



Minutes

ROMA BOARD MEETING

**Friday, September 15, 2023
7:30 AM – 11:30 AM**

**Delta Hotels Waterloo
Grand River B
110 Erb St. W, Waterloo, ON
N2L 0C6**

PRESENT:

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

Zone and AMO Rural Caucus Representatives:

Jamie McGrail, Councillor, Municipality of Chatham-Kent (Zone 1)

Steve McCabe, Councillor, Township of Wellington North (Zone 2)

Dave Beres, Deputy Mayor, Township of Tillsonburg (Zone 3)

Christina Early, Councillor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4)

Pam Sayne, Councillor, Township of Minden Hills (Zone 5)

Jennifer Murphy, Councillor, County of Renfrew (Zone 6)

Carma Williams, Deputy Mayor, Township of North Glengarry (Zone 7)

Christa Lowry, 1st Vice Chair, Mayor, Municipality of Mississippi Mills (Zone 8)

Mark Wilson, Councillor, City of Temiskaming Shores (Zone 9)

Janet Hager, Councillor, Municipality of Red Lake (Zone 10)

Peter Emon, Reeve, Town of Renfrew (AMO Rural Caucus)

Paul Latam, Councillor, Town of Grand Valley (AMO Rural Caucus)

Rainey Weisler, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Bayham (AMO Rural Caucus)

Staff:

Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer, AMO

Petra Wolfbeiss, Director, Membership Centre, AMO

Lindsay Jones, Director of Policy and Government Relations, AMO

Farah Tayabali, Vice-president, Redbrick

Adam Garcia, Manager, Executive Office, AMO

Craig Reid, Senior Advisor, AMO

Lora Tigno, Administrative Assistant, Membership Centre, AMO

Guests:

Kelly-Anne Solerno, President, Region of Waterloo Assistant Director of Housing Operations and Administration

Eliza Fleming, Social Planning Associate, Housing Services Community Services, Region of Waterloo

Jeyas Balaskanthan, Executive Director, Uptown Waterloo BIA

Early Departures:

None Identified

Regrets:

Sandra Datars Bere, City Manager, City of St. Thomas (AMO Rural Caucus)

1. Chair's Welcome and Introductions – ROMA Chair, Robin Jones

Chair Jones welcomed the board to its offsite meeting and delivered the following Land Acknowledgement (from City of Waterloo):

“We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather today is the land traditionally cared for by the Haudenosaunee, Anishnaabe, and Neutral People. We also acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge and philosophies of the Indigenous People with whom we share this land today.”

2. Declaration

- Pecuniary interest – None declared
- Early departure – None declared

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3. Approval of Friday, September 15, 2023, Meeting Agenda (*Pages 1-2*)

Motion

“That the Board approve the agenda for Friday, September 15, 2023.”

Moved: Christa Lowry

Seconded: Jennifer Murphy

CARRIED

4. Approval of Sunday, August 20, 2023, ROMA Meeting Minutes (*Pages 3-8*)

Motion

"That the Board approve the minutes from the August 20, 2023 meeting".

Moved: Carma Williams

Seconded: Dave Beres

CARRIED

5. Executive-Treasurer – Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer

a. 2024 Conference Plan *(Pages 9-15)*

Afshin Majidi presented the budget for the 2024 conference. Key budget items for 2024 include:

- Revenue Projections: The budget projects conservative growth from the previous year.
- Expense items: Expenses include venue costs, contracts, meals, and speakers costs. Venue costs are favourable due to a long-term contracts.
- Speaker Budget: The speaker budget remains consistent with the previous year.
- Other Expenses: Minor fluctuations in expense categories projecting consistent expenses with an increase to 2023 recognizing inflationary and overall cost increases for food and beverage and contracts.

Recognizing ongoing inflationary and post covid venue cost increases, AMO staff is looking at strategies to mitigate these costs including through exhibit, sponsorship and strong negotiating positions on contracts.

Motion

"That the ROMA board approve the 2024 ROMA Conference Plan as discussed;" and

"That the Board direct staff to begin conference planning based on the approved Plan."

Moved: Paul Latam

Seconded: Jamie McGrail

CARRIED

TIMED ITEMS

6. 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM - Update on Access to Services Policy Development – Kathryn Wood, CEO and President, Pivotal Momentum *(Verbal)*

Kathy Woods gave an update on the Access to Services project. Since the last meeting of the

Board, work on the project focused on the following areas:

- Subject matter expert interviews.
- Survey results: a good return rate was reported and common themes identified included:
 - access to mental health services, primary health care access, varying opinions on OTH like clinics and mental health care, plus challenges in primary care. Challenges in accessing funding to establish resources and barriers to transportation as significant concerns.
 - Feedback on hospital closures was limited. Additional outreach to the paramedic chiefs is planned to gain further insight on primary health care challenges and local innovations.

Motion

“That the Board receive the update on Access to Services Policy Development as information”.

Moved: Rainey Weisler

Seconded: Janet Hager

CARRIED

7. 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM – Briefing by Region of Waterloo on the Managed Encampment Facility – **Kelly-Anne Solerno**, President, Region of Waterloo Assistant Director of Housing Operations and Administration (*Verbal*)

Waterloo Region staff provided a briefing to the Board that included the process from the Region’s Human Rights case to addressing the encampments in long term and meaningful ways.

