

FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Friday, January 15, 2021

Thru ZOOM

Present

D. Whalen, President

P. Schoppmann, 2nd Vice President

L. Watson, 1st Vice President N.

N. Fortier Levesque, Director

L. Carleton, Director

T. Kelly, Director

A. MacNevin, Director

G. Pirie, Director

A. Sizer, (Sudbury Alternate)

S. Hollingsworth, Director

Bill Vrebosch, Director

Regrets

B. Bigger

Guests

Chad Evans, ONTC

Staff

M. Bain, Executive Director

President D. Whalen welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 8:31 am

1.0 Welcome and President's Report (attached to the Agenda – Page 8)

President Whalen welcomed Councillor Al Sizer, as he is attending the meeting as an Alternate from the City of Sudbury. The Agenda was then approved as circulated. Then President Whalen shared with the Board his activities since November 13th, 2020. It was **MOVED** by **S. Hollingsworth**, **SECONDED** by **L. Watson** that the report be received.

MOTION CARRIED.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was **MOVED** by **N. Fortier Levesque** **SECONDED** by **T. Kelly**.

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED.

3.0 TIMED PRESENTATION (occurred at 10:09 am)

Chad Evan, Vice President of Corporate Services, delivered greets on behalf of himself and Corrina Moore who will be back to work soon. He was happy to be able to provide and update of the recent activities of the ONTC in 2021. He walked the Board through each of their Business units; Rail Freight (over 700 Miles of track), Motor Coach / BPX, Passenger Rail (Polar Bear Express), and Rail Remanufacturing & Repair. The ONTC was continued to operate all its divisions safely during the Pandemic, continuing to provide a vital link in the North and its expanded bus routes. Chad shared their bus expansion since 2014, which showed they provide services from Ottawa to Winnipeg and Toronto to Moosonee (PBX from Cochrane). He also explained the impact that July's Bus Deregulation may have on their higher populated routes. The relationship with the MTO was reviewed. That the ONTC is working with the Government on the Passenger Rail Business Case, including participating in a track audit.

He shared that Municipalities could help the ONTC by discussing local transportation strategies, to see about synergies. We can continue to advocate the North requires stable, accessible, and integrated transportation to thrive and grow.

4.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE September 13, 2020 BOARD MEETING

It was **MOVED** by **L. Carleton**, **SECONDED** by **A. MacNevin** that the Minutes be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 6.1 Promote the North Campaign. The third video (bi-lingual) has been released and it has been circulated to the Board, our partners, members, media, and the four City Economic Development Departments. It has been very well received. The fourth video will focus on a Pharmacy in St. Charles, with Nipissing, Manitoulin and Algoma afterwards. The Campaign has been seen by over 100,000 people through the efforts of our Social Media Specialist Jennifer Baker. The November and December Social Media reports are attached.
- 5.2 M.Bain briefed the Board on the 2021 FONOM Annual Conference and shared the Draft Agenda. Also, discussed ways the Conference can be monetized to recoup some of the expenses. The Board supported first reaching out to our loyal previous conference sponsors to sell Banners for beside videos and commercials for between video presentation. Mac also shared conversations he has had recently with Municipal Clerks, sharing that this conference content will be free of charge, and that the response has been very positive.

Proposed Agenda for the 2021 FONOM Annual Conference - Virtual

- Welcome from President Danny Whalen – 3-7 Minutes spending a few minutes covering the activities of the Federation (*airports {ports of entrie}, infrastructure, broadband and rail*)
- President Danny Whalen GoNorth Campaign 5 minutes
- Providing Annual Financials since last AGM – 4 minutes
- Executive Award Presentation 5 Minutes
- Welcome from City of Timmins 3 Minutes
- Prime Minister Trudeau Video 5 Minutes
- Premier Ford Video 10 Minutes
- Minister Rickford provide Welcome 5 Minutes
- Minister Fedeli provide Welcome 5 Minutes
- Minister Romano provide Welcome 5 Minutes
- We would have 5-7 Ministers respond to Previously asked questions from our membership.
30 Minutes or more
- Timmins Economic Presentation/Video (the North's role in the Green Economy)
30-45 minutes
- Key Note Speakers or Speakers (Questions) 30 - 40 Minutes each
 - E. Musk (or alternate) - Starlink (? Live)
 - D. Goldberg - Telesat
- Northern Liberal Caucus (Homelessness and energy...) 5-10 minutes
- FedNor and MNDME (together) 20 Minutes
- MPAC 5-10 Minutes
- ONTC Update 5-10 Minutes
- Andrea Howarth (only her) 3 Minutes
- Steven Del Duca (only him) 3 Minutes
- Closing by President Danny Whalen 3 Minutes

