



## **RMFEO Meeting December 2, 2016**

9:30 a.m. – 14:30 p.m.

Township of Madawaska Valley (TMV)

Opeongo Seniors Centre: 19 Stafford Street, Barry's Bay ON.

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Members Present:**

Mayor Vivian Bloom, Township of Hastings Highlands  
Deputy Reeve Brian Campbell, Township of Tay Valley  
Mayor Jim Gibson, United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria  
Mayor Garry Gruntz, Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan  
Reeve Henry Hogg, Township of Addington Highlands  
Mayor Kim Love, Township of Madawaska Valley  
Mayor Glenda McKay, United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria  
Mayor Shaun McLaughlin, Township of Mississippi Mills  
Mayor Ron Higgins, Township of North Frontenac

### **Members Absent with Regrets:**

Reeve Bonnie Adams, Township of Carlow-Mayo  
Mayor Robert Kingsbury, Township of Horton  
Mayor Tom Peckett, Township of McNab/Braeside  
Mayor Frances Smith, Township of Central Frontenac  
Mayor Brian Stewart, Township of Lanark Highlands

### **Others Present:**

Carl Bromwich, (Councillor, Township of Madawaska Valley)  
Ernie Peplinski, (Councillor, Township of Madawaska Valley)  
Craig Kelley, (CAO/Clerk, Township of Madawaska Valley)  
Paul Nopper, (Recreation and Community Development Coordinator, Township of Madawaska Valley)  
Gwen Dombroski, (Executive Assistant, Communications Coordinator, Township of Madawaska Valley)  
Greg Rosser, MooseFM Barry's Bay

### **1. Welcome and Introduction – Mayor Love**

Mayor Love called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Due to technical issues Mr. Nopper's presentation was delayed.

### **2. Minutes from last meeting**

Members reviewed the Meeting Minutes from November 4, 2016 and accepted as presented.

### **3. Bill 9 – Discuss RMFEO support of draft resolution**

Mayor Love and Mayor Higgins reviewed the draft resolution regarding Bill 9 and the impact on stroke victims.

**Moved By: Reeve Hogg**

**Seconded By: Mayor Gruntz**

THAT the Rural Mayors' Forum of Eastern Ontario (RMFEO) supports Bill 9 which states that any treatment recommended by a physician for a patient who is recovering from a stroke is provided to that patient promptly, regardless of the patient's age, and

THAT a letter confirming RMFEO support for Bill 9 be sent to the Honourable Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long Term Care,

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, Mr. Patrick Brown, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, Ms. Andrew Horwarth, Leader of the New Democratic Party, and the Honourable Lorne Coe, MPP (Whitby-Oshawa).

**CARRIED.**

Mayor Higgins offered to forward the resolution to noted parties.

### **4. Bill 7, Schedule 5 – Discuss RMFEO resolution opposed to the download of responsibilities for residential rental property standards**

Mayor Higgins reviewed the resolution and the impacts that it would have on a small municipality without a property standards by-law, noting that the changes would force municipalities to develop a property standards by-law that also dealt with interior conditions. He also noted his concerns regarding the time spent investigating complaints and determining if they are vexatious.

Mayor McLaughlin added that the downloading will cause budget issues, as noted that he is concerned with the extra costs and staff time that would be incurred. He noted that he did not want to be involved with landlords and tenants in regards to this downloading.

Mayor Love noted that she supports the resolution and that AMO has acknowledged they have concerns with Bill 7. She further added that the province currently provides this service to municipalities for \$265 per inspection but the cost for each municipality to provide the service will be significantly higher.

Mayor Higgins noted he supported the resolution and would send a message in that regard. He added that he would provide further information regarding how North Frontenac currently handles their property standards, through the Building Code Act.

Mayor McKay stated her support for the resolution, noting that consideration should be given to the upper tier level looking after this legislation. She added that they need to voice their concerns of this downloading. She also noted her concerns about the Planning Act and second units where there will be the potential of additional rentals.

Mayor Gibson added that this should be addressed at the 2017 ROMA Conference. He also added that he is concerned with the costs involved as well as the potential for lawsuits.

Members further discussed how they can get the message out to get the statement out regarding "*Stop the Download*", which they will push during the ROMA conference. The

resolution will be added to the presentation at ROMA. Mayor Higgins noted that he will continue to work on this item.

