

Meeting of the ROMA Board

Thursday, May 14, 2015

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 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)
Second Vice-Chair Chris White, Mayor, Township of Guelph-Eramosa (Zone 2)

Zone and AMO Rural Caucus Representatives

Liz Danielsen, Deputy Reeve, Township of Algonquin Highlands (Zone 5)
Liz Huff, Councillor, Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands (AMO Rural Caucus)
Robert Pasuta, Councillor, Ward 14, City of Hamilton (Zone 3)
Jim Sheedy, Councillor, Township of Laurentian Valley (Zone 6)
Bill Vrebosch, Mayor, Township of East Ferris (Zone 9)

Staff:

Nancy Plumridge, ROMA Executive-Treasurer
Renatta Austin, AMO Policy Advisor
Cathie Brown, AMO Senior Advisor
Kirstin Jensen, AMO Policy Intern
Nicholas Ruder, AMO Policy Advisor

Regrets:

Bill Bilton, Councillor, Township of Dawn-Euphemia (Zone 1)
Eli El-Chantiry, Councillor, City of Ottawa, West Carlton-March Ward (Zone 8)
First Vice-Chair Allan Thompson, Mayor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4)
Chris Wray, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, Municipality of Wawa (AMO Rural Caucus)

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Holman welcomed the Board to the meeting.

2. Declaration

- Pecuniary interest – none

- Early departure – none

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3. Approval of April 23, 2015 ROMA Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Liz Huff
Seconded by: Robert Pasuta

“That the Minutes of the ROMA Board meeting held on April 23, 2015 be approved as circulated.”

CARRIED

4. Executive-Treasurer’s Report

Nancy Plumridge reviewed the 2015 First Quarter Financial Statements.

Moved by: Ron Eddy
Seconded by: Liz Danielsen

“That the 2015 First Quarter Financial Statements be accepted as presented.”

CARRIED

5. ROMA Twitter Account

Nancy Plumridge provided copies of the Twitter policy. It was agreed to defer this item until Councillor El-Chantiry could attend.

TIMED ITEMS

6. Joint Conference Update

Scott Butler, OGRA Policy and Research, provided an update on the 2015 Joint OGRA/ROMA Conference demographics and program evaluation by delegates.

Board members will send suggestions for 2016 conference plenaries and sessions to Cathie Brown.

7. Audited Financial Statements

Irfan Ahmed, of Grant Thornton LLP, presented ROMA’s draft 2014 Audited Year-End Financial Statements for approval. As ROMA does not have a formal reserve policy, one will be developed and presented to the ROMA Board at its October meeting.

Moved by: Robert Pasuta
Seconded by: Jim Sheedy

“That the 2014 Audited Year-End Financial Statements be approved.”

CARRIED

Irfad Ahmad presented the Audit Strategy and Results.

Moved by: Robert Pasuta
Seconded by: Jim Sheedy

“That the Audit Strategy and Results be accepted as presented.”

CARRIED

8. Train Derailment Mitigation

Danny Simpson, Assistant Vice-President, Safety and Emergency Response, CN, gave a presentation on CN's safety and emergency preparedness.

9. Radiocommunications Information and Notification Service

Todd White, Executive Director, Radiocommunications Information and Notification Service, gave a presentation on the work of the Service.

10. ROMA Video

Nancy Plumridge and Farah Tayabali, Redbrick Communications, discussed the cost and content required to prepare the video.

Moved by: Chris White
Seconded by: Liz Danielsen

“That staff proceed with the preparation of material for the video as outlined;

That staff set up a committee to move forward with the project, and provide dates for the committee to meet; and

That, with the assistance of Redbrick, staff provide key questions in advance of the June meeting for the ROMA Board to consider.”

CARRIED

POLICY ITEMS

11. 911 Ontario Advisory Board Update

Nicholas Ruder provided an update on the re-establishment of the 911 Ontario Advisory Board. ROMA Board members are still concerned about access to 911 Services in rural areas where cellular phone coverage is either weak or non-existent.

Moved by: Ron Eddy
Seconded by: Jim Sheedy

“That ROMA write to the CRTC and Industry Canada requesting an update on the current status of 911 service coverage in rural areas of Ontario.”

CARRIED

12. What’s Next Ontario Update

Nicholas Ruder provided an update on AMO’s membership discussion: *What’s Next Ontario? Imagining a prosperous future for our Communities – a Fiscal Overview.*

Moved by: Robert Pasuta
Seconded by: Liz Huff

“That the report be received.”

CARRIED

13. Sprinklers in Rural Long-Term Care Homes

Renatta Austin advised that 2013 government regulations requiring that existing vulnerable care and treatment homes install sprinkler systems are causing concerns that private care homes in rural communities do not have the resources to do so.

Moved by: Ron Eddy
Seconded by: Bill Vrebosch

“That ROMA write to Minister Naqvi, Community Safety and Correctional Services, to bring the issue to the Minister’s attention, and to inquire about available financial support for private care homes in rural communities.”

CARRIED

14. Other Policy Updates

Cathie Brown updated the ROMA Board on the following issues:

- Waste legislation
- Blue Box negotiations

- Bill 100 – trails legislation
- Hydro One sale and energy issues
- Voluntary consolidation of LDCs on strong business case
- Applying the Rural Lens to the installation of sprinklers
- SAMS
- Aggregate resources act
- Infrastructure money outside the GTHA

Moved by: Chris White
Seconded by: Liz Huff

“That the report be received.”

CARRIED

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

15. i) AMO Rural Caucus Report

Ron Eddy noted that the AMO Rural Caucus would institute the practice of meeting prior to the AMO Board of Directors meeting, same as the other caucuses.

ii) ROMA/OGRA Conference Committee Report

Ron Homan provided an updated on the preliminary meeting in Oakville on May 8, 2015.

ii) Rural Ontario Institute (ROI)

Chris White requested ROMA’s endorsement of ROI’s survey on its new initiative on barriers to becoming a council member.

Moved by: Chris White
Seconded by: Bill Vrebosch

“That the ROMA write a letter to ROI endorsing the initiative, encouraging mayors’ and councillors’ participation in the ROI survey; and

That the letter be included in ROI’s request for participants.”

CARRIED.

iv) Greenbelt Consolidation Policy Group

No report.

v) Drainage Working Groups

No report.

vi) Other

No report.

Moved by: Ron Eddy
Seconded by: Bill Vrebosch

"That the Committee Reports be received."

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

16. Rural Volunteer Firefighter Departments – Ron Holman

Deferred to June meeting.

17. Power Dams – Chris Wray

Deferred to June meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS (Items 18 – 26 & Supplemental)

Moved by: Liz Huff
Seconded by: Liz Danielsen

"That the Information Items be received."

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

27. Other business brought forward by members

Bill Vrebosch asked staff to look into inviting Dr. Hesp and a representative from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to discuss the state of Ontario's roads.

Moved by: Bill Vrebosch
Seconded by: Robert Pasuta

“That Dr. Hesp and a representative from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change be invited to a future ROMA Board Meeting to discuss the condition and quality of asphalt in the province.”

CARRIED

28. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

No further report.

ADJOURNMENT

29. Next meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2015, 9:30 – 1:30 p.m., AMO Office, 200 University Avenue, Suite 801, Toronto, Ontario

30. Adjournment

Moved by: Chris White

Seconded by: Liz Huff

“That we do now adjourn to meet again.”

CARRIED