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

- 6.1) 12 months Extension for Asset Management Planning – Received for Information
Township of Larder Lake
- 6.2) Funding for Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act– Received for Information
Township of Hornepayne
- 6.3) Voter definition – Bring back to March Board meeting
Municipality of Killarney
- 6.4) Ontario Northland Passenger Transportation – Received for Information
City of North Bay
- 6.5) Additional time for Grant applications – Send Letter of Support
Township of Matachewan
Municipality of Charlton and Dack
Township of Chamberlain

7.0 Correspondence/information Items

It was **MOVED** by **L. Carleton**, **SECONDED** by **N. Fortier Levesque** all the correspondence items be received for information

- 7.1 FONOM Media Release sent to Membership & Media
- 7.2 Letter sent by FONOM to Spectrum Licensing Policy Branch - Starlink
- 7.3 Resolutions – Rent Freeze impact on Social Housing
- 7.4 Letter to President Whalen - COVID 19 Vaccine Rollout & Distribution
- 7.5 Resolutions – Illegal Cannabis Grow Operation
- 7.6 Resolution – Blue Box under 5000
- 7.7 Letter sent by FONOM to Premier Ford – Northlander Rail Service
- 7.8 Letter sent to Minister Clark – Insurance Rates
- 7.9 Request for an Extension to Apply for Available Municipal Grant

Carried: Unanimous

9.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A) It was **MOVED** by **A. Sizer**, **SECONDED** by **L. Watson**, that the Board receive the list of Expenditures (Attached) for November 1st – December 31st, 2020.

MOTION CARRIED.

B) It was **MOVED** by **G. Pirie**, **SECONDED** by **P. Schoppmann**, that The Board receive the Financial Report (Attached) ending December 31st, 2020.

MOTION CARRIED.

C) M. Bain shared that Memberships are doing well and the Mac plans to call three CAO's to see if there is a concern on being a member. Mac shared that since the Pandemic started, more and more vendors would like to be paid by electronic methods. He will investigate our options and report back to the Board in March. He also mentioned that he will be reaching out to Minister Rickford's team, regarding out annual grant.

It was **MOVED** by **N. Fortier Levesque**, **SECONDED** by **A. MacNevin**, that The Board accept the Executive Directors report as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED.

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS

District of Algoma

L. Watson mentioned that due to the Pandemic, the Algoma District Association had been postponed to the Spring of 2021, possibly virtually. Also, the Algoma District Association is looking for a new Executive Director. Broadband challenges seem to impact every facet of life in the district. But there is light at the end of the tunnel, as several local projects have applied to better connect the region. Several communities have shared their appreciation for FONOM not charging for this years FONOM Conference. He had heard that the FONOM's website had to be updated.

District of Manitoulin

Al MacNevin shared that the island is surrounded by water. He shared that some of the Long Care homes on the Island are starting to receive the COVID19 vaccinations. As well the Island will be getting a freezer that will facilitate the pfizer vaccination. The Arenas are open while respecting Social Distancing. Each community will look at the impacts of the lockdown, and some may end up closing some of the arenas. Al shared that those on the island that are apart of the Starlink Beta test, are all very impressed by the outcomes. He also mentioned that the cost of Starlink was high, but that there is value considering the speed. As well there has been a great deal of cooperation between recently between all the island communities and first nation bands. I

District of Parry Sound

L. Carleton informed the Board that the area had a hectic summer vacation season. One issue that came to life was a Park that had no washroom facilities for campers. Some online short-term rental companies have made changes to their rental policies to address communities' concerns. Lynda mentioned that the many municipal governments are reinforcing to their citizens to follow the COVID rules, addressing the fatigue some are seeing.

