

FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Friday, March 5, 2021

Thru ZOOM

Present

D. Whalen, President

P. Schoppmann, 2nd Vice President

L. Watson, 1st Vice President

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

Charles Cirtwill – Northern Policy Institute

Marla Tremblay – World's Best Snowmobile Destination

Observer

J. Curley (Timmins)

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 &9)

President Whalen welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked if members of the Board had questions regarding activities in his report. He drew attention to his meeting with Minister Yakabuski and his first meeting on the NWMO advisory group. The Agenda was then approved as circulated.

It was **MOVED** by **P. Schoppmann**, **SECONDED** by **S. Hollingsworth** that the President Report be received.

MOTION CARRIED.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was **MOVED** by **L. Carleton** **SECONDED** by **T. Kelly** that the agenda be approved with additional items.

MOTION CARRIED.

3.0 TIMED PRESENTATIONS (occurred at 10:00 am & 10:35 am)

Charles Cirtwill and Rachel Rizzuto from the Northern Policy Institute joined the meeting and delivered greetings to the Board. They shared with the Board the NPI activities and described the different tools available to the First Nations and Municipalities. He walked the Board through the other papers they have “in the pipe” and the next 4-6 years. The details regarding the State of the North meetings will be held in November and in February. Charles asked the FONOM Board to consider some ways the two organizations can grow closer. Those are semi-annually meeting between the two groups, FONOM to be NAC Gold Member (12 Days of Research annual), FONOM to have a seat on the NPI Advisory Council, NPI to be given an Observer Seat on the FONOM Board and that FONOM donates to the NPI a Booth at our Annual Conference.

Marla Tremblay from the World's Best Snowmobile Destination thanked the Board for the opportunity to share the project details. It is a plan to make a community ready to be a Snowmobile Destination. The Pilot focuses on the loop between Cochrane to Smooth Rock Falls over three years. The project is to assist tourist outfitters on how to be Snowmobile ready. Also, to help a Municipality willing as well, and a Community as a destination. The plan also has a way to ensure the local clubs see a benefit as well. She shared the training tool that those in your community, including municipal staff, can be used to become Snowmobile friendly. She shared the project's brand, "Ride the North," which can be used for ATV, Motorcycles, and Fat Bikes. Marla then encouraged the Board to review this project with their District Associations and staff. After she completed her presentation, Marla answered many questions of the Board about the project's benefits.

4.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE January 15th, 2021 BOARD MEETING

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

- 5.1 Promote the North Campaign. The fourth video has been released, and it has been circulated to the Board, our partners, members, media, and the four City Economic Development Departments. It has also been very well received. The remaining videos will highlight Nipissing, Manitoulin, and Algoma. Over 180,000 people have seen the Campaign through our Social Media Specialist Jennifer Baker's efforts. The Campaign's social part has expanded, and the Board discussed adding funds to a promotional campaign.

It was **MOVED** by **S. Hollingsworth**, **SECONDED** by **L. Watson** that \$2,500 be added to the GoNorth Campaign budget to promote future videos.

- 5.2 M.Bain briefed the Board on the 2021 FONOM Annual Conference and shared the Draft Agenda. Mac shared the speakers and sponsor that have confirmed to participate in the virtual conference. Also, that he has arranged help from Clark Communication to aid in the production of the content. Danny and Mac spoke about the number of hours this year's conference is taking to coordinate. Danny discussed with the Board that Mac should track his hours spent on the conference planning and be allocated as a conference expense. Mac shared he continues to have conversations with Municipal Clerks, sharing that this conference content will be free of charge. The clerks are very impressed with the direction the Board is taking on behalf of their councils.

It was **MOVED** by **N. Fortier Levesque**, **SECONDED** by **G. Pirie** that the hours the Executive Director spends on the Annual Conference be tracked. That those hours be shown as an expense on the annual budget

- 5.3 At the last Board meeting, a Resolution by the Municipality of Killarney regarding a Voter's definition has tabled for more information. The issue was discussed by several members of the Board, as several have had similar concerns during the last municipal election.

