

FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Friday September 11, 2020

**Companion Motel
Hearst, Ontario**

Present

D. Whalen, President

P. Schoppmann, 2nd Vice President

L. Watson, 1st Vice President N.

Fortier Levesque, Director

L. Carleton, Director (ZOOM)

T. Kelly, Director

A. MacNevin, Director (ZOOM)

S. Hollingsworth, Director

Bill Vrebosch, Director

J. Curley (Timmins Alternate)

Regrets

G. Pirie, Director

B. Bigger, Director

Guests

Angele Poitras – Workplace Safety North (ZOOM)

Staff

M. Bain, Executive Director

President D. Whalen welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 8:37 am

1.0 PRESIDENT’S REPORT (attached to the Agenda – Page 8 & 9)

President Whalen had recently circulated to the Board his activities since July 10th, 2020
It was **MOVED** by **T. Kelly**, **SECONDED** by **N. Fortier Levesque** that the report be received

MOTION CARRIED.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was **MOVED** by **S. Hollingsworth**, **SECONDED** by **J. Curley**.

That the agenda be approved with additional items.

MOTION CARRIED.

3.0 TIMED PRESENTATION (occurred at 10:25 am)

Angele Poitras from Workplace safety North shared with the Board her team’s experiences with the impacts of the Opioid Crisis. She discussed with the Board steps Communities can take to better protect their citizens and staff. Angele answered questions regarding issues Communities are seeing, mainly the cost and the process of disposal of the discarded needles. President Whalen thanked her for her informative presentation.

4.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 10th, 2020 BOARD MEETING

It was **MOVED** by **L. Watson**, **SECONDED** by **B. Vrebosh** that the Minutes be accepted as amended.

MOTION CARRIED.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 D. Whalen and M. Bain detailed the progress that has been made in the Promote the North Campaign. Also shared was the process for dealing with leads the initiative will generate. The involvement of agencies supporting the Campaign, Fednor, EMDM and MPAC, were detailed for the Board. FONOM’s technology, website, email will be enhanced and a Toll Free Number will be purchased.

5.2 A discussion was held on the next steps FONOM will take to address the concerns many of our Members have experienced with the Northern Health Units. Example issues shared; impact increase in budget is having on Municipal Budgets, dialogue between MOH and members, COVID case reporting, lack of testing in several areas, and transparency. The Board supported D. Whalen arranging a meeting

with the five Board Chairs and MOH's, to discuss these issues and the Governance if consolidation occurs. Also, that the Health Unit Policy document be shared with Jim Pine and that D. Whalen arrange a meeting with him to provide an update.

A Committee of AMO is being established to work with the Solicitor General's Office, to discuss the OPP Governance model and to tackle some of the issues facing community policing in the Province. FONOM has been asked to provide several names to AMO of possible CAO's that would represent the Northeastern perspective to the Committee. The Board will inform M. Bain of names to this committee.

the Board shared their frustration with the current state of connectivity in the North. They reaffirmed that Federal Government should deem Broadband an Essential Service. Current standards, technology, programs and approaches were discussed. The Board agreed that by working together with NOMA, AMO, FCM and all Provincial Governments, will this crisis be dealt with. The Board agreed that an option for the partners to explore and hopefully support would be the Starlink Program, by SpaceX.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 It Takes a Forest Billboard Campaign

D. Whalen discussed with the Board a proposal to support Forest Ontario's Billboard campaign, by having FONOM sponsor a Billboard in each district, plus an extra one in Parry Sound. After discussion on the program, *It was **MOVED** by N. Fortier Levesque, **SECONDED** by L. Watson that FONOM sponsor 8 Billboard, and that D. Whalen investigate if they will be bilingual*

