

**FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES**

**MINUTES**

**Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Friday, December 3, 2021**

**Manitoulin Hotel & Conference Centre & Thru ZOOM**

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89173271920?pwd=T2dnYUNtYldRc0VvTGdHSEgvU3ovQT09>

Meeting ID: 891 7327 1920

Passcode: 466266

**Present**

**D. Whalen, President**

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

**A. MacNevin, Director**

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

**L. Carleton, Director - Zoom**

**T. Kelly, Director - Zoom**

**J. Curley, Director - Zoom**

**A. Sizer, Director - Zoom**

**Bill Vrebosch, Director - Zoom**

**S. Hollingsworth, Director - Zoom**

**Regrets**

**N. Fortier Levesque, Director**

**Guests**

Corina Moore & Al Spacek – ONTC

Mary Dawson-Cole, Nicole McNeil, Carmelo Lipsi & Al Spacek – MPAC

Dr. Hachè, Lou Pagnutti & Renèe Leclerc, Laurentian University

**Staff**

**M. Bain, Executive Director**

**President D. Whalen welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 8:32 am**

### **1.0 Welcome and President's Report (attached to the Agenda – Page 7 & 8)**

President Whalen welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Mayor MacNevin for Thursday night hospitality. Danny then asked the Board to pause for a Moment of Silence in Memory of Austin Hunt. He shared his view on the activities of the Board in recent months and then asked if members of the Board had questions regarding activities in his report since our last meeting.

It was **MOVED** by **A. MacNevin**, **SECONDED** by **J. Curley** that the President's Report be received.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **2.0 ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was **MOVED** by **L. Watson**, **SECONDED** by **J. Curley** that the agenda be approved.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **3.0 TIMED PRESENTATIONS**

Corina Moore and Al Spacek from the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission joined the meeting at 9:30 am. They shared the current and planned Bus Routes throughout Ontario and Manitoba. Corina discussed their work to benefit the environment and the business community by providing increased rail freight service. Noting the increase in propane freight they now haul, taking those vehicles off the highways. She shared that they are often between the first and last mile in the supply chain. They hoped that the increase in rail freight would positively impact the life of communities connecting link infrastructure. Corina mentioned that the ONR Shops have been retrofitted and may not be recognizable to those that did the tour years back.

Mary Dawson-Cole, Nicole McNeil, Carmelo Lipsi & Al Spacek from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation joined the meeting at 10:05 am. Mary provided a briefing on the current property evaluation formulas, methods, and regional comparison. She also shared the number of assessments and values by region. Al then shared the new initiative MPAC has started. They will now be doing all the property assessment for the Republic of Ireland, as they were the successful proponent.

Dr. Haché, Lou Pagnutti & Renèe Leclerc from Laurentian University joined the meeting at 10:40 am. Dr. Hache shared the number of students who have recently graduated with the board. He noted that none were negatively impacted by the Companies' Creditors' Arrangement Act (CCAA) filing. He then discussed the number of students (foreign and domestic) that are currently receiving an education. He did confirm that all scholarships and bursaries for the University and the Northern School of Medicine are safe but controlled under the CCAA.

### **4.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE September 17, 2021 BOARD MEETING**

It was **MOVED** by **T. Kelly**, **SECONDED** by **Al Sizer** that the Minutes be accepted as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## 5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Promote the North Campaign. The final video has been created and is in the final process of being edited and then translated into French. Once the final versions are completed, they will be released, and our Social Media Specialist Jennifer Baker will market to the GTHA and Ottawa. After that, the Board would like to proceed with a Second Series. Once the final video has been released, President Whalen will again discuss with our partners about help with financing. Before we move forward, the proposal will be shared with the Board at the February FONOM Board meeting.

## 6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1) Physician Crisis – Start Letter Campaign to increase number of spots at NOSM and will discuss during delegation at ROMA

6.2) Funding of Nurses in Northern Hospitals - Received for information and will mention during delegation during ROMA

6.3) Boreal Forest Medieval Project – To be discuss during delegation at ROMA

6.4) Support for Hydro Dams in Northern Ontario – Received for information

6.5) Timing of MPAC reassessment – Received for information

6.6) Disposal of Crown Land for Aggregate – Received for information

6.7) School Bus Stop-Arm Camera System

MOVED by **P. Schoppmann**, SECONDED by **L. Carleton** that FONOM Support a Stop arm Camera system, and that it be Province Wide

6.8) Renovictions

MOVED by **J. Curley**, SECONDED by **S. Hollingsworth** that FONOM work with five Northern Mayors, NOMA, and OSUM on this issue, with the hope to pen a letter together.

