

**FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES**

**MINUTES**

**Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Friday July 10th, 2020**

**Hampton Inn, Ontario Room  
2280 Regent Street, Sudbury, Ontario P3E 0B4**

**Present**

**D. Whalen, President**

**P. Schoppmann, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (ZOOM)**

**L. Watson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

**N. Fortier Levesque, Director**

**L. Carleton, Director**

**T. Kelly, Director**

**A. MacNevin, Director (ZOOM)**

**S. Hollingsworth, Director (ZOOM)**

**J. Curley (Timmins Alternate)**

**B. Bigger, Director (ZOOM)**

**Bill Vrebosch, Director**

**Regrets**

**G. Pirie, Director**

**Guests**

**Brian Rosborough – AMO (ZOOM)**

**Roxanne Gervais – bakertilly (ZOOM)**

**Renee Lafreerriere – bakertilly (ZOOM)**

**Staff**

**M. Bain, Executive Director**

**President D. Whalen welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:00 am**

**1.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT (attached to the Agenda)**

President Whalen had recently circulated to the Board his activities since May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

It was **MOVED** by **T. Kelly**, **SECONDED** by **L. Watson** that the report be received  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**2.0 ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was **MOVED** by **P. Schoppmann**, **SECONDED** by **A. MacNevin**.

That the agenda be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**3.0 TIMED PRESENTATION**

Brian Rosborough, the Executive Director of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, joined the meeting. He briefed the Board on the advocacy that has been their focus recently on behalf of their membership. Brian also shared the plans for this summer's Virtual AMO Conference. He shared how the daily sessions, tradeshow, delegations, and minister's forums will come about.

Roxanne Gervais and Renée Laferrière from bakertilly presented the Draft 2019-2020 Audit to the Board. Roxanne and Renée walked the Board through their process and answered questions of the Board.

It was **MOVED** by **J. Curry**, **SECONDED** by **L. Carleton** that the 2019-2020 Audit be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**4.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF May 13th, 2020**

It was **MOVED** by **L. Watson**, **SECONDED** by **N. Fortier Levesque** that the Minutes be accepted as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

## 6.0 NEW BUSINESS

### 6.1 a. Promote the North Campaign – D. Whalen & M. Bain

President Whalen discussed with the Board the strategy and approach for the Campaign. He also spoke to the experience that Drew Gauley has and his relationship with those assisting him with promotion. President Whalen also shared his discussion with Fednor, AFMO, and NOMA. Questions of the Board were answered by President Whalen and the Executive Director Bain.

### 6.1 b. Non-essential travel into Canada - Ontario – S. Hollingsworth

Sandra Hollingsworth shared her community's concern with the non-essential travel into Ontario by US Citizens during the pandemic. She noted that the number of new cases in the US is a concern, and if the borders were to open again to the Pre COVID status what that would mean here.

Ontario's numbers of cases are considerably low, especially in comparison to the lower 48 states. The Board discussed the negative impacts non-essential travelers would have on our Health Care System.

Non-essential travel into Canada - Ontario

It was MOVED by **B. Vrebosch**, **SECONDED** by **N. Fortier Levesque**, that

**Whereas** the Coronavirus 19 pandemic has impacted every country, including Canada and the United States

**Whereas** the number of cases continues to climb in the United States at an alarming rate; and

**Whereas** any non-essential travel by Americans into Ontario could harm the citizens of the Northeast and place a strain on our Health System, and

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities request that the Federal Government and the Northern Ontario Members of Parliament, keep the Border with the United States closed to non-essential travel until the Covid19 numbers there drastically reduced.