**Moved By: Mayor McLaughlin**

**Seconded By: Mayor Bloom**

WHEREAS: The Rural Mayors Forum of Eastern Ontario (RMFEO) is comprised of 14 municipalities from five different Counties, and

WHEREAS: The Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 7, the Promoting Affordable Housing Act, 2016, an omnibus Bill that includes amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006 (RTA), and

WHEREAS: Schedule 5 of the Bill prescribes that local municipalities shall assume enforcement responsibility for residential rental maintenance standards (O. Reg. 517/06) under the RTA on July 1, 2018, and

WHEREAS: The Minister currently receives complaints from tenants respecting residential rental maintenance standards and appoints inspectors to provide this service to municipalities on an as needed basis, for a cost-effective set fee of \$265 for each inspection or re-inspection, and

AND WHEREAS: 93 small rural municipalities in the Province of Ontario have no interior or exterior property standards bylaws and see no demonstrable need for these bylaws or enforcement of them and

WHEREAS: The download of enforcement responsibility will require each municipality to receive written complaints from tenants, cause an inspector to make an inspection to determine whether the provincial standards have been complied with, issue work orders to landlords who have not complied with a prescribed maintenance standard, monitor compliance, investigate allegations of failure to comply, and where circumstances warrant, to prosecute landlords for non-compliance, and

WHEREAS: The Government of Ontario intends to download these responsibilities with no compensatory funding, leaving municipalities that do not currently enforce residential rental maintenance standards with the significant fiscal challenge of providing this service cost-effectively, and

WHEREAS renters can invite anyone in to their rental accommodation (building inspector, health inspector, fire safety officer, electrical safety authority inspector etc.), and

WHEREAS these invited authorities can make recommendations, issue orders to comply etc. under existing Provincial legislation, and

WHEREAS forced creation of interior and exterior property standards bylaws would undoubtedly decrease the already small number of rental units available in small municipalities thus exacerbating the paucity of affordable housing

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT The Rural Mayors Forum of Eastern Ontario calls on the Government of Ontario and the Ministry of Housing to halt the forced download of enforcement responsibility for residential rental maintenance standards Ontario regulation 517/06 proposed in Schedule 5 of Bill 7, in light of the significant fiscal challenge each municipality will face to provide this service to the public in a cost-effective manner.

**CARRIED.**

**5. Mr. Paul Nopper, Recreation and Community Development Coordinator for TMV**

Mr. Nopper attended the table at 10:16 a.m. and provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Township of Madawaska Valley which included reviewing the Township's Strategic Plan, as well as the Recreation Guide, Business Bistros, and the BIA.

**6. Tour of the TMV Railway Station (Visitor Centre, Gallery and Museum)**

A tour was held of The Railway Station.

The Meeting resumed from the visit at 11:19 a.m.

**7. Proposed dates and locations for 2017-2018 meetings – Mayor McKay**

Mayor McKay addressed the proposed meeting dates. It was noted that a further review will take place after the County and Municipal Schedules are set (further discussion at the January meeting).

The Following dates were proposed with further discussion pending:

January 6<sup>th</sup> – Greater Madawaska

February 10<sup>th</sup> – North Frontenac

March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Hastings Highlands

April 7<sup>th</sup> – Horton

May 5<sup>th</sup> – Central Frontenac

June 9<sup>th</sup> – Mississippi Mills

**8. RMFEO Financial Update – Mayor Higgins**

Mayor Higgins reviewed the financial update noting that the RMFEO fiscal resolution will need to be reviewed and updated in the future as it does not include operational expenses. He offered to draft a revised resolution for an upcoming meeting. He added this as an action item for the next meeting.

**9. 2017 ROMA Conference: update on delegations and proposed OPP presentation to other municipalities (Mayors McLaughlin, Higgins, Peckett and Love)**

Mayor Higgins and Mayor McLaughlin reported that they were working on a delegation request with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. They will address the costs of services and fair, equitable and accountable services.

Consideration was given to booking a room at ROMA for an OPP Action Group presentation. Mayor Love would like to do a PowerPoint presentation and would require equipment to do so. Craig Kelley noted that ROMA may provide the equipment for the presentation room. Costs with equipment will need to be determined.

Mayor McKay noted the 2 year moratorium and the changes made through the funding model and how policing costs have been tweaked.

Mayor Higgins questioned if the Hydro costs and pipelines will also be addressed in addition to the OPP presentation. Mr. Kelley added that changes are coming forward regarding pipelines and the transportation of liquid gas and depots. Mayor Love offered to provide a presentation in January for further discussion.

Mayor Love referred to the Municipalities Under 6000 group formed by Mayor Todd Case of Warwick Township as a potential contact to distribute the information about RMFEO's OPP presentation at ROMA.

Mayor Gibson asked for a supporting resolution as a candidate for ROMA Zone 6.

**Moved By: Mayor Gruntz**

**Seconded By: Mayor McKay**

WHEREAS ROMA has a board representative vacancy in zone six and

WHEREAS the Rural Mayors Forum of Eastern Ontario (RMFEO) member Mayor Jim Gibson representing the United Townships of Head Clara and Maria intends to be a candidate for election as zone six representative to the ROMA board and

WHEREAS the Council of the United Townships of Head Clara and Maria has endorsed Mayor Gibson's candidacy by Council resolution

Be it resolved that the Rural Mayors Forum of Eastern Ontario (RMFEO) does hereby also endorse member Mayor Jim Gibson as a candidate for the election of a zone six ROMA board representative.

**CARRIED.**

Mayor McKay cautioned that other members around the table may have gone to their Council for support and an email should have been sent requesting if there was further interest. Members discussed the Bear Bit session at ROMA; Mayor Gibson offered to attend the Bear Pit and will formalize the questions prior to the next meeting. Mayor Higgins will finalize the comments.

