

Meeting of the ROMA Board

Thursday, January 21, 2016

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)
First Vice-Chair Allan Thompson, Mayor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4)
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)
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:

Pat Vanini, AMO Executive Director
Nancy Plumridge, ROMA Executive-Treasurer
Cathie Brown, AMO Senior Advisor
Lorna Ruder, AMO Executive Assistant
Jessica Schmidt, AMO Policy Advisor

Regrets:

Past Chair Ron Eddy, Mayor, County of Brant (Zone 3)
Liz Danielsen, Deputy Reeve, Township of Algonquin Highlands (Zone 5)
Jim Sheedy, Councillor, Township of Laurentian Valley (Zone 6)

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Holman welcomed the Board to the meeting.

Pat Vanini joined the meeting to share with them her recent meeting with the Ombudsman her planned outreach including the next ROMA Board meeting in

February and the Conference. The Board reviewed a number of issues to be discussed with the Ombudsman.

Pat Vanini gave an update on the status of national infrastructure, noting that there is \$10 Billion that has not yet been spent.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3. Approval of November 12, 2015 ROMA Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Liz Huff
Seconded by: Allan Thompson

“That the Minutes of the ROMA Board meeting held on November 12, 2015 be approved as circulated.”

CARRIED

4. Executive-Treasurer’s Report

Nancy Plumridge reviewed the preliminary draft December 2015 financial statements. She advised that the year-end audit would start during the week of February 22, 2016.

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

“That the Financial Statements be accepted as presented.”

CARRIED

TIMED ITEMS

5. Joint Conference Update

Scott Butler, OGRA Manager of Policy and Research, gave an update on the status of conference preparation. The Board discussed topics for the Small Town Forum to be held on Sunday, February 21, 2016, and the timelines and process for reporting findings back to session participants. The Board provided the names for plenary and session chairs.

6. Ontario's Climate Consortium Secretariat (OCCS) Presentation

Christina Tu, Manager, and Edmundo Fausto, Project Manager, Impacts and Adaptation, OCCS, gave a presentation on the structure and work of the Consortium. ROMA Board members provided information on the issues in rural areas.

7. ROMA Video

Farah Tayabali of Redbrick Communications presented the final version of the ROMA video.

Moved by: Liz Huff
Seconded by: Allan Thompson

"That the final video product be received."

CARRIED

POLICY ITEMS

8. Policy Update

Cathie Brown provided an update on waste, MPAC's preliminary 2017 numbers, and FCM Rural Canada by the numbers message she had previously sent to the ROMA Board.

Jessica Schmidt updated the ROMA Board on AMO's Pre-Budget Submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. The ROMA Board agreed to write a letter in support of AMO's position with a rural perspective on:

- Infrastructure
- Interest arbitration
- Power dams
- Economic growth
- Broadband
- Gas (Enbridge), natural gas lines
- Special circumstances, communities in need
- Prudent investor status (LAS)
- Payment in lieu
- Policing arbitration

RECEIVED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Provincial Ombudsman

See item #1. The Board will provide questions for the Ombudsman to staff for the February 21, 2016 meeting.

10. Amateur Radio

The item was tabled until additional information received.

11. Oro-Medonte Resolution re MFIPPA

The item was tabled. Staff was directed to contact municipal staff to discuss the correspondence further.

11a. Other discussion items

Barn Fires: Robert Pasuta discussed how some were advocating that the building code should be strengthened, but that farmers were against this. There was discussion that ROMA should not get into building code issues and that this was an insurance issue. Item was tabled.

Sprinklers in rural retirement homes: Liz Huff raised the issue of the financial pressure on very small rural retirement homes to install sprinklers, difficulties where there is no municipal water system. The new legislation will close many of them down, and requested some metrics from staff. Cathie Brown advised that she would consult with her colleague Michael Jacek who has carriage of this file.

Mattress recycling: Bill Vrebosch discussed a letter from his daughter and her council to get this on WDO's radar before the new legislation comes in. The ROMA board agreed to table the letter. Cathie discussed the new producer responsibilities under the new legislation, and how the direction to WDO is not start anything new as there is so much coming forward. Letter of congratulation to be sent.

Pavement Quality: to be brought forward.

Virtual voting: Ron Holman said there was a need for clarification on the rules governing virtual voting in municipalities. Nancy Plumridge advised that in the AMO Councillor Training sessions, attendees are advised that the Municipal Act does not permit virtual attendance or virtual voting: Council members must be present at Council meetings. Chair Holman requested that Nancy Plumridge share Rideau Lake's legal interpretation with Fred Dean and for clarification.

Zoning: Ron Holman shared an article on zoning for structures built over water.

Policing costs: added policing assessment costs re trailers and wind turbines are extremely expensive – to be discussed at a future meeting.

Ron Holman will forward information on Roads, Rails and the Ring of Fire to the Board.

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

12. i) AMO Rural Caucus Report

The AMO Board of Directors will meet next on Thursday, January 28 and Friday, January 29.

ii) ROMA/OGRA Conference Committee Report

Ron Holman advised that OGRA had not responded to his request for a joint committee meeting. He will follow up.

iii) Rural Ontario Institute (ROI)

Chris White advised that Dr. Wayne Caldwell had joined ROI's Board of Directors.

iv) Workforce Planning Board

Chris White is ROMA's Rural Communities representative to the Workforce Planning Board. He provided an overview of what the Workforce Planning Board does and why it is important to rural communities.

iv) Greenbelt Consolidation Policy Group

Allan Thompson advised that the Crombie Report is now finished, and he had requested that copies of the Report be sent to ROMA. This will be brought to the February 21, 2016 Board meeting as an agenda item.

v) Drainage Working Groups

Bill Bilton said that the report on best management practices on various drains is now out.

Moved by: Allan Thompson

Seconded by: Liz Huff

"That Bill Bilton attend the Thames River phosphorus reduction workshop in London, Ontario as ROMA's representative, and

That the costs related to his attendance be covered by ROMA."

CARRIED

vi) Other

No report.

Moved by: Chris White
Seconded by: Bill Bilton

"That the Committee Reports be received."

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS (Items 13 - 26)

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

"That the Information Items be received."

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

27. Other business brought forward by members

No further business.

27a. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

- Crombie Report – Allan Thompson, February 21, 2016 meeting
- Barn fires
- Sprinklers in small private nursing homes
- Policing costs – trailers, wind turbines assessment
- ROMA/OGRA meeting re conference
- Virtual voting
- Oro-Medonte MFIPPA
- Amateur radio
- Pavement quality

ADJOURNMENT

28. Next meeting: Sunday, February 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., OGRA/ROMA Conference, The Boardroom, Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto.

29. Adjournment

Moved by: Liz Huff
Seconded by: Chris Wray

"That we do now adjourn to meet again."

CARRIED