



**RMFEO Meeting March 3, 2017**

9:30- 2:00 pm

Municipality of Hastings Highlands  
Municipal Office, 33011 Highway 62 N  
Maynooth, ON K0L 2S0

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

**Robert Kingsbury**- Mayor, Township of Horton  
**Ron Higgins**- Mayor, Township of North Frontenac  
**Garry Gruntz**- Reeve, Township of Brudenell Lyndoch Raglan  
**Kim Love**-Mayor, Township of Madawaska Valley  
**Vivian Bloom**-Mayor, Municipality of Hastings Highlands  
**Shaun McLaughlin**- Mayor, Municipality of Mississippi Mills  
**Jim Gibson**- Mayor, United Townships of Head Clara Maria  
**Glenda McKay**- Mayor, Greater Madawaska  
**Tom Peckett**- Mayor, Township of McNab-Braeside

**Members Absent with Regrets:**

**Bonnie Adams** Reeve, Township of Carlow-Mayo  
**Frances Smith** Mayor, Township of Central Frontenac  
**Brian Stewart** Mayor, Township of Lanark Highlands  
**Henry Hogg** Reeve, Township of Addington Highlands  
**Brian Campbell** Deputy Reeve, Township of Tay Valley

**Guests:** Jane Dumas-Mayor South Algonquin, Holly Hayes-CAO, South Algonquin

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Mayor Bloom called the meeting to order at 9:38 and welcomed everyone and extended a special greeting to Mayor Jane Dumas and CAO Holly Hayes from South Algonquin. South Algonquin is a neighbouring municipality to Hastings Highlands. Mayor Dumas expressed her appreciation for the invitation to attend.

Mayor Higgins spoke to the detail that was included in the minutes from last meeting and hoped it was okay as a lot were absent.

**2. Minutes from Last Meeting**

**Moved by:** Mayor McKay

**Seconded by:** Mayor Higgins

**THAT:** the Minutes of the February meeting be approved as presented.

**CARRIED.**

**3. Discussion on the Resolution pertaining to B-08-09-03.**

Mayor Gibson spoke to the history of this matter and has identified that Tay Valley has bylaws in place requiring maintenance but however is opposed to the OBOA proposed amendment. Mayor Gibson has written a letter to the Minister asking to withdraw the submission. Mayor Gibson has also spoken to John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew Nipissing Pembroke who has responded that the Ministry has been charged under the law to complete but has no authority to withdraw the legislation. Mayor Gibson did add that he would continue to work on this matter and should it become effective in 2019 it would be added expense to Municipalities and CBO's.

**4. Septage Discussion**

Mayor Love spoke about the matter of septage and referred back prior to 2002 when Municipalities were pressured to put in septage units and were told that they would not be allowed to expand if they could not process/handle their own septage. She identified that some municipalities were able to complete such project whereas other Municipalities made it through the consultation stage but did not finish the project. Mayor Love shared a link found on the Environmental Registry for an opportunity to provide input with a deadline of May 10<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Love stated that in her Municipality with OCWA operating their plant there are questions about the geographic restrictions whether imposed by the municipality or the area. Mayor Love stated that this pre-consultation is suspicious and we should be proactive and provide comments.

According to Mayor Higgins, it is his understanding that this matter has been brought forward by septage haulers and that he is in disagreement with the timelines that is being proposed. He also added that as lake properties are usually seasonal and is not adequately defined in the legislation. He added that it will be cost prohibitive for this added requirement.

Mayor McKay stated that she supports the RMFEO stance on the matter and believes that the resolution should be directed to both ROMA and AMO with cc. to the appropriate Minister as the initial step.

**Action Item:**

It was agreed that each municipality should send a letter of resolution as well as a separate one to Mayor Higgins as the ROMA representative.

Mayor Peckett questioned if the language should be changed and if the deadline either could be deferred or changed until further consultation can be completed. Mayors Higgins and Gibson will work on this and report back.

