

Meeting of the ROMA Board

Thursday, June 1, 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)
Second Vice-Chair Liz Danielsen, Deputy Reeve, Township of Algonquin Highlands (Zone 5)

Zone and AMO Rural Caucus Representatives

Ric Bresee, Councillor, County of Lennox and Addington (Zone 6)
Liz Huff, Councillor, Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands (AMO Rural Caucus)
Bill Vrebosch, Mayor, Township of East Ferris (Zone 9)
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
Director of Policy Monika Turner
Senior Advisor Cathie Brown
Policy Advisor Jessica Schmidt

Regrets:

Bill Bilton, Councillor, Township of Dawn-Euphemia (Zone 1)
Eli El-Chantiry, Councillor, City of Ottawa, West Carlton-March Ward (Zone 8)
Robert Pasuta, Councillor, Ward 14, City of Hamilton (Zone 3)

1. Chair's Welcome

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

2. Declaration
 - Pecuniary interest - none
 - Early departure – Ric Bresee, Allan Thompson, 12:20 p.m.

TIMED ITEMS

3. Local Authority Services (LAS) Update

AMO Enterprise Centre Director Judy Dezell outlined recent LAS activity, including focus group work at ROMA's 2017 conference, where LAS was a sponsor. She also outlined potential upcoming work to assist small and rural municipal governments with capacity issues such as IT, and an interest in introducing some online sessions to replace in-person town hall meetings.

Board members expressed interest in the One Investment program, and assistance in managing ticket orders. There was also interest in collaborating to improve communications and awareness of LAS among municipal elected officials. Judy Dezell agreed to return to share updates about LAS programs.

Moved by Liz Danielsen
Seconded by Liz Huff

"That the LAS Update be received."

CARRIED

4. ROMA Financials

Report to those charged with governance – communication of audit strategy and results

Representatives of Grant Thornton LLP presented their audit report on the ROMA financials. The Board was asked whether they were aware of any fraud, suspected fraud or breaches of regulations, as a requirement as part of the audit. The Board replied no.

Moved by Allan Thompson
Seconded by Mark Wales

"That the 2016 auditors report to be accepted as presented."

CARRIED

Year-end 2016 Financial Statements

Afshin Majidi presented the year-end financial statements. The Board expressed appreciation for the clarity of the statements.

Moved by Allan Thompson
Seconded by Chris Wray

"That the 2016 draft audited Financial Statements be approved as presented."

CARRIED

5. ROMA April 2017 Financial Statements

Afshin Majidi presented the April 2017 financial statements. There was discussion among the Board about the readability and level of detail. The level of detail was appreciated and the text size was asked to be increased. Afshin offered to add a summary Statement of Earnings at the top of the report.

Moved by Ron Eddy
Seconded by Liz Danielsen

"That the April 2017 Financial Statements be accepted as presented."

CARRIED

6. ROMA Draft Conference Plan – Afshin Majidi

Afshin Majidi presented a draft 2018 conference financial plan. There was discussion about the mobile app as part of the conference and budget. The Board agreed that this would be useful. There was also discussion about the cost to municipal Councils for attendance and expenses of ROMA Board members. The suggestion was made to table the issue until next year. The Board asked that for a future budget a subsidy for Board members' attendance and/or accommodation be calculated for possible consideration.

Moved by Mark Wales
Seconded by Liz Danielsen

"That the report be received."

CARRIED

7. ROMA Sponsorship Policy

The ROMA Chair indicated that the Sponsorship Policy should be updated by next meeting. There was discussion about whether the funding should come out of ROMA's communications budget, or whether it should come from somewhere else. There was discussion that the revised policy should potentially include a sponsorship cap, and flexibility for the Board to sponsor items based on their own decisions. There was discussion that the revised policy should include that sponsorship should be based on written requests presented to the Board.

Moved by Bill Vrebosch
Seconded by Chris White

"That the sponsorship policy be revised and brought back to the Board for consideration at the next Board meeting."

CARRIED

7.1 Teeny Tiny Summit support

Liz Huff presented the Teeny Tiny Summit series, and request for support from ROMA for two upcoming Summits. The request is for \$3,000. There was an indication that Haliburton would be interested in hosting a summit, and that northern Ontario has yet been involved in the Summits. There was also discussion about bringing the Teeny Tiny series experience and learnings to the ROMA conference.

Moved by Liz Danielsen
Seconded by Chris Wray

That the request for \$3000 for Teeny Tiny Summits be approved.