6.9) Health Unit COVID Funding for 2022

MOVED by **B. Vrebosch**, SECONDED by **L. Watson** that FONOM write a letter to the Minister of Health in support. Also, the letter is to emphasize the increases being placed on the Municipal Levy.

## 7.0 Correspondence/information Items

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

7.1 Resolution sent – Land Transfer Infrastructure Support

7.2 Letter received from Minister Bethlenfalvy - Land Transfer Infrastructure Support

7.3 Resolution sent to membership – Ontario Health Teams review of Agencies

7.4 Resolution Received – Land Transfer Infrastructure Support

7.5 Resolution Received – Ontario Health Teams review of Agencies

7.6 Letter sent to Minister Clark – Thank you for attending in Delegation during AMO

## 7.0 Correspondence/information Items - continued

- 7.7 Sponsorship Request Received – CARSP
- 7.8 Letter sent to Minister Rickford - Thank you for 3-year funding of FONOM Operations
- 7.9 Media Release sent by FONOM - Resource Extraction
- 7.10 Letter sent by FONOM - ONTC Northlander Passenger Train Test Run
- 7.11 Joint letter sent by FONOM 7 NOMA - Highway Safety

**Carried: Unanimous**

## 8.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- 8.1 It was **MOVED** by **A. MacNevin**, **SECONDED** by **L. Watson**, that the Board receive the list of amended Expenditures (*Attached Page 9*) for September, October, & November 2021.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

- 8.2 It was **MOVED** by **L. Carleton**, **SECONDED** by **T. Kelly**, that The Board receive the Financial Report (*Attached Page 10*) ending November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

- 8.3 Mac shared that the first NOHFC Claim is away for approval, with total eligible project costs are \$44,237.60, of which \$22,118.80 (50%) is to be reimbursed. He shared an update on the 2022 FONOM Conference and shared the Conference Flyer with the Board. Finally, Mac updated the Board on the ROMA Delegations.
- 8.4 Mac discussed the possibility of having a Media Training Session during the next FONOM Board meeting in February. The Board further discussed that the Board could offer our member CAO's the option of participating through ZOOM.
- 8.5 It Takes a Forest – The FONOM Board had sponsored eight Billboards with Forest Ontario earlier in the year. There was enough money in the sponsorship to do a ninth Board. After a discussion, the Board would ask that the funds be returned.

## 9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS

### **District of Manitoulin**

A. MacNevin was excited to share that the DSSSAB has announced a six million investment for affordable senior housing in Little Current. Unfortunately, the island has also seen increased COVID numbers recently, with two outbreaks in reserves. Al noted his disappointment that they had to cancel the Christmas parade and breakfast with Santa due to COVID. He then noted that there had been several protests lately targeting seniors and mobile COVID clinics.

### **City of Timmins**

J. Curley shared that the city is digging out after the recent winter storm. He mentioned that the COVID Numbers are low and that many people are working to keep them that way. John spoke about the opening of the Living Centre, a facility that will aid the homeless, those with substance issues. The Centre will offer a meal, bed, and counselling. Many partners have come together to create this safe space. John reinforced a comment made by Corina Moore that rail services will go a long way to extend the life of Timmins' connecting link infrastructure. He also spoke to better communication needed from the MTO and OPP on winter highway closures.

### **District of Parry Sound**

L. Carleton informed the Board that the area is still experiencing a doctor shortage and that Sundridge has asked for an increase in NOSM spots. She shared that the COVID numbers are presently stable. Due to the time of the year, the number of complaints from Airbnb's rentals is down. But several municipalities are passing bylaws that will prohibit fireworks to only five holiday's a year.

### **District of Algoma**

L. Watson mentioned that the COVID numbers in part of the district are terrible, with a majority being in Sault Ste Marie. Lynn shared that the Algoma Municipal Association will be meeting soon to discuss their approach for the Spring 2022 Provincial Election. He shared that some people are frustrated with the rollout of Starlink kits, as some seem to wait many months vs. some arrive within the week of the order.

### **City of Greater Sudbury**

Al Sizer shared that COVID is running rampant in the city with very high numbers. He shared that the city is starting its Budget cycle. They recently opened a supervised, safe injection site at the cost of over a million dollars. Also, that Sudbury sent a letter to Premier Ford for not supporting injection facilities and the handling of the homelessness and opioid crisis.

### **City of North Bay**

B. Vrebosch shared that the City is also starting its Budget process and that the Cassellholme redevelopment will have a negative impact on the Capital Budget. Bill also shared that the recent COVID numbers in the City are stable.