6.2 Towards Northern Ontario Multimodal Transportation Strategy

D. Whalen led a discussion with the Board about the transportation issue in the North. He recounted the numerous meetings and sessions he has participated in over the years and the challenges persist. The Board agreed that air travel and the funding model for airports, must be addressed first. *It was **MOVED** by L. Watson, **SECONDED** by S. Hollingsworth, that President Whalen discuss with the Mayors of the four Cities current and future Airport Funding models, and the process for creating our own Transportation Plan for Northern Ontario*

Carried: Unanimous

6.3 CORRESPONDENCE/RESOLUTIONS

It was **MOVED** by N. Fortier Levesque, **SECONDED** by S. Hollingsworth that all Resolutions in items 6.3 A. thru 6.3 H be received for information

- A) Funding for Rehabilitation Facilities - Township of Ewanturel
- B) Request for Letter of Support - MIRARCO Mining Innovation
- C) Emergency Operational Support - Municipality of West Nipissing & City of North Bay
- D) Conditions in Long Term Care Homes - Municipality of Killarney
- E) Universal Basic Income - Town of Mattawa
- F) Broadband Infrastructure Improvements - Town of Mattawa
- G) Essential Access to Broadband - Municipality of Killarney
- H) Investing in Canada's Infrastructure - Municipality of Killarney

Carried: Unanimous

7.0 Correspondence/information Items

It was **MOVED** by **A. MacNevin**, **SECONDED** by **L. Carleton** all the correspondence items be received for information

- A) Non-Essential Travel – Letters send to Hon. Aitchison, Hon. Angus, Hon. Hughes, Hon. Lefebvre, Hon. Rota, Hon. Serre, and Hon. Sheehan
- B) Non-Essential Travel – Letter received by Hon. Hughes
- C) OPP Governance – Resolutions received from Municipality of East Ferris, Township of Chisholm, Municipality of Wawa, Township of James, Township of Billings, Township of Carling, Municipality of Whitestone, Town of Parry Sound, Municipality of Hornpayne, Municipality of Killarney, Township of Papineau Cameron, City of Quinte West, Town of Gore Bay, Town of Thessalon, Town of Mattawa, and Town of Hearst
- D) Blue Box Transition Under 5000 – Resolutions received from Township of James, Township of Kerns, Township of Hudson, Municipality of Moonbeam, Township of Billing, Township of Harley, Township of Carling, Township of Casey, City of Timmins, Town of Espanola, Town of Thessalon, and Municipality of Killarney
- E) Wetland Designation – Letter sent to Min. Yakabuski
- F) Essential Workers Day - Letter sent to Prime Minister Trudeau
- G) Essential Workers Day - Letter sent to Premier Ford

- H) Essential Workers Day – Resolution received by Twp. of Matachewan
- I) Question send to AMO for Min. Yurek during Minister’s Forum
- J-N) Letter of thanks for participating in Multi Minister Delegation to Min. Clark, Min. Rickford, Min. Scott, Min. Hogarth and Min. Khanjin
- O) Appointment of New Deputy Minister -Letter from Min. Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs

Carried: Unanimous

8.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- A) It was **MOVED** by **T. Kelly** **SECONDED** by **N. Fortier Levesque**, that the Board receive the list of Expenditures (Attached) for July 1st – August 30th, 2020.

MOTION CARRIED.

- B) It was **MOVED** by **L. Watson**, **SECONDED** by **J. Curley**, that the Board receive the Financial Report (Attached) ending September 3rd, 2020.

MOTION CARRIED.

- C) M. Bain shared his frustration with the Website Designer, he will continue to work with her. Memberships second notices have been sent out and they have started to be received. M. Bain informed the Board of the expenses that will be incurred to support the Promote the North Campaign. The Board will discuss in at the November Board meeting, if the 2021 Annual Conference will be held.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS

District of Algoma

L. Watson mentioned that several communities are seeing a large number of Bears, but no interactions yet with people. Issues continue with the Regional Health Unit, with regards to Governance and accountability. Due to the Pandemic and the numbers that can attend gatherings, the Algoma District Association may not be held until the Spring of 2021.

District of Sudbury

P. Schoppmann advised that St. Charles will not be opening their arena this winter. Also, the areas Real Estate market has been busy.

