 7341, totaling \$51,329.99.

CARRIED

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 that PSD Citywide has provided a proposal to assist the Township with creating an asset management plan to bring us into compliance with government requirements necessary for July, 2025. The Clerk will forward the proposal to Council for review and discussion at the next council meeting.

The Clerk advised that Steve Lazar from Backstage Music will attend the office on March 12th to work on the sound system in council chambers and the cordless microphones in the Community Centre. He's bringing Paul Hessey from AMIK Technology to help him assess the sound issues with our system in council chambers.

8.2. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Maxwell overviewed her report to Council and responded to questions. The Treasurer advised that the date for the first installment of tax payments has passed, with the second installment falling due at the end of April. Many residents have already made their April payments. The Treasurer discussed the cancellation of government contracts with Starlink and sought Council's direction on whether the municipality should keep the service. On consensus, Council decided to retain the service for now, as an important emergency communications link. There was discussion around the availability of Fiber high speed internet from Tbaytel. Clerk Paisley had reached out to Tbaytel to request an update on coverage for the municipality but has not yet heard back from them. Clerk Paisley will provide an update to Council once she hears from Tbaytel.

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

The Fire Chief submitted a written report. He is unable to attend Council meetings in March. The Clerk will pass on any questions to the Fire Chief and provide responses as needed. Council requested the Public Works steamer remain in storage at the Fire Hall until it's warm enough to store outside, with discussions to be held between the Public Works supervisor, Chief Day and Council to discuss arrangements moving forward.

8.6. Council Member Reports

Mayor Maxwell reported she met with City of Thunder Bay parks employees to discuss the rink roof, as Thunder Bay is interested in doing a similar installation for some of their rinks. Mayor Maxwell and Councillor Maxwell met with the HR Assistant to prepare for the upcoming Union negotiations in July. Mayor Maxwell received a rail safety ambassador certificate from CN Rail and Operation Lifesaver Canada for our community proclaiming Rail Safety Week in 2024. This award will be framed and displayed in Council Chambers. Mayor Maxwell would like to set up another social committee meeting.

Councillor Arnold attended the LRCA Board of Directors meeting February 26 and will be attending the Thunder Bay District Health Unit meeting virtually on March 19th.

Councillor Halvorsen attended the Lakehead Region Planning Board meeting. New chairs were elected on March 6th.

Mayor Maxwell was approached by a resident, who asked her to bring forward to council attaching netting to the rink which may help ice retention.

Councillor Maxwell reported that he attended the Thunder Bay District Municipal League meeting on March 5. He was unable to attend the TBDML conference. Councillor Maxwell advised he attended bargaining discussions with Mayor Maxwell and the HR Assistant.

Councillor Halvorsen reported that a resident had asked him why the Geotab information was no longer in the agenda package. Council discussed and determined it's not necessary for council meetings as Geotab provides an image of where the municipal vehicles have driven and provides no relevant information as to what work was being done on the roads. By consensus, Council determined if residents would like the information, they can contact the office and request it from administration.

Councillor Kresack reported there was an OPP staff cruiser on February 1st at Odena. \$1400 plus was raised for the Rural Food Bank. He advised the 211 number is directing donors to drop off food donations at the Oliver Paipoonge municipal office, which is not correct. This will be changed when new drop off centers are determined. This year is the 25th anniversary for the Food Bank. There will be an Anniversary Dinner on Saturday May 24th at the Kakabeka Legion from 4:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Councillor Kresack will advise when tickets are available.

8.7. Other Agencies' Reports

These reports were listed, for information, and discussed in the Clerk's report at Item 8.1.

Councillor Kresak left at 6:50 pm.

Councillor Kresak returned at 6:51 pm.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Food Cycler – 10 units

Council reached a consensus to reconsider the Food Cycler program due to new information indicating that only 10 residents are required to participate. Council noted that the Food Cycler program would have a positive impact on the landfill and result in long-term cost savings for the municipality. Council requested the Clerk schedule another deposition from the Food Cycler representatives to provide updated information to residents. Additionally, the Clerk was directed to create a follow-up survey to determine interest in the program. The Clerk was directed to locate the list of names of residents who had previously expressed interest in the program. The survey will be distributed through the Conmee newsletter, Facebook page, and website.

9.2. Proposed Designated Truck Route

The City of Thunder Bay is revisiting the designated truck route through Kakabeka on Highway 11/17. Council addressed several concerns with this proposal and on consensus will be drafting a letter of opposition. This letter will be provided to the Thunder Bay District Municipal League, City of Thunder Bay, the provincial and federal governments, and other parties of interest. Council will collaborate with the Clerk to provide information required to produce this letter.

SPM
KP

10. BY-LAWS

- 10.1. Bylaw Number 2025-007 to amend Bylaw 1405, which establishes signing authority for the Corporation of the Township of Conmee

RESOLUTION 2025-050

Moved by: Councillor Kresack

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Bylaw 2025-007 amending Bylaw 1405, establishing signing authority for the Corporation of the Township of Conmee.

A Recorded vote was requested by Councillor Halvorsen

Councillor Arnold	Aye
Councillor Halvorsen	Aye
Councillor Kresack	Aye
Councillor Maxwell	Aye
Mayor Maxwell	Aye

CARRIED

11. CORRESPONDENCE

List of Resolution Support Requests from other Municipalities

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

RESOLUTION 2025-051

Moved by: Councillor Kresack

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: All Township residents be encouraged to "Buy Local and Canadian";

That a "Buy Local and Buy Canadian" approach for municipal procurement be implemented where feasible and in line with best value principles;

That staff be directed to review current procurement practices and identify opportunities to enhance local purchasing in response to recent U.S. tariffs and economic pressures; and

That staff be directed to prohibit procurement of U.S. goods and services where possible; and

That staff be directed to report back on any opportunities found to modify procurement policies and practices to support "Buy Local and Buy Canadian" where practical.