**Carried: Unanimous**

## 6.2 CORRESPONDENCE/RESOLUTIONS

### A) Township of Plummer Additional - Styrofoam EPF

As the Province is in the process of transitioning the Blue Box, it was discussed that this issue will be addressed through that process. *This resolution was received for information*

### B) Municipality of Killarney - Fee for Tourism Destination Signage

*Received for information*

### C) Township of Plummer Additional - 911 Misdials

This has been an issue for many years, *received for information*

### D) Municipality of Killarney - COHB Guidelines

The issue was discussed and as this came for a member of NOSDA, FONOM's Executive Director will communicate with them to align advocacy

E) Municipality of Killarney - *EMS Dispatch funding Greater Sudbury*

The discussion pivoted to funding levels for the land ambulance. It was shared the current funding formula is inappropriate and does not represent Northern Ontario accurately as few Municipalities are seeing population increases. This issue is just developing, as several members of the Board sit on other DSSAB's and are not aware of the approach we should take. The FONOM Executive Director will discuss this with NOSDA as well.

F) Township of Black River Matheson - *Essential Workers Day*

It was MOVED **T. Kelly** , SECONDED by **B. Vrebosch**, that the FONOM send a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Premier Doug Ford, asking that they declare March 17th to be Essential Workers Day to honour all those who sacrificed so much during the COVID-19 pandemic.

G) Municipality of Killarney, West Nipissing - *Wetland Designation*

It was MOVED **L. Watson**, SECONDED by **L. Carleton** that the FONOM send a letter to Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Hon. John Yakabuski asking that it review their practices and procedures to include direct consultation with the impacted municipalities before designation Provincially Significant Wetlands within their boundaries.

H) Township of Ryerson, City of Temiskaming Shore, Temiskaming Shores Police Services Board, Township of The Archipelago, Township of East Ferris & the Ontario Association of Police Boards - *OPP Detachments*

The Board commented on the quick response from so many Municipalities with regards to this issue. President Whalen shared that he has shared the FONOM Boards concern with AMO and the several members of the Government. This topic will be one of the issues discussed during our Multi-Minister Delegation

I) Township of Amour, McDonald, Meredith, Aberdeen Additional, Township of The Archipelago, Township of Strong, Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers, Calvin Township, Township of East Ferris, Township of Papineau-Cameron, Township of Evanturel, Township of Dubreuilville & the Township of Chamberlain – *Blue Box Programs under 5000*

It is believed that the Communities Resolution stressed to Minister Yurek on how important the Blue Box is to Ontarians, had the desired effect. The executive director informed the board that he has spoken with AMO, and the government has reversed their decision. It was discussed that Communities with waste systems today, will be able to transition. Also discussed was that it is unclear if municipal open spaces, schools and places of worship will be included in transition.

J) Township of Evanturel – *Request to Review the Farm Property Class Tax Rate*

Discussed and received for Information

### 6.3 Correspondence/information Items

It was **MOVED** by **A. MacNevin**, **SECONDED** by **L. Carleton** all Resolutions in item 6. A. thru 6.O to received as information

- A) Township of Amour – Post Education Students
- B) Letter to Minister Elliott – Post Education Students
- C) Letter to the Premier – Travel Restrictions
- D) Letter to Minister Lecce – Post Education Students
- E) Letter to Mayor McDonald – Min. Advisory Table
- F) Letter to Mayor Provenzano – Min. Advisory Table
- G) Letter to Mayor Pirie – Min. Advisory Table
- H) Letter to Mayor Bigger – Min. Advisory Table
- I) Letter to Mayor McGarvey – Min. Advisory Table
- J) Financial Support Letter to ROMA
- K) Letter From ROMA
- L) Letter of appreciation to ROMA for Support
- M) Letter to the Attorney General – Takeout alcohol with meal
- N) Letter from Matt Wilson of AMO – OPP Governance
- O) Letter from City of North Bay – Appointment of Bill Vrebosch

**MOTIONS CARRIED.**

### 7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7.a. It was **MOVED** by **T. Kelly**, **SECONDED** by **L. Watson**. That the Board receive the list of Expenditures (Attached) for May 1st - June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Also the Board agreed to allow Members to pay their annual memberships through direct deposit.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

7.b. It was **MOVED** by **P. Schoppmann**, **SECONDED** by **S. Hollingsworth**. That the Board receive the Financial Report (Attached) ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

7.c. The Executive Director discussed with the Board his work with bakertilly to prepare the organizations financial record keeping in a format that will make future audits easier. Also discussed was the Policy work for the Multi Minister session during the AMO Conference. As well the new FONOM website was discussed