City of Sault Ste Marie

S. Hollingsworth spoke about the issue of American Students wanting to attend classes on our side of the Border. The area Mountain Bike trails and tourism outfitters were busy this summer, with many being from outside the Region. Public Health transparency is a concern for many in the City, and that the area has low COVID numbers. The City has been promoting the area with ads in the Globe & Mail, targeted at young people and immigrants.

City of Greater Sudbury No update was provided.

District of Nipissing

T. Kelly shared his frustration with the delay for 2 subdivisions that are being held up but CAVE people involvement. The Real Estate market is busy, and the region is seeing people moving into the area from Southern Ontario.

District of Parry Sound

L. Carleton informed the Board that the fall Parry Sound Association meeting has been cancelled. The important issues in the District continue to be concerns with Broadband and Doctor Recruitment. The cost of Real Estate in some communities has nearly doubled. This summer the Tourist outfitters and camps were busy, and that there is an issue with Airbnb overbooking homes.

City of Timmins

J. Curley spoke to the issues with the Agencies working together to address the littering of used needles. He shared that there are 2 current cases of COVID in the Cochrane District. That the strength in the mining industry continues to be a positive and that the housing market is increasing. John shared thanks from Mayor Pirie for the kind regards after his recent health issues.

City of North Bay

B. Vrebosch shared the negative impact the City is seeing from other communities sending some homeless to North Bay by bus. Also, he shared that a new low barrier shelter is being established in the City, and that shelters like these should be responsibility of the Province not Communities.

District of Cochrane

N. Fortier Levesque updated the Board that Moonbeam's Broadband project is seeing some progress. That communities are asking for more COVID testing in the District. Also, that the area camp grounds and cabins were very busy this past summer

District of Timiskaming

D. Whalen shared that the members of in the District are seeing a sharp increase in their insurance rates. Also, that the local medias have been asking for interviews to talk about FONOM matters.

District of Manitoulin

Al MacNevin spoke to the impact that COVID is having on Business, as people are now working at home and frustrated by the low connectivity. The island has had a busy summer season.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 - 2021 Annual FONOM Conference

D. Whalen shared that several organizations are looking at having virtual conferences, similar to the recent AMO Conference. He also has been speaking with elected official in Temiskaming, asking if they thought they would be attending our conference in May. The response was not positive. The Board will decide in November the fate of next years Annual Conference.

10.2 – Grow Op Zoning and inquires

P. Schoppmann shared that his Municipality has had several inquires about establishing and zoning for Grow Ops. His concern is not for the type of business itself, but for the frequency and the legitimacy of those inquiring. Others have that the same calls, and shared his concerns.

10.3 – ROMA Update

B. Vrebosch updated the Board that the ROMA Conference will be virtual in 2021. That the ROMA Board has provided financial support to FONOM, NOMA and AFMO.

11:00 IN CAMERA

It was **MOVED** by **N. Fortier Levesque** **SECONDED** by **J. Curley**. That the Board Move in Camera to discuss a personnel matter

It was **MOVED** by **B. Vrebosch** **SECONDED** by **J. Curley**. That the Board Move out of Camera

12.0 NEXT MEETING

Friday November 13th, 2020 in Sault Ste Marie or at the Call of the Chair

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was **MOVED** by **T. Kelly** **SECONDED** by **P. Schoppmann**

That the meeting be adjourned at 12:25 P.M.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF September 11, 2020

It was **MOVED** by **J. Curley** **SECONDED** by **T. Kelly** that the Minutes be accepted as amended, November 13th, 2020 in Sault Ste Marie.

MOTION CARRIED.