### **District of Sudbury**

P. Schoppmann shared that Airbnb's are an issue in his district as well. That the Building inspector (that services four municipalities), has a several-year backlog of land severances requests. Paul commented that there needs to be more Federal money spent to address the affordable housing shortage. He shared with the Board that OGRA will be held in person at the Royal York on February 27 – March 2, 2022. If the event is cancelled, both OGRA and the Royal York will refund the fees.

### **District of Timiskaming**

D. Whalen shared the District's concern with the Medieval Village, and that the District is experiencing COVID outbreaks typically in schools and mines.

**District of Nipissing**

T. Kelly stressed an explosion of AirBnB's (New Muskoka) in East Ferris and the District. They are looking at licensing them and using the Huntsville model as a starting point. That model includes a three-strike, and you're out rule, enforced by the bylaw enforcement, including fines and charges in court. Terry shared that he has been working with first responders and the NWMO as the latter prepares for its site selection. He also commented that what is being done to address the opioid crisis is not working, and we have to do better.

**District of Cochrane**

No Report provided

**City of Sault Ste Marie**

No Report provided

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

President Whalen provided a Year End Review of FONOM's activities.

Blue Box Transition Legislation

Northern Ontario Resource Development Support Fund

The Success of the Virtual Conference, which included the Prime Minister and the Premier

The start of the Quarterly Learning Mornings

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, three-year grant

The increase of Media exposure

The recognition from the Provincial Ministries , as we are approached weekly for input on policy creation

**11:00 IN CAMERA**

No In Camera Discussion

**12.0 NEXT MEETING**

Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in Parry Sound & by ZOOM or at the Call of the Chair

**10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

It was **MOVED** by **L. Watson** **SECONDED** by **L. Carleton** that the meeting be adjourned at 12:34am

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF December 3rd, 2021**

It was **MOVED** by J. Curley **SECONDED** by N. Fortier Levesque that the Minutes be accepted as presented, on February 18, 2022.

**MOTION CARRIED.**



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President Danny Whalen

## **President Report**      September 17 – November 24th, 2021

September 17 – November 24th, 2021

- 23 Sept - AMO Committee of the Whole meeting
- 23 Sept - AMO Executive meeting
- 24 Sept - AMO Board meeting
- 28 Sept - MNDM and Forestry - Resources Meeting
- 28 Sept - Special AMO/MOU meeting
- 07 October - AMO/ MOU meeting
- 13 October - ROMA Rural consultations
- 18 October - FONOM Conference Planning meeting
- 25 October - Laurentian University zoom meeting
- 28 October - AMO Executive meeting
- 04 November - MTO Fall Economic Statement - ONTC Announcements
- 04 November - AMO/MOU Pre meeting and meeting
- 05 November - FONOM / NOSM Update meeting
- 05 November - FONOM / NOMA / MNDM&F meeting - Resources
- 10 November - FONOM Learning Morning
- 15 November - FONOM Conference Planning
- 22 November - ONTC Track Test Rain - North Bay to Toronto
- 23 November - MNDM&F Economic Working Group
- 23 November - MMAH Teams meeting to discuss Boreal Forest Medieval Villages
- 24 November - MNDM & F Resource Revenue Sharing announcement
- 24 November - Zoom meeting with MP Hutchings - Rural Economic Development
- 25 November - AMO Executive meeting
- 25 November - AMO C of W meeting
- 26 November - AMO Board meeting

I have received many phone calls regarding the two resolutions passed at the last FONOM Board meeting. Both the request for new funding tools and the consolidation of social services to better the service delivery have gained strong response and support.

I participated in the ROMA rural and northern consultations. These talks were about recovery after COVID and general economic discussions.

I was contacted by Dr. Hache of Laurentian University so he could provide an update on their insolvency process. They are basically seeking support from FONOM with their

creditors and the province.

I would not provide any support and voiced our concerns over the position NOSM has been placed in and the fact that Laurentian has lost 14 million of NOSM endowments. I suggested the university make a delegation to the full FONOM Board.

I was contacted by MTO asking me to sit in on their Fall Economic Statement pre meeting. There were good discussions on the Northlander passenger train, ONTC new Board Chair Al Spacek and the addition of Timmins as the new end of rail point for the northlander.

After my discussions with Laurentian University, I reached out to Dr. Verma, Dean of NOSM. I wanted an update on their position in the insolvency for Laurentian. This was a very informative meeting.

I had yet another meeting with MNDM&F to discuss the unincorporated and natural resources. This revenue sharing has been a long-time topic of discussion for northern communities. This funding allocation was developed with great input from NOMA and FONOM. I am very pleased with the acceptance of our comments and suggestions by ministry staff.

