

Meeting of the ROMA Board

Sunday, August 13, 2017

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

AMO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Saskatchewan Room
Westin Hotel
Ottawa, 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 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)

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:

Senior Advisor Cathie Brown

Policy Advisor Leslie Muñoz

Regrets:

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

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 and to the conference.

The Board agreed to add new items to sections 9 and 10 of the agenda.

2. Declaration

- Pecuniary interest - none
- Early departure - none

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3. Approval of June 1 and August 1, 2017 ROMA Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by Chris Wray
Seconded by Liz Huff

"That the Minutes of the ROMA Board meetings held on June 1 and August 1, 2017 be approved as circulated."

CARRIED

4. AgScape Membership Request

Cathie Brown brought a membership request from AgScape (formerly Ontario Agri-Food Education) membership request to the ROMA Board for their consideration.

Moved by Mark Wales
Seconded by Chris White

"That payment be withheld until more information is obtained on AgScape."

CARRIED

5. Strategic Plan Implementation Update

Chris Wray updated the Board on his activities to implement the action items arising out of the recent strategic plan report.

Moved by Allan Thompson
Seconded by Ric Bresee

"That the report be received."

CARRIED

6. ROMA Conference Update

Ron Holman provided a status report on speakers, the venue and outstanding actions to be taken. The ROMA Board agreed to use the Rural Caucus lunch at the AMO conference as an opportunity to promote the ROMA conference by organizing a business card draw at the lunch for participants to win free registration at ROMA 2018.

**Moved by Liz Danielsen
Seconded by Liz Huff**

"That the report be received."

CARRIED

TIMED ITEMS

7. The Honourable Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

The Minister answered questions from the ROMA board on the aggregate resources study, recent species-at-risks announcements and on the Province's no net-loss approach to wetlands. On aggregate fees, Minister McGarry communicated that the study is complex and that there have been numerous holds up resulting in an indefinite delay in the report's release. Turning to species-at-risk, the Minister communicated that the measures were necessary and explained the process by which the endangered list is created. On wetlands, the Minister indicated that she is in the process of considering how to mitigate factors in the North.

8. The Honourable Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Infrastructure

The Minister answered questions from the ROMA board on sprinklers, broadband connectivity, asset management and on natural gas expansion. On sprinklers, Minister Chiarelli indicated that a small fund has been created to help LTC homes install sprinklers and that program details will be released shortly. On broadband expansion, the Minister indicated that connectivity should be viewed as an essential service and that the Ministry is considering measures to require utilities to map out where currently-unused broadband fibre has been installed so that the Province has a better idea of the infrastructure in place. Turning to asset management concerns, Minister Chiarelli indicated that financial supports for smaller municipalities are under consideration. The Ministry is also considering establishing a 'swat' team of engineers and expanding OSEF funding. Discussing natural gas expansion, Minister Chiarelli commented that the Province is looking for support from the Feds to move on that file.

Parliamentary Assistant Lou Rinaldi, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, also briefly joined the meeting and discussed changes to the Election Act requiring that candidates in municipal elections obtain 25 signatures. PA Rinaldi explained that this measure was

established to deter insincere candidates. However, due to potential challenges this may present to smaller jurisdictions, the Ministry is considering making an exemption for certain municipalities based on size. Currently, the ministry is determining at what population count a municipality will be exempt. The board also expressed concern over the removal of LTC beds from rural regions.

Parliamentary Assistant Grant Crack, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, was unable to participate in the Board meeting due to time constraints.

POLICY ITEMS

9. Policy Update

Cathie Brown updated the Board on the following policy issues. Bill 148, *Changing Workplaces Review, 2017* will have impacts on municipalities as employers. In particular, certain scheduling provisions and pay requirements for of seasonal workers may have a significant impact on municipal operations.

Moved by Ric Bresee
Seconded by Eli El-Chantiry

“That ROMA write a letter outlining its concerns with Bill 148 Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017, to the Premier and party leaders.”

CARRIED

Bill 139, *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017* treats municipal decisions as mature. Municipal governments will need to work with the province to ensure a mutual understanding of the PPS at the outset of a planning amendment.

Moved by Eli El-Chantiry
Seconded by Allan Thompson

“That ROMA write to the Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and to the Honourable Yasir Naqvi, Attorney General of Ontario supporting AMO’s position on Bill 139, Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017, and adding a rural perspective to the discussion.”

CARRIED

Bill 142, *The Construction Lien Amendment Act*, will change how contracts and procurements are done at the municipal level. Of concern are changes to timelines that will negatively impact municipalities ability to conduct proper due diligence measures before payment is promoted.

Moved by Eli El-Chantiry
Seconded by Allan Thompson

“That ROMA write a letter to the Honourable Attorney General Yasir Naqvi, supporting AMO’s position on Bill 142, The Construction Lien Amendment Act.”

CARRIED

Cathie Brown drew the Board’s attention to the Resolutions Update. On a temporary basis the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has increased Aggregate fees. MNRF continues to work on a more realistic number.

The Board discussed Bill 68, *Modernizing Ontario’s Municipal Legislation Act, 2017*, how the possible population threshold below which the 25 signatures to support an electoral candidate would not be required.

The Ontario Federation of Cottagers Association was seeking membership support from ROMA. By consensus this was declined.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Chatham Kent Asset Management Plan Resolution

Chris Wray provided an update.

11. OPP Update

Chris Wray provided an update from the CAO Group

12. Sprinklers in Seniors Residences

See item #8.

13. Species at Risk – Ron Holman

See item #7.

14. Property Count Update – Ron Holman

Moved by Ric Bresee
Seconded by Allan Thompson

That ROMA write a letter to Minister Lalonde, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services on this issue.

CARRIED

14a. Wetlands – Allan Thompson

**Moved by Ric Bresee
Seconded by Allan Thompson**

“That this item be brought to the October ROMA Board meeting.”

CARRIED

14b. Funding for Firefighters/Double hatters – Allan Thompson

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

“That this item be brought to the October ROMA Board meeting.”

CARRIED

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

15. i) AMO Board of Directors, Rural Caucus Update – no report.

ii) Rural Ontario Institute (ROI)

**Moved by Chris White
Seconded by Chris Wray**

“That ROMA work with the Rural Ontario Institute to obtain research on rural issues.”

CARRIED

iii) Workforce Planning Board – no report.

iv) Greenbelt Consolidation Policy Group – no report

v) Drainage Working Groups – no report

vi) Other – no report.

INFORMATION ITEMS (Items 17 – 32)

**Moved by Chris White
Seconded by Chris Wray**

"That the Information Items be received."

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

33. Other business brought forward by members

No further business.

34. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

- Wetlands
- Double Hatters

ADJOURNMENT

35. Next meeting: Thursday, October 12, 2017, 9:30 – 1:30 p.m., AMO Office, 200 University Avenue, Suite 801, Toronto, Ontario

36. Adjournment

Moved by Liz Huff

Seconded by Liz Danielsen

"That we do now adjourn to meet again."

CARRIED