President Danny Whalen

President Report

July to September

14 July - Northern Economic Advisory Council meeting

15 July - Forest Ontario - it Takes a Forest campaign

27 July - Media interviews regarding AMO conference and FONOM's role

27 July - telephone discussions with Minister Clark regarding municipal funding agreement

28 July - Northern Economic Advisory Council meeting

28 July - discussions with Contact North's new advisor regarding opportunities with FONOM and current plans with ORGA and FedNor

29 July - Promote the North Campaign - strategy discussions

15 August - AMO Executive meeting

16 August - AMO board meeting

17, 18 and 19 August - Annual AMO conference and multi minister meeting 20

August - Broadband meeting for District of Timiskaming

Ongoing discussions regarding Transition to Full Producers Responsibility. Minister Yurek . Minister made remarks during an AMO conference session that ALL municipalities will be included going forward. We need to ensure the province maintains this approach as they deal with the producers.

President Report - continued

Numerous calls with Minister Yakabuski and his staff regarding the new Forest Sector Strategy. This should be a great boost to the forestry sector across the north and with the boom in demand for wood during the pandemic, timing could not be better.

Participated in lots of AMO Executive and Board meetings covering many northern topics. Very pleased in the AMO has recognized to opposition to any suggestion that DSSAB be considered to take over Police Service Boards. AMO will no longer carry this suggestion in any documentation.

NOHFC should complete its review and rewriting of funding programs in September and will contact the FONOM office once they are ready to accept any funding requests from FONOM and NOMA.

I took part in a series of calls and planning for more billboards promoting the forestry sector. Forest Ontario has been successful in getting funding for extra billboards. This may be an opportunity for more promotion for FONOM.

Continued emails and talks with our producer as Promote the North moves ahead.

While the number of meetings has slowed slightly, the number of telephone calls and talks with various ministry offices and staff has increased. This shows FONOM is being recognized.

List of Expenditures 2020 - 2021 July and August

03-Jul-20	147	Danny Whalen	June 2020 meetings	\$	679.00
03-Jul-20	148	trillys communications	Web site Hosting	\$	84.75
04-Jul-20	149	Good Gauley Production	Promote the North Deposit	\$	22,351.40
07-Jul-20	150	bakertilly	Audit 2019-20	\$	2,260.00
10-Jul-20	151	Terry Kelly	July 10th Board meeting	\$	537.40
10-Jul-20	152	Lynn Watson	July 10th Board meeting	\$	674.00
10-Jul-20	153	Lynda Carleton	July 10th Board meeting	\$	563.84
10-Jul-20	154	John Curley	July 10th Board meeting	\$	701.00
10-Jul-20	155	Nicole Fortier Levesque	July 10th Board meeting	\$	933.44
10-Jul-20	156	Danny Whalen	July 10th Board meeting & Other meetings	\$	792.46
10-Jul-20	157	Mac Bain	Honorarium & Expenses (including Board Meetin	\$	4,465.27
2020-07-21	158	Bill Vrebosch	July 10th Board meeting	\$	513.64
	159	void			
2020-08-04	160	Bakertilly	Balance of 2019-20 Audit	\$	1,638.50
2020-08-05	161	CMG Computer Services	Scanner	\$	203.39
2020-08-07	162	Mac Bain	Honorarium & Expenses	\$	2,230.24
	163	void			
2020-08-08	164	Danny Whalen	(Min. Rickford Sessions)	\$	525.00
2020-08-08	165	DNSSAB	1/2 AMO Registration	\$	339.00
2020-07-31		Banking Fees	July Northern Credit Union	\$	18.00
2020-08-21	166	Danny Whalen	AMO Board & Executive	\$	225.00
2020-08-21	167	Mel Pepin	Media Release Translation	\$	55.00

Membership 2nd Notice

Algoma District	Blind River Hilton Hilton Beach White River
Cochrane	Iroquios Falls Moosonee
Manitoulin	Cockburn Island
Nipissing	South Algonquin Temagami West Nipissing
Parry Sound	Kearney Parry Sound Powassan
Sudbury	French River Markstay-Warren
Timskaming	Brethour Casey Cobalt Englehart Gauthier Harris Hilliard Hudson Kerns McGarry
Additional	Greenstone