I have spent a good deal of time researching the Boreal Forest Medieval Village Projects taking place across the north. These are unregulated communes that are being built on unincorporated lands. They are showing up at various municipalities looking for landfill access.

I was asked by the Board for Ontario Northland to ride on the Northlander track test train from North Bay to Toronto.

I have been contacted by a few MPs to discuss rural and northern issues. I am not sure why the federal government is reaching out directly to FONOM, but we should welcome the extra attention.

A great deal of time has been spent with staff from MNDMF to develop the new Northern Ontario Resource Development Support Fund. Both Wendy Landry as Chair of NOMA and myself took part in developing the program and I am very impressed with how ministry staff took our suggestions and allowed us to help mold the criteria.



**List of Cheques and Deposits**  
**September 1 – November 24, 2021**

2021-08-06	Mac Bain - Statement 18	255	-\$	2,562.64
2021-08-13	Lynn Watson - executive meeting Sudbury	256	-\$	457.80
2021-08-29	Danny Whalen - July and August meetings	257	-\$	1,236.48
2021-08-31	Nicole Fortier Levesque - AMO meetings in August	258	-\$	225.00
2021-08-31	Service Fees		-\$	10.50
2021-09-03	Mac Bain - Statement 19	259	-\$	2,597.62
2021-09-18	Sandra Hollingsworth -Board	260	-\$	150.00
2021-09-18	Al MacNevin - Board	261	-\$	645.63
2021-09-18	Paul Schoppmann - Board	262	-\$	370.00
2021-09-22	Terry Kelly - Board	263	-\$	150.00
2021-09-22	Lynda Carleton - Board	264	-\$	150.00
2021-09-22	Deb Bain 3 months Rent June-September	265	-\$	600.00
	VOID	266	\$	-
2021-09-24	John Curley - Board	267	-\$	990.44
2021-09-27	Good Gauley Production	268	-\$	16,763.65
2021-09-28	Nicole Fortier Levesque - Board	269	-\$	1,378.20
2021-09-30	Danny Whalen - September Meetings & Board	270	-\$	1,827.42
2021-10-01	Mac Bain - Statement 20 + Board Meeting	271	-\$	4,388.88
2021-10-01	trillys communications x 2	272	-\$	169.50
2021-10-01	Service Fees		-\$	14.25
2021-10-25	Paul Schoppmann - John Curley's dinner in SSM	273	-\$	82.32
2021-10-29	Mac Bain - Statement 21	274	-\$	5,529.23
2021-10-29	Danny Whalen - October meetings and Expenses	275	-\$	617.40
2021-10-31	Service Fees		-\$	20.50
2021-10-12	EFT Deposit - Town of Parry Sound		\$	336.00
2021-11-04	Deposit 20		\$	3,211.50

Financial Summary				
April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022				
as of November 21, 2021				
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Variance</u>	
<b>Revenue</b>				
Membership	27,000.00	31,229.00	(4,229.00)	
AMO Reimbursements	4,000.00	-	4,000.00	
MNDM	50,000.00	-	50,000.00	
Northern Suite at AMO	-	-	-	
Investment Interest	-	-	-	
Conference - bank transfer	7,000.00	22,000.00	(15,000.00)	
Donations	5,000.00	10,000.00	(5,000.00)	
FedNor - Promote the North	29,281.00	29,281.00	-	
	<u>122,281.00</u>	<u>92,510.00</u>	<u>29,771.00</u>	
Service Fees	200.00	131.00	69.00	
Board Meetings	29,000.00	11,433.64	17,566.36	
Amo Board Meeting & Mou	10,000.00	2,775.00	7,225.00	
Provincial Committee Meetings	5,000.00	1,050.00	3,950.00	
Advertising - Forest Ontario	-	-	-	
Insurance	1,000.00	452.00	548.00	
General & Admin	5,000.00	4,295.69	704.31	
Audit And Legal Fees	4,300.00	4,463.50	(163.50)	
Staff Wages	35,000.00	18,432.00	16,568.00	
Staff Travel	900.00	-	900.00	
Executive Honorarium	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	
Northern Hospitality Amo	-	-	-	
Conference Expense	6,000.00	16,937.09	(10,937.09)	
GoNorth Campaign	19,183.39	19,950.65	(767.26)	
Other	-	-	-	
Other	-	-	-	
Other	-	-	-	
Other	-	-	-	
	<u>120,583.39</u>	<u>79,920.57</u>	<u>40,662.82</u>	
	<u>1,697.61</u>	<u>12,589.43</u>	<u>(10,891.82)</u>	