It was **MOVED** by **L. Watson**, **SECONDED** by **B. Vrebosch** that a letter is sent to Minister Steve Clark, asking that this issue is reviewed to create clearer voter eligibility guidelines.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

- 6.1) Insurance Rate Increase – **A letter be sent to Minister Bethlenfalvy**
- 6.2) Length of Municipal Election Period – **Received for information**
- 6.3) Municipal Authority in Landfill Siting - **Received for information**
- 6.4) Increases to Municipal Insurance rates - **Received for information**
- 6.5) Freedom of Information Act - **Received for information**

6.0 New Business Resolutions for Action (continued)

- 6.6) Amber Eight - **Received for information**
- 6.7) Closure of Fire College – **A letter be sent to Minister Jones**
AMO released an alert March 5th, to answer the questions the Board had, therefore no letter was sent.
- 6.8) July 1, 2021 Deadline Extension to Community Safety & Well-Being Plan -
Received for information
- 6.9) Holding Elected office with Criminal Record - **Received for information**

7.0 Correspondence/information Items

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

- 7.1 Letter sent by FONOM to Minister Clark – asking for Additional time for Grant applications
- 7.2 Resolutions received asking for Extended Time for Grant Applications
- 7.3 Letter sent to Minister Alghabra – Federal Funding of Polar Bear Express
- 7.4 Resolutions received asking for return of Passenger Rail to North
- 7.5 Resolution received asking for expansion for Agriculture broadband
- 7.6 Letter Received regarding Broadband Infrastructure
- 7.7 Information shared regarding Frequently asked questions about the updated Conservation Authority Act
- 7.8 Letter received about the size of Insurance rate increase
- 7.9 LAS's Blog regarding Joint & Several Liability

Carried: Unanimous

8.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- 8.1 It was **MOVED** by **L. Watson**, **SECONDED** by **L. Carleton**, that the Board receive the list of Expenditures (Attached) for December 31st, 2020 – February 28th, 2021.

MOTION CARRIED.

- 8.2 A lengthy discuss was held regarding the deficit and the annual grant from the MENDM. Mac shared that the Ministry has a new grant process and have asked FONOM apply under the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund for a three period. FONOM would be reimbursed half of up to \$300,000 of qualified expenses. Mac informed the Board that the application has been completed and would be submitted following the Board meeting. A concern was shared on the reporting nature of this new grant, and that it may be onerous. Further, the Board discussed their frustration that FONOM has now lost 2 years our its operating grant, with options discussed. The possibility of transferring to under the MMAH umbrella was shared, and that Danny send a letter to him to start that discussion.

It was **MOVED** by **A. MacNevin**, **SECONDED** by **N. Fortier Levesque**, that The Board receive the Financial Report (Attached) ending February 19th, 2021 and that a letter be written to Minister Clark.

MOTION CARRIED.

- 8.3 M. Bain shared the proposed Annual Budget for 2021-2022 (attached). Discussed was held with regards to the Revenue and Expenses. Mac shared that the budget assumed that in-person meetings would resume in September of 2021.

It was **MOVED** by **P. Schoppmann**, **SECONDED** by **N. Fortier Levesque**, that The Board approve the 2021-2022 Annual FONOM Budget as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

- 8.4 It was **MOVED** by **L. Watson**, **SECONDED** by **G. Pirie**

Whereas the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) has replied on Funding from the Ministry of Northern Development to assist in operating for over a decade

Whereas the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) has not received the annual finding for the last two years

Whereas the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) is being told by the Ministry Of Energy, Northern Ontario and Mines to apply to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund to replace the previous funding method

Therefore be it resolved that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) apply to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund for a three year period, for \$0.50 of qualified expenses to an upset limit of \$300,000

MOTION CARRIED.

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS

City of North Bay

B. Vrebosch shared with the Board that North Bay COVID Colour Red. He mentioned that there are a large number of Fat Bikes on roads and trails. Also, he spoke about the critical issue of the return of the Northlander Passenger Rail. The increase in population is being noticed in the area.

District of Manitoulin

A. MacNevin shared no COVID Cases on the island, and the communities are excited about the vaccine. The island has established two vaccination clinics, but the Health Unit is working to create more. There are concerns with having to share the Colour Restriction with the entire District. The island continues to see the housing market is strong. Also, he mentioned that the Marinas are wondering what the spring will bring to the island.

District of Algoma

L. Watson mentioned that the Algoma District Association now has an interim Executive Director, Cathy Cyr from Wawa. The District is now seeing vaccinations, and there is a meeting with the Health Unit on April 17th. Lynn shared the District's pleasure with the Starlink system and the speed.

