

Meeting of the ROMA Board

Thursday, March 14, 2019

9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

AMO Office
200 University Avenue, Suite 801
Toronto, Ontario

MINUTES

PRESENT:

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

Zone and AMO Rural Caucus Representatives

Dennis Crevits, Councillor, Municipality of Central Elgin (Zone 1)

Chris White, 1st Vice Chair, Mayor, Township of Guelph-Eramosa (Zone 2)

Kim Love, Mayor, Township of Madawaska Valley (Zone 6)

Cameron Wales, Councillor, City of Brockville (Zone 7)

Eli El-Chantiry, 2nd Vice Chair, Councillor, City of Ottawa (Zone 8)

Bill Vrebosch, Councillor, City of North Bay (Zone 9)

Robin Jones, Mayor, Village of Westport (AMO Rural Caucus)

Chris Wray

Staff:

Executive Treasurer, Afshin Majidi

Director, Membership Centre, Brian Rosborough

Senior Advisor, Cathie Brown

Conference Coordinator, Victoria Van Veen

Administrative Assistant, Brittany Ardiel

Guests:

Ron Holman

Regrets:

Lloyd Ferguson, Councillor, City of Hamilton (Zone 3)

1. Chair's Welcome and Introductions – Allan Thompson

Chair Thompson welcomed Board members and congratulated new board member on Zone elections. He noted the success of the 2019 Conference and that he had invited former Chair Ron Holman to attend the meeting.

2. Declaration

- Pecuniary interest

- Early departure – Eli El-Chantry

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3. Approval of December 14, 2018 ROMA Board Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed draft minutes of December 14, 2018, and draft minutes of January 28, 2019 (which were provided supplemental to the Board package). Corrections were made to attendance at the January 28th meeting.

Moved by Chris Wray
Seconded by Eli El- Chantry

“That the Minutes of the December 14, 2018 meeting be approved as circulated, and that the Minutes of the January 28, 2019 meeting be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

4. Executive-Treasurer’s Report – Afshin Majidi

Afshin provided an update on the preliminary financial results of the 2019 Conference.

Moved by Chris White
Seconded by Bill Vrebosch

“That the Executive -Treasurer’s report be received.”

CARRIED

5. Orientation Items – Brian Rosborough, Afshin Majidi

Brian and Afshin provided a brief overview of material in the orientation package.

Regarding a code of conduct, there was consensus that Zone representatives on the ROMA Board should sign the existing AMO Board Code of Conduct (consistent with the practice of the AMO Rural Caucus) and a request that the document be forwarded to Zone representatives for signature.

There was a discussion about the Sponsorship Policy and consensus that the reference to a minimum reserve needed before sponsorships be considered be increased from \$100,000 to \$300,000.

There was a discussion about ROMA reserves and a request that Afshin bring a draft reserve policy forward a future Board meeting for review and approval.

The Chair proposed amending planned dates of a number of future Board meeting to Fridays to avoided conflicting meeting dates.

Moved by Eli El-Chantry
Seconded by Chris Wray

"That the sponsorship policy be amended to reflect an increased requirement for \$300,000 in reserves before sponsorships are approved."

CARRIED

Moved by Chris Wray
Seconded by Dennis Crevits

"That the Board approve new meeting dates set out on Page 25 of the board package."

CARRIED

6. ROMA Board Vacancy – Brian Rosborough

Brian briefed the Board on options to fill the Zone 5 vacancy. There was consensus that an invitation for expressions of interest from Zone 5 municipal councils, councillors and Heads of Council would provide the highest level of access to prospective Board members.

Moved by Cameron Wales
Seconded by Kim Love

"That expressions of interest be solicited from Zone 5 members so the ROMA Board can appoint a member to the Board from Zone 5 as soon as possible."

CARRIED

7. ROMA Constitution: Preliminary Discussion – Brian Rosborough

Brian provided a brief outline of how the Board can develop any proposed amendments it may want to consider for the next AGM.

8. Sponsorship (AFMO, FONOM, NOMA) – Brian Rosborough

The Board considered a written request from NOMA for financial sponsorship. Discussion highlighted the importance of reporting on outcomes consistent with the ROMA sponsorship policy and the possibility of providing similar sponsorship to other municipal political organizations if requested.

