

MINUTES - SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, June 4th, 2025 – 7:30 pm

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

PRESENT VIRTUALLY 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 7:31 p.m.
Mayor Maxwell provided a statement of land acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION 2025 – 111

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the special council meeting of June 4th, 2025, be approved.

CARRIED

The Treasurer entered the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations were made.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Interim Pumper Fire Truck

Council discussed the urgent need to acquire a temporary fire truck due to the failure of the Township's current pumper. The current pumper is no longer reliable for fire suppression and can only be used to dump water. The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) has emphasized the Township's liability risk and the need to maintain service levels. Council discussed this issue and were advised that downgrading the fire service would void mutual aid agreements and significantly increase insurance premiums for residents, averaging \$400 to \$600 per household. A 2003 Spartan Gladiator pumper located in Lindsay, ON, was identified as the most viable temporary option. The 2012 KME International truck listed in the agenda package was confirmed to be sold. The 2003 truck is available immediately and priced at approximately \$116,636.57 CAD, with additional costs for travel and fuel. Council discussed the possibility of negotiating the price or including additional equipment. The Treasurer confirmed sufficient reserve funds are available to purchase the truck outright, with the option to refinance later. Council also discussed long-term planning for purchasing a new fire truck as soon as practicable. Councillor Kresack conducted a search on Fenton firetrucks and noted that a 2004 Freightliner pumper had a 1,000-gallon poly tank, which would be an improvement over the 750-gallon capacity of the 2003 Spartan Gladiator. The Fenton site required contact information to reveal its location. It was confirmed to be located in Ontario, Canada. It was also noted that the truck

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came with a full set of Hurst extraction equipment. Despite interest, the 2003 Spartan Gladiator remained the primary focus due to its immediate availability and the urgency of the situation. During discussions, Council agreed to proceed with the 2003 Spartan purchase but acknowledged the 2004 option as worth exploring further if time allowed.

Councillor Halvorsen raised resident's concerns with Council regarding the current fire ban. Residents had reached out to Councillor Halvorsen, expressing an issue with the fire ban. Council discussed these concerns with Chief Day, who reported that the fire ban was implemented by the Fire Chief due to the inoperability of the township's primary pumper truck, which compromised the township's ability to respond to fires. Initially, the ban applied only to brush fires, allowing campfires to continue. However, as the situation worsened and parts for the pumper could not be sourced, the ban was extended to all fires. The Fire Chief emphasized that the ban was a safety measure and a way to limit liability, especially since the township could not guarantee an adequate emergency response. The Chief clarified that the decision was based on professional responsibility and legal liability. Additionally the ban aligned with regional and provincial fire bans, who also placed bans on fires at the same time as the Municipality of Conmee, especially as wildfire risks increased across Northwestern Ontario.

Councillor Halvorsen raised a concern regarding the repair of Pumper 75. The township's old pumper truck (pumper 75) suffered a catastrophic failure (broken driveshaft linkage for the PTO). The truck was not initially sent to Wayne, the usual service provider, because Wayne was unable to service the truck quickly. Instead, the truck was taken to RS Mechanical in O'Connor, who responded quickly and attempted to source parts. Parts were eventually sourced from Argentina, but the mechanic warned that the truck is fragile and should be used with caution, only suitable for dumping water, not active fire attack. Councillor Halvorsen questioned why Wayne wasn't used and requested a second opinion from Wayne to verify the repairs and assess the truck's condition. The Fire Chief reported that Wayne's previous certification was only for flow testing, not mechanical integrity, and that the current issue was unrelated to Wayne's past work.

RESOLUTION 2025 -112

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the purchase of the 2003 Spartan Gladiator pumper truck as a temporary replacement for the Township of Conmee's fire services.

Recorded Vote:

Member	Vote
Mayor Maxwell	Yes
Councillor Arnold	Yes
Councillor Kresack	Yes
Councillor Maxwell	Yes
Councillor Halvorsen	No

CARRIED

AP SM

CONFIRMING BY-LAW

By-law 2025-018

RESOLUTION 2025-113

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Kresack

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2025-018 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. 2025-018, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of this evening's meeting.

CARRIED

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to attend to, the mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.



Mayor Sheila Maxwell



Clerk Karen Paisley