CARRIED

7.2 Double Hatter

Allan Thompson presented a request for funding to support a legal challenge regarding the double hatter issue. The Board agreed that the issue would be tabled for discussion at a future meeting.

7.3 Agricultural Adaptation Council Renewal

Moved by Chris White
Seconded by Allan Thompson

“That ROMA’s support for the Agricultural Adaptation Council be renewed.”

CARRIED

8. 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. ROMA Strategic Plan – Pat Moyle

Pat Moyle presented his report on ROMA’s Strategic Plan.

Moved by Allan Thompson
Seconded by Ron Eddy

To move to closed session.

CARRIED

Moved by Chris White
Seconded by Ron Eddy

To move out of closed session.

CARRIED

The ROMA Board approved Patrick Moyle’s report, and retained Chris Wray to implement the recommendations for a term ending December 31, 2017. The matter will be considered immediately after the 2018 ROMA Conference.

9. Xplornet

James Maunder, Vice President, Public Affairs and Communication and Jennifer McWilliams, Manager of Public Outreach, Xplornet, gave a presentation about Xplornet’s new satellite program.

Moved by Liz Huff
Seconded by Ric Bresee

That the report be received; and

That ROMA write a letter of support for Xplornet’s applications to the federal government, including exploring opportunities to strengthen service in northern Ontario.

CARRIED

10. ROMA Conference

Conference Coordinator Victoria Van Veen provided an update on work on the ROMA conference. She will clarify the difference between promotions and communications in the conference budget.

Moved by Liz Huff
Seconded by Ron Eddy

"That the conference update be received."

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11. Approval of Thursday, April 20, 2017 ROMA Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by Ron Eddy
Seconded by Chris Wray

"That the Minutes of the ROMA Board meeting held on Thursday, April 20, 2017 be approved as amended."

CARRIED

The meetings were amended to correct Liz Danielsen's title to Second Vice-Chair, and to confirm that Rick Bresee was present.

POLICY ITEMS

12. Rural Schools Engagement – Jessica Schmidt

Jessica Schmidt advised that the Ministry of Education has launched an engagement on new approaches to supporting education in Ontario's rural and remote communities, and accepting submissions until June 9.

Moved by Liz Huff
Seconded by Liz Danielsen

"That the ROMA Board approve a submission based on the content as provided in the memo, including the role of pre and post school child care and the Province's child care commitments in responding to the school closure issue."

CARRIED

13. Policy Update – Cathie Brown

Cathie Brown provided an update on a number of policy items, including OMB, the *Conservation Authorities Act* review, Building Code, Excess Soil.

Monika Turner updated the Board on a number of policy items. The Premier indicated wanting to set up a municipal table on opiates, which is now being led by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. AMO and ROMA are invited to send representatives to sit at the table. The meeting will be on June 12, and AMO will supply briefing materials. Ron Eddy expressed interest in participating.

Monika Turner outlined some updates on the Changing Workforces Review. Liz Huff indicated that rural retirement homes have not yet received funding regardless of the fact that an announcement has been made, and in the interim, homes are being closed. Brief discussion also took place on Bill 68 and the one-third tax exemption on municipal remuneration.

Moved by Liz Huff
Seconded by Bill Vrebosch

“That the Policy Update be received.”

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

14. *Ontario Reg. 366/0, Display Screens and Hand-Held Devices* – Ron Holman

Chair Holman suggested that this provision, which is set to expire, should be made permanent. Discussion took place about whether ROMA is qualified to make recommendations on this issue. The Board agreed to take no action at this time.

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

15. i) AMO Board of Directors, Rural Caucus Update
No report.
- ii) Provincial Septage Working Group
Liz Danielsen provided an update on her participation in the Working Group.
- iii) Rural Ontario Institute (ROI)
No report.
- iv) Workforce Planning Board
No report.
- v) Greenbelt Consolidation Policy Group
No report.

- vi) Drainage Working Groups
No report.
- vii) Other
No report.

Moved by Liz Huff
Seconded by Mark Wales

"That the Committee Reports be received."

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS (16 - 30)

Moved by Ron Eddy
Seconded by Chris Wray

"That the Information Items be received."

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

- 31. Other business brought forward by members

No further business.

ADJOURNMENT

- 32. Next meeting: AMO Annual Conference, Sunday, August 13, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Saskatchewan Room, Westin Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario.
- 33. Adjournment

Moved by Liz Huff
Seconded by Ron Eddy

"That we do now adjourn to meet again."

CARRIED