City of Timmins

G. Pirie shared that the City has been doing well on the COVID front, but 16 deaths in Kapuskasing. The variant strains are a concern, vaccinations have started, but he encouraged everyone to stay safe. The job numbers in the City are ok, as many businesses have been classified essential. George shared his view that Timmins was happy with the Federal and Provincial funding they have received. One of the main focuses presently on transportation. Council and the EDC are focusing on the region's Agricultural opportunities.

District of Sudbury

P. Schoppmann advised that the area has had two vaccinations clinic organized by the Health Unit. Also, that the estate market continues to be strong.

City of Greater Sudbury

Al Sizer informed the Board of the City's spike in COVID numbers of 78 cases in 4 days, including several schools. Also, the homelessness/mental health/addictions issue is still a concern for agencies and residents. That the council has put in many days on their budget but getting close.

District of Cochrane

N. Fortier Levesque updated the Board on the 16 deaths in Kapuskasing due to a COVID Outbreak that has devastated families in the region. Nicole shared that many people stepped up to support the extended care facility and residents. That the region's real estate market is very high, but now their need for apartments very high. She spoke to using a multi-purpose trail between Kapuskasing and Moonbeam, which is used a lot by ATVs. But that more paths are being explored. Nicole commented that her community is still working hard on its Broadband incentive.

District of Parry Sound

Carleton informed the Board that the District's municipalities were upset to be included in the recent lockdown, as they are a 1½ from North Bay's breakout. Councils and fire chiefs are concerned about the shutdown of the ire college in Gravenhurst. But she was happy to hear that online and mobile training will be available at no additional cost. Lynda shared that people are getting used to working from home and continuing to impact the housing market. Some online short-term rental companies have made changes to their rental policies to address communities' concerns. Lynda then raised the idea of organizing our member's two aid FONOM to recoup the two years of lost funding from the Province.

District of Timiskaming

D. Whalen shared his opinion that the Police agencies in the North have done a great job over the past year, as they have working together to battle the opioid distribution network. He asked the Board if a letter of thanks should be sent to the OPP, the municipal chief and the unions, sharing our appreciation. The Board agreed that a letter should be sent. He mentioned that the Temiskaming Municipal Association has met, and passenger rail was a topic of discussion.

District of Nipissing

No update was provided.

City of Sault Ste Marie

No update was provided.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

P. Schoppmann raised the financial tool of Land Transfer Tax. A discussion was held regarding the different tax tools available to municipalities. Mac shared that he has a former tax table that AMO had prepared in 2017, that he said he would share with the Board. The Board would like to have more information about the tax option.

11:00 IN CAMERA

No In Camera Discussion

12.0 NEXT MEETING

Friday, May 14th, 2021 by ZOOM or at the Call of the Chair

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was **MOVED** by **A. MacNevin** **SECONDED** by **L. Carleton** that the meeting be adjourned at 11:46 am

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF March 5, 2021

It was **MOVED** by **A. MacNevin** **SECONDED** by **L. Carleton** that the Minutes be accepted as amended, on May 14th, 2021.

MOTION CARRIED.



President Danny Whalen

FONOM President Report - From January meeting

- 05 January - FONOM Conference zoom meeting. FONOM ED and Timmins representatives
- 12 January - MENDM Northern Economic Advisory Council zoom meeting
- 13 January - Media day. Numerous interviews regarding our Go North Campaign. Television and radio.
- 14 January - Discussions with Professor Ken Coates University of Saskatchewan and StarLink staff regarding satellite broadband in northern regions of Canada
- 15 January - FONOM Board zoom meeting
- 19 January - Orientation via zoom with Nuclear Waste Management Ontario
- 19 January - Northern Policy Institute - Circular Economy Symposium
- 20 January - OFIA zoom meeting. Updates and introduction of new OFIA Executive - Budget Review and Action Plan
- 25 - 26 January - ROMA 2021 Conference - FONOM Multi Minister Delegation
- 28 January - Nuclear Waste Management Ontario Municipal Forum
- 28 January - AMO Executive meeting
- 28 January - AMO C of W meeting
- 29 January - AMO Board meeting
- 03 - 05 February - Forest Ontario annual conference - virtual
- 04 February - AMO - Memorandum of Understanding team pre budget meeting with province
- 11 February - FONOM - NOHFC discussions regarding annual funding program (Cancelled)
- 11 February - AMO - Memorandum of Understanding meeting
- 17 February - FONOM conference update zoom
- 19 February - FONOM - Telesat zoom regarding conference participation
- 19 February - MNRF Aggregate Resources Working Group
- 23 February - FONOM operating grant NOHFC