It was **MOVED** by **L. Carleton**, **SECONDED** by **T. Kelly** that The Board accept the Executive Directors report as discussed

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### 8.0 REGIONAL REPORTS

### **District of Sudbury**

P. Schoppmann advised that communities are holding their own through the effects of the pandemic.

### **City of Sault Ste Marie**

S. Hollingsworth spoke about the issue of industrial and commercial MPAC Assessments that they are unfair in the North, members of her council are working with the Chamber on this issue. Sandra spoke of her work with the Health Task Force of AMO specificity long care homes and retirement home. Spoke that SSM will be voting on Mandatory Masks in the City

### **City of Greater Sudbury**

B Bigger updated the Board on the strategy around Sudbury's decision to make masks Mandatory in the City via the Health Unit, they will be the new normal. He spoke that the City is supportive. He shared that a funding challenge they are having getting funding for new long-term beds, as construction costs in the North are 25% higher than the south. He is supportive of the FCM Funding request for municipalities, as the City has a \$25 million deficit (will be offset by reserves). He also shared that they are moving forward with their planned capital work this year.

### **District of Nipissing**

T. Kelly spoke about the silver lining with the Pandemic is that people are staying close to home and shopping locally. Due to the time of year communities in the Nipissing area are busy getting the construction work done, even during this time of pandemic as winter will arrive in November

### **District of Parry Sound**

L. Carleton highlighted the impact the lack of Broadband is having on the communities in her district. Post Secondary students will not be able to live at home to study remotely, as broadband is unreliable or nonexistent in some areas. Also, she spoke about the massive increase Municipalities in her district are seeing for their Insurance rates.

### **City of Timmins**

J. Curley spoke to the discussion the community is having regarding if masks are required and looking to the MOH for clarification. He shared the funding issue Timmins is seeing with Connecting Link as all of the forestry and mining companies use the highway as their conveyer belts. The City is looking at implementing half loads all year long or only permitting trucks to use the right-hand lane, which will extend the life of the asset.

### **City of North Bay**

B. Vrebosch shared that the City's airport has lost its major tenant and that they are working on a strategy on how to address the financial challenge they are facing. Bill will communicate with FONOM once their plan is ready, to see if the Board is able to help. He reiterated that all of Rural and Northern Ontario are facing Broadband challenges and commented that a unified approach would be better than the system today. He also shared his frustration with the level of accountability and transparency around the federal and provincial money flowing into the region to the Broadband providers. He also shared that the standard speed the Region should be seeking is 1gig up and down.

## **8.0 REGIONAL REPORTS (continued)**

### **District of Cochrane**

N. Fortier Levesque updated the Board that there are presently no COVID cases in the Cochrane district. But that the number of summer residents in area are a concern for the different ABC's and Municipalities in the area. She shared again the impact the opioid crisis is having in the district, that the pandemic has pushed it off the front page, but that it is still an important challenge. Nicole shared that AFOM is starting a membership drive and that they are providing a flag to new members. She also shared the impact the pandemic has had on the tourism industry but briefed the board on some new tourism experiences that are being offered in the area.

### **District of Timiskaming**

D. Whalen shared that Broadband is an issue for his members as well, that the loss of the Blue Box program is a concern and that Insurance rates have increased a considerable amount.

### **District of Algoma**

L. Watson spoke to the issues that are important in his district being; the relationship with the Health Unit, the concern around municipalities losing their Blue Box program, connectivity of the rural broadband and the negative impact the opening of the border to non essential travel. He also shared that because of COVID the ADMA has not been able to meet in person and that a ZOOM meeting presents challenges due to broadband capacity.

## **9.0 NEXT MEETING**

Friday September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Hearst or if at the Call of the Chair

## **10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

It was **MOVED** by **L. Carleton** **SECONDED** by **P. Schoppmann**

That the meeting be adjourned at 11:55 am

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF July 10th, 2020**

It was **MOVED** by **L. Watson**, **SECONDED** by **Bill Vrebosch** that the Minutes be accepted as amended, September 11th, 2020 in Hearst.

**MOTION CARRIED.**



President Danny Whalen