Discussion followed as to how best to provide the greatest impact.

The RMFEO resolution is to be directed to everyone's council before it can be sent.

Mayor Higgins reconfirmed that there would be a presentation for Reed Systems in April in Horton.

**Action Item:**

It was agreed that each Municipality should respond individually to the Minister on the matter. Two separate letters to AMO, ROMA, County as well as EOWC. One letter regarding septage and another for OBOA for septic code changes. Mayor Peckett requested that the words "to defer" be utilized.

A break was called at 11:20 to 11:35 with all members present.

**Action Items**

Mayor Higgins is to bring AMO and ROMA alerts.

**OPP Updates:** Mayor Love requested finalized tax rates be forwarded to her.

Confirmation was given to Mayor McLaughlin for a tour of their Sewage Treatment Plant at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

A lunch break was called at 11:50

Mayor Bloom started the afternoon session with a request to keep discussion to a ½ hour.

**5. Waste Management—Burning/Incinerator Discussion.**

Opportunity to Lobby for an Incinerator-in keeping with Waste Free Ontario.

Mayor Higgins stated North Frontenac has returned to a user pay system for their waste. Mayor Higgins has agreed to liaise with the Ministry regarding Waste Management and Incinerators. Mayor Kingsbury, Mayor Higgins and Mayor Peckett will prepare information for the AMO meeting.

**6. Priority 2- Asset Management Plan**

Mayor Higgins' auditor suggested a loan in an effort to obtain Grants. As we all know zero debt = zero grants. Mayor Higgins will share his report with RMFEO members. Mayor Higgins also stated that when it comes to your scores for roads/bridges regarding health and safety issues it is

important to post signage and document any accidents to increase funding from OCIF. Mayor McLaughlin stated that an advisor from Minister Chiarelli's office said there is to be a \$2 Billion funding announcement for rural and remote communities.

There was a discussion about an extension and a Roads Study-20 year plan. What are we doing about this priority? They are seeing disconnects and we need to contact the ministry.

Action Item: Mayor Higgins will bring in a speaker for a Q & A session.

Mayor Love stated that she will work on a new presentation for new regulations and requirements for AMP.

The lowest item is an Ontario Building Code Amendment which although in progress is the lowest priority at this time.

**Action Items:**

Septic Presentation-letter and resolution

Invite for Presentation for Asset Management Plan

Presentation of a Reed Bed System for Septage

**7. Round Table:**

Members of the group agreed that a tour of the Mississippi Sewage Plant should be scheduled after the RMFEO meeting in June. Mayor Gibson reinforced the need to focus on the ministries and not the specific minister with a request for transparency and consultation.

Mayor Love spoke to Waste Free Ontario Webinar, incinerator and best practices

Mayor Bloom spoke to Phase II of the Build Canada Fund \$2 Billion, Invest in Canada, FCM and she described how Hastings Highlands Library has been successful using partnerships/collaborations when applying with some success. In terms of flood initiative for Inclusive Communities, she stated Mike Bossio will assist to direct where to apply for grants. Canada Infrastructure Bank needs to be better used for loans.

**Action Item:** Requesting that everyone bring infrastructure projects to next meeting.

Mayor Higgins: nothing further to add at this time

Mayor McKay spoke about her experience with UBER and would like to further talk about this and its application to rural communities to help with the aging population get to appointments, get groceries etc.

Mayor Bloom commented also about Air BNB as a rural option for housing or business.

Mayor Gruntz offered that Ministers have no input into policy and that lower officials are affecting the policy being implemented.

Mayor Peckett spoke to keeping engaged with ministry staff and offer input.

Mayor Kingsbury stated that we need to keep a stronger voice with ROMA and AMO. MPP John Yakabuski has a private members bill regarding the Gas Tax in which portions go to every municipality and not just those with public transit

Mayor Bloom questioned Guest Mayor Dumas if she would like to add to and which time she requested that she become a member of RMFEO as the issues and the information sharing is a great support for her Municipality.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:55.