District of Cochrane

N. Fortier Levesque updated the Board that Kapuskasing has 6 cases of COVID and the Porcupine Health Unit as a total of 75 active cases. That the region's real estate market is very high, but that the stock is low. She mentioned that the AFMO memberships are up for renewal and encouraged all Municipalities to join. Nicole urged all to stay safe!

City of Timmins

G. Pirie shared that the City has manageable deficit due to the impacts of the Pandemic. That several Companies have been generous with donations to community incentives. Further he mentioned that the Real Estate market has seen nearly a 50% increase. That the mining industry's forecast continues to be positive. Council and the EDC are focusing on the region's Agricultural opportunities.

District of Sudbury

P. Schoppmann advised that the Municipalities in the Sudbury Districts have been quiet, due to COVID. That the new housing and the renovation markets, will have a positive impact on future budgets once MPAC does its reassessment.

District of Nipissing

T. Kelly shared that East Ferris is seeing 25-30 homes being built and the entire Region is seeing a boom in the housing market as well. The Township is planning a new office building and a medical building in the new year.

District of Timiskaming

D. Whalen shared that the Timiskaming Forest Management Plan has been finalized. Also, that most municipalities are focused on COVID!

City of Sault Ste Marie

No update was provided.

City of Greater Sudbury

Al Sizer informed the Board that things are busy in Sudbury, several large projects are under way, that the Real Estate market is experiencing a boom, and the mining sector is on a high. The pandemic has had an impact on the unemployment numbers, with 600 more people looking for work than last year at this time. That the homelessness issue is a concern for agencies and residence, and that there will be public sessions on the issue in late January.

City of North Bay

B. Vrebosch shared with the Board that the North Bay Airport Industrial Park is expanding as it is currently full. He mentioned that the North Bay Real Estate and Home Building market is on a high, greatly influenced by our population increase. As well the City is lobbying for additional federal support for the Jack Garland Airport.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

No Other Business

11:00 IN CAMERA

No In Camera Discussion

12.0 NEXT MEETING

Friday, March 5th, 2021 in person or ZOOM or at the Call of the Chair

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was **MOVED** by **T. Kelly** **SECONDED** by **A. MacNevin**

That the meeting be adjourned at 11:33 am

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF January 15, 2021

It was **MOVED** by **L. Watson** **SECONDED** by **N. Fortier Levesque** that the Minutes be accepted as amended, on March 5, 2021.

MOTION CARRIED.



President Danny Whalen

FONOM President Report - From November meeting

- 02 November - Virtual meeting with NOHFC to discuss our funding application.
- 02 November - Held talks with the CEO of Telesat, a Canadian satellite company.
- 03 November - Virtual meeting with staff at Telesat to discuss their satellite operations and approach to servicing the north with broadband
- 04 November - Attended the Council meeting for Charlton Dack to present Reeve Merrill Bond with the 2020 FONOM Executive award
- 05 November - AMO/MOU meeting
- 12 November = Virtual call with MP Rota and Minister Monef to announce broadband funding. Announcement includes awarding of funds to Telesat.
- 13 November - FONOM Board meeting
- 16 November - WebX meeting with government relations at Telesat. Details on Low Earth Orbit and broadband spectrum.
- 17 November - Online meeting regarding the Blue Box Transition.
- 24 November - Northern Economic Advisory Council with Minister Rickford and MENDM staff
- 26 November - AMO Executive meeting
- 26 November - AMO Committee of the Whole meeting
- 27 November - AMO Northern Caucus meeting
- 27 November - AMO Board meeting
- 30 November - Zoom meeting with local PHU. Digital Access.
- 03 December - AMO/MOU meeting and pre meeting
- 07 December - Day spent in contact with DSSAB, Volunteer fire services regarding search and rescue when unincorporated lands involved
- 11 December - Forestry billboard unveiled along highway 11, included interview with media
- 14 December - FONOM year in review with district media
- 17 December - AMO Executive meeting
- 18 December - FONOM Executive Director meeting in North Bay. Review current business

Mac and I sat on a Zoom meeting to discuss our funding with NOHFC and the funding program is suppose to open up in January. It has been suggested by NOHFC that our funding application will be approved and that we may receive three years of funding in one application. I have asked a few questions of revenue Canada people and we should be ok holding these funds as it is how the application process works and not FONOM getting excess revenues.