Moved By Bill Verbosch
Seconded By Kim Love

“That the Board approve sponsorship in the amount of \$10,000 for NOMA consistent with the terms and conditions set out in the ROMA sponsorship policy.”

CARRIED

9. OGRA Letter and Resolution re: Conference – Brian Rosborough

There was a lengthy and considered discussion about an OGRA resolution proposing the boards of OGRA and ROMA work towards consolidating the OGRA and ROMA conferences.

The Board stressed the importance of working together with OGRA on areas of common purpose and shared interest, and recognized the long history of collaboration preceding the ROMA’s Board’s difficult decision in 2016 to deliver its own conference for Rural municipal governments.

The Board noted that the creation of a separate ROMA Conference beginning in 2017 has allowed ROMA to better serve its members and to deliver a conference more focused on the interests and particular needs and voices of rural Ontario. It has also highlighted the political nature of ROMA’s advocacy and influence, and its political relationship with the Government of Ontario.

Consequently, the ROMA Board concluded that it would not, at this time, enter into discussions about combining the ROMA and OGRA conferences.

Moved By Bill Verbosch
Seconded By Dennis Crevits

“That staff should draft a letter to OGRA for the Chair’s signature reflecting the discussion at the Board and the Board’s decision.”

CARRIED

10. Teeny Tiny Summits – Brian Rosborough

Moved By Chris Wray
Seconded By Robin Jones

“That staff be authorized to make payment of sponsorship for Teeny Tiny Summits in the communities of Calabogie, Black River Matheson, Thorndale; Orono, and Dysart et al.”

CARRIED

11. Rural Ontario Institute – Brian Rosborough

Brian provided a brief update.

TIMED ITEMS

12. 10:30 a.m. ROMA Conference Report – Jacqueline Demers, Redbrick Communications

Jacqueline provided an update on communications and media activity at the 2019 ROMA Conference, reflecting a significant increase in media interest throughout the conference.

There was a discussion about additional communication approaches for future conferences including exploring new approaches for social media.

Moved By Kim Dennis
Seconded By Dennis Crevits

“That the report on Conference communications be received.”

CARRIED

13. 12:00 p.m. Conference Update – Victoria Van Veen

The Board congratulated and thanked Victoria and AMO staff for a successful 2019 Conference.

Victoria outlined metrics in her report regarding record participation, a record number of delegations and high levels of satisfaction from conference participants.

12:30 – Lunch

POLICY

14. Policy Update – Cathie Brown

Cathie Brown spoke to a wide range of policy matters. New matters include a request by AMO to delay the *Construction Act* until certain matters have been addressed. As well there is work taking place on fire services latest arbitration. The *Endangered Species Act* review and aggregates reform began since the ROMA Conference. Finally we look forward to a consultation on Joint and Several Liability.

The Board requested a more detail brief on infrastructure initiatives at its next meeting.

Moved by Bill Vrebosch
Seconded by Kim Love

"That the policy report be received."

CARRIED

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

15. Committee Reports

- i. Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) –
- ii. Nuclear Waste Management Ontario (NWMO) Municipal Forum
- iii. Other

Chris White provided a brief update on ROI's work.

The Chair reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the NWMO and the importance of participation and the need for whoever attends in future to provide a detailed report back to the ROMA Board. He indicated that Bill Vrebosch had indicated an interest in attending on behalf of the ROMA Board.

Moved By Chris Wray
Seconded By Kim Love

"That Bill Vrebosch be appointed to represent ROMA at the Nuclear Waste Management Ontario (NWMO) Municipal Forum and that Bill report back to the Board."

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS (items 16-28)

No information items were selected for further discussion

OTHER BUSINESS

29. Other business brought forward by members

There was a discussion of additional items for future board meetings.

30. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

The following will be invited to future Board meetings:

- I. Canada Post
- II. Ontario Building Official Association
- III. FCM
- IV. Canadian Broadband Telecom (CBTel)

ADJOURNMENT

31. Next meeting: Friday April 12, 2019, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm, AMO Office, 200 University Avenue, Suite 801, Toronto, Ontario, or via video conference call.

32. Adjournment

Moved by Dennis Crevits
Seconded by Kim Love

"That we do now adjourn to meet again."

CARRIED

Meeting terminated at 1:30 pm