

Meeting of the ROMA Board

Thursday, October 8, 2015

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

AMO Office
200 University Avenue, Suite 801
Toronto, Ontario

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Chair Ronald Holman, Mayor, Township of Rideau Lakes (Zone 7)

Past Chair Ron Eddy, Mayor, County of Brant (Zone 3)

First Vice-Chair Allan Thompson, Mayor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4) *partial, by conference call*

Second Vice-Chair Chris White, Mayor, Township of Guelph-Eramosa (Zone 2)

Zone and AMO Rural Caucus Representatives

Bill Bilton, Councillor, Township of Dawn-Euphemia (Zone 1)

Liz Danielsen, Deputy Reeve, Township of Algonquin Highlands (Zone 5)

Eli El-Chantiry, Councillor, City of Ottawa, West Carlton-March Ward (Zone 8)

Liz Huff, Councillor, Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands (AMO Rural Caucus)

Robert Pasuta, Councillor, Ward 14, City of Hamilton (Zone 3)

Bill Vrebosch, Mayor, Township of East Ferris (Zone 9)

Chris Wray, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, Municipality of Wawa (AMO Rural Caucus)

Staff:

Nancy Plumridge, ROMA Executive-Treasurer

Cathie Brown, AMO Senior Advisor

Lorna Ruder, AMO Executive Assistant

Nicholas Ruder, AMO Policy Advisor

Regrets:

Jim Sheedy, Councillor, Township of Laurentian Valley (Zone 6)

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Holman welcomed members to the Board meeting. He noted that he had recently attended the AMO Executive and Board meetings, the AMO/Province of

Ontario Memorandum of Understanding meetings. During the International Plowing Match in Cornwall, he met with the Premier and members of her cabinet, and was able to discuss various issues with cabinet ministers.

He noted that this would be Nicholas Ruder's last ROMA meeting, as he would assume new policy portfolios. The ROMA Board thanked Nicholas Ruder for his work on the rural file.

Moved by: Chris Wray
Seconded by: Robert Pasuta

"That agenda items 1b) Syrian Refugee Crises, 1c) Zone Contact lists, and 10 ii) ROMA/OGRA Conference be deferred to 'Other Business'; and

That the amended agenda be approved."

CARRIED

2. Declaration
 - Pecuniary interest – none
 - Early departure – Allan Thompson

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3. Approval of August 16, 2015 ROMA Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Chris Wray
Seconded by: Bill Bilton

"That the Minutes of the ROMA Board meeting held August 16, 2015 be approved as circulated."

CARRIED

4. Executive-Treasurer's Report

Nancy Plumridge reviewed the August 31, 2015 Financial Statements.

Moved by: Chris Wray
Seconded by: Bill Vrebosch

"That the August 31, 2015 Financial Statements be accepted as presented."

CARRIED

5. 2016 ROMA Board Meeting dates

Moved by: Liz Huff
Seconded by: Chris Wray

***“That the list of ROMA meeting dates be approved as amended, and
That the list be circulated to the ROMA Board.”***

CARRIED

TIMED ITEMS

6. Joint Conference Update

OGRA Executive Director Joe Tiernay provided reviewed the draft conference program and confirmed chairs for the various conference sessions. A summary of confirmed session chairs will be circulated to the ROMA Board members, who will advise of any changes. The ROMA Board provided feedback on topics for the Sunday afternoon Small Town sessions. Eli El-Chantiry and Chris White will work with Scott Butler of OGRA to set up this session.

For the benefit of new ROMA Board members, Joe Tiernay outlined their itinerary for the conference.

- 6a. Asphalt Paving

Joe Tiernay discussed OGRA’s work in the area of premature deterioration of asphalt. He reviewed the issues and challenges of working with the Ontario Hot Mix Producers Association (OHMPA) Quality of Asphalt Pavement Task Force, which consists of producers and suppliers. Five municipal representatives will be appointed to the committee, and he will circulate the news release with their names and municipalities.

7. ROMA Video

Farah Tayabali, Redbrick Communications, provided an update on the production of the ROMA Video.

8. ROMA Logo

Farah Tayabali discussed refreshing or redesigning the ROMA logo. The ROMA Board decided the logo should be refreshed using similar colours and shapes as the current logo.

Moved by: Chris Wray
Seconded by: Chris White

“That ROMA invest up to \$1,000 in minor colour and legibility changes to the logo.”

CARRIED

POLICY ITEMS

9. Policy Update

Cathie Brown provided an update on several key issues: conservation authorities, aggregates, *Provincial Offenses Act*, and an update of the various pieces of legislation before the provincial government.

Fair Pricing for E-Books for Public Libraries: Nicholas Ruder reviewed a resolution, approved by the AMO Board of Directors.