24 February - Ontario Forest Industry Alliance - 4 hour virtual update

25 February - AMO Executive meeting

FONOM has once again received a strong response from our latest media release and many interview have been done in print, visual and audio,

The issue of municipal insurance premium increases has come back to the table. While discussions on this topic have been ongoing, the latest round of increases has garnered letters and resolutions. Both FONOM and NOMA have reached out to our membership for information
FONOM President Report - From January meeting (con't)

regarding their premiums for the latest renewal and this information will be taken to the AMO table and the provincial table.

FONOM has been asked to be part of the Aggregate Fees and Royalties Working Group. No meetings have taken place as yet.

Mac and I met with Telesat Canada again to discuss conference participation. They are looking forward to supporting us with a full session.

I attended the Forest Ontario virtual conference. While it was geared more toward those working in the sector there were some interesting session. Forestry has been good for northern Ontario and the possibilities are growing.

I have been invited by Minister Yakabuski to sit on a Forest Sector Strategy Committee. This will involve only a few meetings a year and will focus on how the industry is doing based on the requirements of the current strategy.

Cheques December 31, 2020 - February 19, 2021

14-Jan-21	203	trillys communications	3 Months Webhosting	\$ 84.75
17-Jan-21	204	Terry Kelly	January Board Meeting	\$ 75.00
22-Jan-21	205	Mac Bain	Statement # 11	\$ 2,062.17
28-Jan-21	206	Lynda Carleton	January Board Meeting	\$ 75.00
30-Jan-21	207	Danny Whalen	January meetings	\$ 900.00
31-Jan-21	208	Nicole Fortier Levesque	January Board Meeting	\$ 75.00
19-Feb-21	209	Mac Bain	Statement # 12	\$ 2,553.48
				\$ 5,825.40

FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES				
PROPOSED BUDGET 2021 -2022				
	Actual	Budget	Year to date	Budget
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2020-2021	2021- 2022
<u>REVENUES</u>				
Membership	\$6,804	\$ 27,000.00	\$36,635	\$ 27,000.00
MNDM	50,000	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 50,000.00
AMO reimbursement	6,305	\$ 4,000.00	3,372	\$ 4,000.00
Conference Revenue	30,593			\$ 4,000.00
Northern Hospitality AMO	7,800			
FedNor - Go North			26,598	\$ 29,281.00
ROMA or Other	10,000	\$ 10,000.00	10,000	\$ 10,000.00
Total Revenues	\$111,503	\$ 91,000.00	\$76,605	\$ 124,281.00
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>				
Board Meetings	\$37,041.85	\$ 25,000.00	\$18,242.63	\$ 29,000.00
AMO Board meeting & MOU	\$14,933.83	\$ 9,000.00	\$3,996.72	\$ 10,000.00
Provincial Committe Meetings	\$22,946.78	\$ 11,000.00	\$1,673.34	\$ 5,000.00
General & Admin Expense	\$15,598.02	\$ 10,500.00	\$18,886.80	\$ 10,500.00
Consulting Fees	\$0.00	\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
Staff Wages/Benefits	\$51,296.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$22,913.89	\$ 35,000.00
Staff Travel	\$5,573.37	\$ 1,200.00	\$727.74	\$ 900.00
Directors' Honorarium	\$7,916.66	\$ -	\$0.00	\$ 4,000.00
Northern Hospitality AMO	\$10,408.60	\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
GoNorth Campaign			\$39,195.61	\$ 19,183.39
Conference Expense	\$408.60	\$ -	\$192.00	\$ 6,000.00
Adversting - Forest Ontario			\$18,000.00	
Total Expenditures	\$166,124	\$ 91,700.00	\$123,829	\$ 119,583.39
Year End Surplus/Deficit	-\$ 54,621.00	-\$ 700.00	-\$47,224	\$ 4,697.61