

## **Meeting of the ROMA Board**

**Thursday, March 9, 2017**

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

#### **Zone and AMO Rural Caucus Representatives**

Ric Bresee, Councillor, County of Leeds & Addington (Zone 6)  
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)  
Mark Wales, Councillor, Township of Malahide (AMO Rural Caucus)  
Chris White, Mayor, Township of Guelph-Eramosa (Zone 2)  
Chris Wray, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, Municipality of Wawa (AMO Rural Caucus)

#### **Staff:**

Executive Treasurer Afshin Majidi  
Senior Advisor Cathie Brown  
Policy Advisor Jessica Schmidt

#### **Regrets:**

Bill Bilton, Councillor, Township of Dawn-Euphemia (Zone 1)  
Second Vice Chair Liz Danielsen, Deputy Reeve, Township of Algonquin Highlands (Zone 5)  
Robert Pasuta, Councillor, Ward 14, City of Hamilton (Zone 3)  
Bill Vrebosch, Mayor, Township of East Ferris (Zone 9)

#### 1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Ron Holman welcomed Board members and staff to the meeting.

#### 2. Declaration

- Pecuniary interest – none

- Early departure – Chris White, 11 a.m., Chris Wray 12:00 p.m.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

3. Approval of December 12, 2016 and January 30, 2017 ROMA Board Meeting Minutes

**Moved by Liz Huff**  
**Seconded by Allan Thompson**

*“That the Minutes of the ROMA Board meetings held on December 12, 2016 and January 30, 2017 be approved as circulated.”*

**CARRIED**

4. Executive-Treasurer’s Report – Afshin Majidi
  - 2017 ROMA Budget
  - Board discussion re: matter related to an identified individual as relates to budgeting

**Moved by Eli El-Chantiry**  
**Seconded by Allan Thompson**

*“That the Board meeting move in camera.”*

**CARRIED**

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

*“That the Board move out of in camera session.”*

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Liz Huff**  
**Seconded by Chris White**

*“That the 2017 budget be approved as amended;*

*That ROMA review efforts to undertake communications regarding Board meeting highlights and conference communications;*

*That the ROMA Chair and Executive Officers meet with Pat Vanini to discuss the relationship between ROMA and AMO and;*



*That communications to be part of the strategic planning session in April.”*

**CARRIED**

5. Strategic Planning Session

Cathie Brown presented Pat Moyle’s proposal for ROMA’s strategic planning process. Liz Huff indicated the need to frame the process in the reality of what a volunteer board can do. Staff to book a room block at the Sheraton Hotel for this event.

**Moved by Ric Bresee**  
**Seconded by Eli El-Chantiry**

*“That the proposal submitted by Pat Moyle be approved.”*

**CARRIED**

**TIMED ITEMS**

6. ROMA Conference

ROMA Conference Coordinator Victoria Van Veen presented proposed roles and responsibilities for the 2018 ROMA conference, and sought the composition of the 2018 Conference Planning Committee. She will create a meeting schedule for the Committee, and will look into whether further commitments are necessary with the hotel for future years.

The Board offered a number of suggestions for keynote speakers and sponsors. There was discussion on increasing programming on the Sunday, reducing the number of unique concurrent sessions, and increasing the number of duplicates.

**Moved by Chris Wray**  
**Seconded by Allan Thompson**

*“That Liz Danielsen, Liz Huff, Allan Thompson, Ric Bresee, Chris Wray, Bill Vrebosch and Ron Holman be appointed to the 2018 ROMA Conference Planning Committee; and*

*That the report be received.”*

**CARRIED**

7. New Directions and Opportunities for Local Authority Services (LAS)

LAS staff Jeff Barten, Energy and Asset Services Manager, Graham Proudly, Client Relations Specialist, and Nicholas Ruder, Research Advisor, gave a presentation to the Board.

Jeff Barton gave a presentation on LAS' fleet management program and its upcoming roads assessment program. There may be opportunities for small municipalities to partner together to participate in the program.

Nicholas Ruder advised that the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change is interested in pursuing a home energy efficiency improvement program through the Local Improvement Charges (LIC) authority currently available to municipal governments.

## **POLICY ITEMS**

8. Rural School Closures

Jessica Schmidt advised that municipal councils across Ontario have passed resolutions calling for a moratorium on school closures until changes are made to the Accommodation Review process, in response to numerous recent school closures. After discussion, the Board passed the following motion:

**Moved by Eli El-Chantiry**  
**Seconded by Ric Bresee**

*"That the Board approve the following amended motion:*

*That ROMA write to the Minister of Education and Premier of Ontario, copying the Minister of Infrastructure, asking that the issue of rural school closures to be addressed by modifying the Accommodation Review process and school funding structure, and facilitating innovative solutions to prevent school closures in rural communities.*

**CARRIED**

9. MOECC Consulting on Hauled Sewage Strategy

Jessica Schmidt advised that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is undertaking a review of hauled sewage policy. The Ministry is seeking comments until May 10, 2017 via an Environmental Bill of Rights posting on its approach to the review, in order to inform the development of options. Board members stressed that nutrient management regulations should be taken into

consideration as part of the review and that there should be integration with source water protection.

**Moved by Ric Bresee  
Seconded by Mark Wales**

*“That the ROMA respond to the MOECC’s pre-consultation on hauled sewage based on the comments outlined in the memo.”*

**CARRIED**

10. Policy Updates

Cathie Brown provided an update on following policy items:

- Building Code Review
- Hydro Update
- Natural Gas Expansion
- OPP Property Counts
- Rural Economic Development
- Waste Free Ontario

The Board indicated concern with the Building Code review proposal that septic systems be required to be pumped out every five years. The Board gave direction to staff to write a letter to the Province regarding this concern. Chair Holman asked staff to look into whether seasonal communities were not to be included in the fair electricity program.

**REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES**

11. i) AMO Board of Directors, Rural Caucus Update - Ron Holman & AMO Rural Caucus
- ii) ROMA Conference Committee Reports – Ron Holman
- iii) Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) – Chris White
- iv) Workforce Planning Board – Chris White
- v) Greenbelt Consolidation Policy Group – Allan Thompson
- vi) Drainage Working Groups – Bill Bilton
- vii) Other

There were no Committee Reports.

**INFORMATION ITEMS (Items 12 – 24)**

**Moved by Eli El-Chantiry**

**Seconded by Allan Thompson**

*"That the Information Items be received."*

**CARRIED**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

25. Other business brought forward by members

No further business.

25a. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

- Dennis Lever from TAPMO to discuss gravel and taxation
- Phosphates in the Great Lakes presentation
- Post Office Banking
- Asphalt

## **ADJOURNMENT**

26. Next meeting AMO Office, 200 University Avenue, Suite 801, Toronto, Ontario

- ROMA Board meeting Thursday, April 20, 2017, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- ROMA Strategic Planning Meeting, Friday, April 21, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

27. Adjournment

**Moved by Eli El-Chantiry**

**Seconded by Allan Thompson**

*"That we do now adjourn to meet again."*

**CARRIED**