

Meeting of the ROMA Board

OGRA/ROMA Conference

Sunday, February 21, 2016

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**The Boardroom
Fairmont Royal York Hotel
Toronto, Ontario**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Chair Ronald Holman, Mayor, Township of Rideau Lakes (Zone 7)
Past Chair Ron Eddy, Mayor, County of Brant (Zone 3)
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)
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)
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
Monika Turner, AMO Director of Policy
Lorna Ruder, AMO Executive Assistant

Guest:

AMO President Gary McNamara

Regrets:

Jim Sheedy, Councillor, Township of Laurentian Valley (Zone 6)

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Ron Holman welcomed Board members, AMO President Gary McNamara and staff to the meeting and to the conference.

President McNamara provided an update on AMO key issues.

2. Declaration

- Pecuniary interest – none
- Early departure – none

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3. Approval of January 21, 2016 ROMA Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Liz Danielsen
Seconded by: Liz Huff

"That the Minutes of the ROMA Board meeting held on Thursday, February 21, 2016 be approved as circulated."

CARRIED

4. Executive-Treasurer's Report

Nancy Plumridge reviewed the January 2016 Statement of Earnings. She noted that the auditors are in the office conducting the year end review.

Moved by: Allan Thompson
Seconded by: Ron Eddy

"That the Executive Treasurer's Report be received."

CARRIED

TIMED ITEMS

5. OGRA President Rick Champagne and Executive Director Joe Tiernay

OGRA President Rick Champagne and Executive Director Joe Tiernay welcomed the ROMA Board to the conference. President Bateman presented Chair Ron Holman with a cheque from the conference proceeds. Executive Director Joe Tiernay provided a conference update.

6. Ontario Ombudsman

Acting Ombudsman Barbara Finlay and Director of Communications Linda Williamson attending the meeting. Acting Ombudsman Finlay discussed the role of the Ombudsman's Office, its powers, how it works to improve governance, and how it can help municipalities.

Board members discussed how to improve municipal relations with the Ombudsman's Office, closed meetings, the need for a clear definition of what constitutes a meeting, challenges related to social media, what constitutes a frivolous and vexation complaint and how to minimize related costs. The Acting Ombudsman stressed the need for each municipality to have a council Code of Conduct.

POLICY ITEMS

7. Questions for Meeting with Ombudsman

See item 6.

8. Sprinklers in Retirement Homes

The cost of sprinklers in some privately run facilities is proving prohibitive. ROMA wrote to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services asking for an update on the 2013 government announcement that it would provide \$20 million for sprinkler upgrades, but has received no response.

ROMA did not move the motion before them. There were concerns with this issue such as the role of ORCA, management by MCSCS of with issue with wells, and that this was of particular concerns tom smaller communities. Staff was directed to write the letter reflecting these concerns.

9. Policy Update

Monika Turner noted that the provincial budget would be presented on Thursday, February 25. The Board discussed policing issues, the provincial Post Traumatic Stress Disorder strategy for first responders. Monika Turner gave an update on Bill 151, *Waste Free Ontario Act*.

Moved by: Bill Vrebosch
Seconded by: Chris Wray

"That the report be received."

CARRIED

10. Conference Key Messages

Pat Vanini provided the ROMA Board with key messages for the conference.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. Coordinated Review

Allan Thompson and Robert Pasuta reviewed the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance response to the Crombie Report. The Board discussed the value of applying the Rural Lens to the issues outlined, and agreed to bring this back to the April meeting for further discussion.

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

- 12. i) AMO Rural Caucus Report
- ii) ROMA/OGRA Conference Committee Report
- ii) Rural Ontario Institute (ROI)
- iv) Greenbelt Consolidation Policy Group
- v) Drainage Working Groups
- vi) Other

Reports deferred to the April 7, 2016 Meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS (Items 13 - 19)

RECEIVED

OTHER BUSINESS

20. Other business brought forward by members

The ROMA Board requested that the issue of internet access, as outlined in the February 3, 2016 letter to CRTC Chairman and CEO, be brought to the April 7 meeting for further discussion.

Nancy Plumridge provided the itinerary for the ROMA midterm, to be held July 5 – 7, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

21. Next meeting: Thursday, April 7, 2016, 9:30 – 1:30 p.m., AMO Office, 200 University Avenue, Suite 801, Toronto, Ontario

22. Adjournment

Chair Holman declared the meeting adjourned.