ROMA will send a letter of support to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Moved by: Chris Wray
Seconded by: Eli El-Chantiry

“Whereas: public libraries provide residents with a community space where they can freely access a wide variety of information in both print and digital format;

Whereas: municipal governments are key funders of public libraries, appoint public library boards and work in partnership with public library boards to deliver library services that are responsive to community needs;

Whereas: electronic books (e-books) are becoming an increasingly preferred medium for library users to access content and information;

Whereas: major multi-national publishers are charging public libraries significantly higher costs to purchase e-books for their collections than they charge consumers;

Whereas: imposing unreasonably high costs on public libraries to purchase e-books is not an appropriate solution to the publishing industry's concerns regarding the evolution of digital technology, including piracy;

Therefore be it resolved: that the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) requests the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport work with the federal and the other provincial and territorial governments to find a solution that will allow public libraries to purchase e-books from publishers at a fair and reasonable price.

And that: a copy of this resolution be sent to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)."

CARRIED

Chris Wray provided updates on power dam taxation and on the Ontario Provincial Police contracting process for Section 10.

Moved by: Chris White
Seconded by: Liz Danielsen

"That the Policy Updates be received."

CARRIED

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

10. i) AMO Rural Caucus Report
Pages 89 – 90 of the agenda.
- ii) ROMA/OGRA Conference Committee Report
Item 24.
- ii) Rural Ontario Institute (ROI)
No report.
- iv) Greenbelt Consolidation Policy Group
No report.
- v) Drainage Working Groups

Bill Bilton provided a copy of the October 1, 2015 meeting agenda of the Drainage Act and Regulatory Team (DART), supplemental package pages

7 – 8. On the agenda: Conservation Authority Act Discussion Paper, and Wetland Conservation in Ontario: A Discussion Paper.

vi) Other

No further report.

Moved by: Chris White
Seconded by: Liz Danielsen

“That the Committee Reports be received.”

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. Northern Health Travel Grants

Chris Wray discussed concerns raised by the Wawa Family Health Team re: Northern Health Travel Grants. Staff to follow up with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to see if any changes are planned.

INFORMATION ITEMS (Items 12 - 23)

Moved by: Liz Danielsen
Seconded by: Liz Huff

“That the Information Items be received.”

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

24. Other business brought forward by members

Moved by: Chris Wray
Seconded by: Liz Huff

“That the meeting move in camera to discuss the ROMA/OGRA Joint Conference Agreement.”

CARRIED

Moved by: Liz Huff
Seconded by: Bill Vrebosch

"That the meeting move out of in camera session."

CARRIED

Syrian Refugee Crisis: Chair Ron Holman reviewed AMO President Gary McNamara's challenge to make a donation if aid in the international effort to resettle Syrian refugees in safe countries.

Moved by: Liz Huff
Seconded by: Eli El-Chantiry

"That ROMA donate \$5,000.00 from reserves to this worthy cause."

CARRIED

ROMA Zone contact lists:

Moved by: Liz Danielsen
Seconded by: Liz Huff

"That staff provide ROMA zone representatives with contact information, including Mayor and CAO, for each of their zone municipalities, and

That ROMA cover any costs incurred up to \$1000.00."

CARRIED

Ameresco: Liz Huff said their breakfast at the conference, discussing decarbonizing municipalities, was excellent, and that that Mark Wilhelm, Ameresco's Corporate Director of Climate Neutrality Services, had very good ideas and real numbers to show how this can be achieved. Staff to follow up.

Virtual Voting: ROMA Board members on how this can be achieved, under the municipal legislation review that is taking place. Staff to follow up.

Alliance Agri-Turf letter to OSUM Chair Lynn Dollin: the ROMA Board discussed the letter re change in the Highway Traffic Act, Sec. 122, Sub 4, to include agricultural inputs/commodities in the exemption from the 5,000 kg per axle restriction, during the period of March 1 to April 30 / May 15. The ROMA Board decided to take no action.

Rural Summit: Chair Ron Holman advised that Minister Leal requesting ideas for topics for the next Rural Summit. Board members to provide at the next meeting.

24a. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

- Budget
- WLU – Brenda & Bryce
- AMERECOSO – Cathie to follow up to see if there is a potential presentation to ROMA
- IISD, OCC, TRCA - Preparing Rural Infrastructure for a Changing Climate - Edmundo Fausto, M.Sc. | Project Manager, Climate Impacts and Adaptation, TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION
- Xplornet
- MOECC – explaining changes to Bio solid and Septage policy changes w/o consultation.
- RedBrick – ROMA VIDEO
- Northern Health travel grants – is the Ministry planning to take any action- staff follow up
- Virtual voting
- Rural summit ideas

ADJOURNMENT

25. Next meeting: Thursday, November 12, 2015, 9:30 – 1:30 p.m., AMO Office, 200 University Avenue, Suite 801, Toronto, Ontario

26. Adjournment

Moved by: Eli El-Chantiry
Seconded by: Bill Bilton

“That we do now adjourn to meet again.”

CARRIED