The briefing included the importance of processes involved in:

- Building partnerships both governmental and non-governmental
- Securing land for a managed encampment
- An overview of securing land and developing the encampment
- The administration and management of the 50 until managed encampment including daily living, service supports and staffing.

The Board requested the Region’s staff to participate in the 2024 Conference which at that time staff will be able to provide costing and impact analysis.

Motion

“That the Board receive the briefing by Region of Waterloo as information”.

Moved: Christa Lowry

Seconded: Mark Wilson

CARRIED

8. 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM– Presentation: Uptown Waterloo Business Improvement Area – **Jeyas Balaskanthan**, Executive Director, Uptown BIA *(Verbal)*

The Board was briefed on the City of Waterloo's BIA's strategies on addressing homelessness through committed engagement from business owners, service agencies and the municipalities. Significant progress is being made and is reflective of the collective commitment to working on solutions.

Motion

"That the Board receive the presentation by Uptown Waterloo BIA as information".

Moved: Carma Williams

Seconded: Jennifer Murphy

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) application grants – Robin Jones, Chair *(Verbal)*

Chair Jones addressed the ongoing infrastructure challenges and the importance of rural communities to access more flexible funding options. This item will continue to be examined by the Board.

Motion

"That the Board receive the update on Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) application grants as information".

Moved: Pam Sayne

Seconded: Jamie McGrail

CARRIED

10. Teeny Tiny Summits first session for 2023-2024 – Pam Sayne, Councillor, Township of Minden Hills *(Verbal)*

Pam Sayne shared that the first session of the 2023-2024 Teeny Tiny Summit will take place on September 26th at 9:30am. The event will feature Peter Kenyon, a well-known tiny community enthusiast and social capitalist. He will discuss *"Building from Within: Mobilizing and Connecting a Community's Assets"* and share insights on creating caring, healthy, inclusive, and enterprising communities.

Motion

"That the Board receive the update on Teeny Tiny Summits as information".

Moved: Pam Sayne

Seconded: Carma Williams

CARRIED

11. 2024 ROMA Board Meeting Dates Approval – Petra Wolfbeiss, Director, Membership Centre, AMO
(Verbal)

This item was deferred, and there is a request for reconsideration regarding the frequency of meetings, suggesting they occur every 3rd Friday of the month.

12. ROMA Communications Update – Farah Tayabali, Vice President, and Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick *(Supplementary Package)*

Farah Tayabali provided an update on ROMA's communications activities from June to August 2023. This included:

- a 23% increase in Twitter engagement.
- ROMA gained 20 followers on LinkedIn
- Email open rates remained high (newsletter, Chair's message etc), including reaching 52% for a Trains and Drains promotion.
- Redbrick has been working on video production for two ROMA's videos,

Motion:

"That the Communication update be received."

Moved: Christina Early

Seconded: Rainey Weisler

CARRIED

POLICY

13. Policy Update – Lindsay Jones, Director, Policy and Government Relations, AMO

- i. Public Health Update *(Verbal)*
- ii. AMO PPS Submission *(Pages 16-21)*

Lindsay Jones provided an update on a number of key matters including:

- the Premier's \$1.2 billion commitment through the *Building Faster Fund* to help municipalities support the creation of new housing announced at AMO.

- AMO's efforts and attentions and concerns related to property tax assessment delays potentially to 2027.
- The Public Health Review including the 25/75 funding split and annual increases, role reviews and encouraged mergers of local health units.
- Updates on land use planning including the PPS, included agricultural policies, natural heritage, and employment lands.

Motion:

"That the Board receive as information the policy updates on Public Health and the AMO PPS Submission."

Moved: Steve McCabe

Seconded: Paul Latam

CARRIED

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

14. Committee Reports

- i. Nuclear Waste Management Ontario (NWMO) Municipal Forum – Sandra Datars Bere, City Manager, City of St. Thomas

Sandra Datars Bere no update provided.

- ii. Teeny Tiny Summits – Pam Sayne, Councillor, Township of Minden Hills *(Under Item 10)*
- iii. Other

INFORMATION ITEMS

15. 23-310 Village of Merrickville-Wolford_Support resolution Town of Blind River *(Pages 22-23)*

16. 2023 OBCM Sustainable Infrastructure Funding Program_Chatham-Kent *(Pages 24-25)*

17. Action - Municipality of South Huron - Support Chatham-Kent - Time for change of Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act *(Pages 26-30)*

18. EA Modernization_Letter_Amended Regulations and Updated Guides August 2023 *(Pages 31-33)*

19. Res. 2023-280 - MFIPPA (Time for Change) _ Township of Hornepayne *(Pages 34-35)*

20. Twp Emo Resolution - Black Ash Tree *(Pages 36-38)*

21. Village of Merrickville-Wolford Resolution 236-23 - Proposed Provincial Planning Statement *(Pages 39-40)*

Motion

"That the Board receive the Information Items."

Moved: Jennifer Murphy

Seconded: Steve McCabe

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

22. Other business brought forward by members

23. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

24. Next meeting: October 12, 2023 (Committee of the Whole), October 13, 2023 (ROMA Board of Directors Meeting) – Hybrid, Location: *AMO Office, 801-200 University Ave. Toronto, ON M5H 3C6*

25. Adjournment

Motion

"That there being no further business, the Board move to adjourn."

Moved: Peter Emon

Seconded: Steve McCabe