AND, FURTHER, THAT this resolution be forwarded to its originator, The City of Toronto, Premier Doug Ford, MPP for Thunder Bay-Superior North, MPP for Thunder Bay-Atikokan and to AMO.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2025-052

Moved by: Councillor Kresack

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

WHEREAS THE TransCanada Highway is the road system meant to move goods and people across the country, but it is no longer equipped to do that safely in Northern Ontario;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Conmee hereby supports the Northern Highway Safety Plan proposed by MPP Guy Bourgouin, MPP Lise Vaugeois and MPP John Vanthof which includes the following;

Immediate Actions:

- Require all new drivers to be tested by MTO-certified inspectors instead of third-party companies.
- Return highway maintenance operations to the MTO while working with northern contractors.
- Increase staff at inspection sites, weigh scales, and OPP traffic enforcement.
- Expedite the 2+1 highway pilot project and use excavated material to build additional rest stops and parking areas.

Short-Term Improvements:

- Mandate snow tires for all passenger vehicles in Northern Ontario.
- Ensure driving schools comply with the MELT training system and improve MELT to include winter driving training.
- Address the abuse of "self-insurance provisions" and ensure fair payment for tow truck operators and service providers.

- Require all commercial vehicles to have dash cams.
 - Increase the use of traffic cameras and photo radar to reduce speeding.
 - Promote rail transport to reduce commercial truck traffic on northern highways.
 - Upload connecting links back to the provincial highway system for consistent maintenance.
 - Upgrade and expand rest stops with heated washrooms to meet traveler needs.
 - Provide compensation to municipalities for damage to local roads caused by highway detours.
- Long-Term Solutions:
- Widen and pave all shoulders on Highways 11 and 17.
 - Convert Highways 11 and 17 into divided four-lane highways where possible or implement a continuous three-lane system if the 2+1 project proves successful.

AND, FURTHER, THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation; the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing; the Thunder Bay District Municipal League; the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association; MPP for Thunder Bay-Atikokan, MPP for Thunder Bay-Superior North and the originating municipality, the Township of Coleman.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2025-053

Moved by: Councillor Kresack

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

WHEREAS in recent years, Nazi iconography has surfaced with alarming frequency in the public sphere, used by an increasing number of groups and individuals to promote hate and instill fear within Canadian society;

AND WHEREAS, since the atrocities of WWII, the Nazi swastika, also known as the hakenkreuze, has become universally synonymous with systematic violence, terror and hate and its growing presence in our country poses a threat to every single Canadian citizen, undermining the core values of equality, diversity, and inclusion that define our nation,

AND WHEREAS eighteen countries have already taken action to ban these symbols, it is imperative that Canada follow suit;

BE IT RESOLVED, that Conmee Township Council supports B'nai Brith's call to the Government of Canada to pass legislation banning, with exceptions for certain educational and artistic purposes, the public display of Nazi symbols and iconography, including the Nazi swastika (hakenkreuze). Specifically, the Council supports demanding that the Government of Canada immediately:

1. Ban the Nazi swastika (hakenkreuze); and
2. Ban all Nazi symbols and iconography;

AND, FURTHER, THAT Conmee Township Council agrees that the people of Canada are counting on the federal government to ensure a future free from hate, where every Canadian is protected, valued, and respected;

AND, FURTHER, THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the originating municipality, the Regional Municipality of Durham, Premier Doug Ford, MPP for Thunder Bay-Superior North, MPP for Thunder Bay-Atikokan, and the FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities).

CARRIED

12. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

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

Council Meeting Break: 7:19 pm

Council Meeting Resumed: 7:25 pm

13. CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 2025-054

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Kresack

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the time being 7:26 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 the meetings were closed, in order to consider Item 13.1, being the Closed Session minutes of the Council meeting held February 25th, 2025; and, under the authority of paragraph 239(2)(b) of the same legislation, in order to consider Item 13.2, involving personal information about identifiable individuals.

CARRIED

SM
RP

During closed session, the following procedural resolution was passed:

RESOLUTION 2025-055

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 7:52 p.m., Council rise from closed session and report in open session.

CARRIED

Open session resumed.

14. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 2025-056

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Closed Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 25th, 2025, be approved;
AND, FURTHER, THAT Administration be authorized to proceed as directed in closed session.

CARRIED

15. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

15.1. By-law 2025-008

RESOLUTION 2025-057

Moved by: Councillor Kresack

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

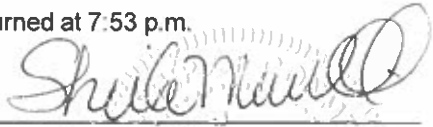
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2025-008 be passed;

AND, FURTHER, THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized on behalf of the Township of Conmee to affix their signatures to By-law No. 2025-008, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of this evening's meeting.

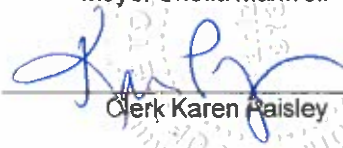
CARRIED

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to attend to, the mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.



Mayor Sheila Maxwell



Clerk Karen Paisley