I had another lengthy Zoom meeting with government relations for Telesat Canada. Thiers is an interesting program but differs in many ways from StarLink. Where Starlink feeds direct to the ground location be it a home or a business or municipal building, Telesat feeds to one ground station and the feed is shared out using existing infrastructure. This is interesting as much of the existing infrastructure is owned by current internet Service providers.

I had the pleasure of presenting the 2020 FONOM Executive Award to Reeve Merrill Bond of Charlton Dack. He was completely unaware and most appreciative of having been recognized by FONOM.

I was able to attend the first unveiling of a Forest Ontario Billboard just outside of our municipality.

I took up every invitation to do year end reviews with the various media. Overall I feel FONOM was well covered in northern media and we were also very well covered in media outside on northern Ontario.

Cheques November 1st - December 31, 2020

14-Nov-20	188	Terry Kelly	November 13th Board Meeting	\$	75.00
14-Nov-20	189	Al MacNevin	April 2, May 13, July 10, Sept 11 Nov 13	\$	375.00
14-Nov-20	190	Paul Schoppmann	November 13th Board Meeting	\$	150.00
24-Nov-20	191	Lynda Carleton	July 10 & Nov 13th Board Meetings	\$	75.00
27-Nov-20	192	Mac Bain	Statement # 9	\$	2,416.44
27-Nov-20	193	trillys communications	3 Months Webhosting	\$	84.75
02-Dec-20	194	Danny Whalen	Presenting for Executive Award	\$	737.64
05-Dec-20	195	Cogeco	GoNorth phone Line	\$	46.76
10-Dec-20	196	Good Gauley Production	Second Installment	\$	16,763.65
17-Dec-20	197	Nicole Fortier Levesque	November 13th Board Meeting	\$	75.00
18-Dec-20	198	Danny Whalen	December meetings	\$	621.72
18-Dec-21	199	AMO	2021 Membership Invoice	\$	435.05
22-Dec-20	200	Debbie Bain	Office Rent	\$	600.00
24-Dec-20	201	Mac Bain	Statement # 10	\$	2,506.80
31-Dec-20	202	Paul Schoppmann	Business meeting	\$	253.68
				\$	25,216.49

FONOM
Financial Summary
March 31, 2020 - December 31, 2020

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenue			
Membership	27,000.00	36,634.50	(9,634.50)
AMO Reimbursements	4,000.00	3,372.37	627.63
MNDM	50,000.00		50,000.00
Northern Suite at AMO	-	-	-
Investment Interest	-	-	-
Conference - bank transfer	-	43,092.76	(43,092.76)
ROMA Donation	10,000.00	10,000.00	-
FedNor - Promote the North	-	\$26,598.00	(26,598.00)
	<hr/> 91,000.00	<hr/> 119,697.63	<hr/> (28,697.63)

Service Fees	200.00	91.00	109.00
Board Meetings	25,000.00	17,942.63	7,057.37
Amo Board Meeting & Mou	9,000.00	3,696.72	5,303.28
Provincial Committee Meetings	11,000.00	1,148.34	9,851.66
Advertising - Forest Ontario	-	18,000.00	(18,000.00)
Insurance	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
General & Admin	5,300.00	7,055.74	(1,755.74)
Audit And Legal Fees	4,000.00	11,808.50	(7,808.50)
Staff Wages	35,000.00	20,801.89	14,198.11
Staff Travel	1,200.00	727.74	472.26
Executive Honorarium	-	-	-
Northern Hospitality Amo	-	-	-
Conference Expense	-	-	-
GoNorth Campaign	-	39,195.61	(39,195.61)
Other	-	62.64	(62.64)
Other	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
	<u>91,700.00</u>	<u>120,530.81</u>	<u>(28,830.81)</u>
	<u>(700.00)</u>	<u>(833.18)</u>	<u>\$133.18</u>