**The Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00p.m.**

**The Meeting resumed at 12:44 p.m.**

## **10. Workshop – Gaining Council and taxpayer acceptance of Asset Management Planning and Budget Integration**

Mayor Love questioned the members if the Council and taxpayers are gaining acceptance of Asset Management Planning and if they consider them during budget integration as well as the challenges being faced.

- Reeve Hogg noted that asset management is being used for roads and equipment; however his Township relies on grants for roads. He noted that rate payers do not fully understand it but are aware of the tax implications in regards to replacement costs. He added that the County has integrated asset management but he feels there are funding gaps.
- Mayor Gruntz explained the County of Renfrew is integrated with asset management and include it with budgeting. He added that residents do not want to understand asset management. His Township also relies on grants. He feared that the downloading of services could cause small municipalities to go bankrupt.
- Mayor Bloom explained that Council acceptance is not great, but they have a plan and have been able to work with it. She added that she is worried about law suits and liability as well as the money spent to computerize vehicles. She also explained that due to costs they have taken a surface treated road back to a gravel road. Mayor Bloom noted that she could not comment on the County as she was not on the committee.
- Mayor Higgins explained that they have a ten year asset management that is in place and they stick to it by dedicating 2% per year towards the plan. He noted that the plan does not include buildings but they are working on a 25 year plan in that regard. He added that the County is not involved yet but they are working towards a plan.
- Mayor McLaughlin noted that residents are starting to understand the asset management plan in place. He explained that bridges are a concern as well as grant funding. Mayor McLaughlin noted that the municipality's asset management plan is not dependant on grant funding.
- Mayor Gibson explained that a consultant was hired to assist the municipality's two staff persons to implement the asset management plan. He noted that although residents are not fully aware of the plan, Council is aware.
- Mayor McKay noted that it has taken her Council two years to accept the plan, which also includes a debt management plan. She added that her Council has significant financial management experience, which has helped.

Members openly discussed some of the further areas around asset management including borrowing money, and money in reserves. They also noted that it takes time for a plan to be accepted and understood by rate payers, but municipalities need to move forward with the plan to get shovel-read for potential grant funding.

Members also discussed the social housing aspect of the asset management plan and requested more information.

Mayor Love requested that the members email her any further information they might have that would be helpful.

### **11. Action Items**

Mayor Higgins reviewed the action log.

- OPP – ROMA Presentation – Mayor Love to draft a presentation for the next meeting, and Mayor Higgins to investigate booking a room.

- RMFEO stickers regarding “stop the downloading” that can be placed on conference badges – Mayor McLaughlin to provide a design for next meeting.
- Resolution on Bill 7 to ROMA - Mayor Higgins to complete and send.
- RMFEO resolution to cover expenses – Mayor Higgins to draft for next meeting.
- Questions for Bear Pit session –RMFEO members to send possible questions to Mayor Gibson for the next meeting.

## **12. Round Table/New Business**

- Mayor Bloom questioned if there is a way to cover the costs and additional levy on second rental units through MPAC in regards to policing costs. Mayor Love noted that they should support ROMA in regards to the minimum amount of assessment on properties used for OPP property count purposes. Pressure needs to be place on the next provincial election to push the OPP, Paramedics and social housing responsibilities back up to the province.
- Reeve Hogg - noted that a VIA Rail Passenger service is being proposed in his area connecting many small municipalities.
- Mayor Gruntz noted concern of the volunteer fire fighters being placed in danger with drugs such as fentanyl and asked if anyone has protocol in place in this regards. Mayor Gruntz will ask Mike Nolan, Director of Emergency Services, from the County of Renfrew to make a presentation in the future. Mayor Gruntz also added he had concerns with paramedics handling extrication issues. Mayor Love noted this should be discussed by Renfrew County’s Health Committee.
- Mayor Bloom added that the expansion of Highway 407, and the signs announcing the expansion, is increasing development in her area.
- Mayor Higgins noted that a resolution was passed regarding the Senior Policy Advisory resolution regarding legislation and grants and will continue to inform RMFEO on how it works.
- Mayor Gibson questioned if any other municipalities have undergone a municipal office renovation. Mayor Higgins noted they are and he will collaborate with him.
- Mayor Bloom Vivian questioned Mayor Gibson regarding hydro power plants and Green Energy supplying the demand. Mayor Gibson described the bidding process.
- Mayor Love noted that she attended a session for long term energy plan which provided her the opportunity to speak directly to the hydro issue with Ministry staff as she was the only Mayor in attendance that day.

The Floor was opened to guests:

Councillor Peplinski noted the session was informative and was pleased to have the RMFEO visiting the Municipality. He added that Queen’s Park needs to hear from the rural municipalities. He also added that policing costs are a huge concern as well as the monitoring of the waste sites that is implemented through the province.

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting is adjourned at 2:32 p.m. The next meeting is to be held on January 6, 2017 in Greater Madawaska.