

Rural Mayors' Forum of Eastern Ontario

Meeting held September 9, 2016

Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan

Those in attendance were:

Garry Gruntz – Mayor, (Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan)

Henry Hogg – Reeve, (Township of Addington Highlands)

Vivian Bloom – Mayor, (Township of Hastings Highlands)

Glenda McKay – Mayor, (Township of Greater Madawaska)

Jim Gibson – Mayor, (United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria)

Frances Smith – Mayor, (Township of Central Frontenac)

Brian Campbell – Deputy Reeve, (Township of Tay Valley)

Bonnie Adams – Reeve, (Township of Carlow-Mayo)

Ron Higgins – Mayor, (Township of North Frontenac)

Kim Love – Mayor, (Township of Madawaska Valley)

Tom Peckett – Mayor, (Township of McNab/Braeside)

Brian Stewart – Mayor, (Township of Lanark Highlands)

Robert Kingsbury – Mayor, (Township of Horton)

Shawn McLaughlin – Mayor, (Township of Mississippi Mills)

Others present were: Sue Klatt (CAO/ Clerk, Township of Horton), Christine Reed (Clerk Treasurer, Township of Addington Highlands) and Nicole Kuiack (Receptionist, Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan)

1. Welcome

- Mayor Garry Gruntz welcomed those in attendance to Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan Township.

2. Mayor Ron Higgins stated that he had a request on the agenda from Mayor Kim Love to present on SM Management as a parking lot item.

3. Glenda McKay – OPP Billing Status Presentation

- Mayor Glenda McKay had a presentation at AMO to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services on August 15. She asked if they could receive cost recovery on properties that are incorrect. The Minister said yes they could.
- The local OPP representative thought the presentation stood out and was quite impressed. He is willing to meet with their municipality on a regular basis. They could not contest any of their numbers and were able to reverse 21 properties and may have achieved more but ran out of time, as the deadline was July 1 for compensation for the 2015/2016 billing.
- Mayor McKay had their local representative look at some properties and realized they are categorized incorrectly.
- Members discussed different cases within their municipalities that are categorized incorrectly and where there are multiple billings that are unnecessary.
- Mayor McKay suggested that all the CAO/Clerks/Treasurers are present at the next RMFEO meeting so her CAO/ Clerk can give a presentation with the data she has.
- Everyone in agreement that CAO/Clerks/Treasurers to attend the next meeting in McNabe/Braeside Township.
- Ombudsman representative to attend the next meeting as well.
- Mayor McKay requested from MPAC the exact same data base that they had sent the OPP because of the anomalies. They discovered they have cases with one roll number and 3 billings. They are in the process of sending letters to these anomalies to check if the information is indeed correct.
- Enumeration shows that properties with 2 owners with different last names are receiving 2 billings. They have 3 criteria they must be met to be deeded a separate unit.
- The data is now available to all municipalities.
- Commercial properties are still to be assessed. (For example, trailer parks: 1 property, 10 individual trailers)

- Mayor Love states that that goes back to ROMAs position, that if the property does not produce enough taxation to pay the OPP bill that it shouldn't be on the list. She suggested to reassess data once every 4 years. Only properties assessed over \$ 60,218 will give us the money to pay for policing.
- This is effecting the embedded revenue numbers and this is a serious complication for any municipality.
- All members have agreed to give Mayor Love their residential tax rates, as she already has their OPP base rate, and she can determine what assessment is required to produce that much revenue.
- Presentation at the ROMA conference.
- Policing Modernization Report? Bill Berhash to work with the forum on this.

4. Shawn McLaughlin – OMB Reform Presentation

- Mayor Shawn McLaughlin presented about the OMB medaling with the Official Plan. Why should one person be able to appeal the provincially approved Official Plan? Unless the law is being broken there should be no amending the OP.
- Some municipalities have already endorsed the Aurora Resolution.
- OMB has 5 different categories on their website to complain under and the case details on past cases are very vague.
- Our small municipalities don't have the manpower to meet the demands of the Fire Marshall.
- OMBs' basic cost is \$10,000 per day.
- Wants more information about the private roads debate.
Disapproving of development and extensions of private roads. Small townships grow by severances and these roads lead to these properties. (Private Road Agreement)

The members recessed at 10:50 and returned at 11:05 with the same Members present.

OMB Reform Continued:

- Bring a letter to support the Aurora Resolution to the next meeting.
- Decide what recommendations to make to the Minister and what to ask.
- Members discussed the OMB amending the OP and individuals appealing the OP.
- Ron discussed having an Application to Appeal.
- Members discussed lakes that are at capacity. What happens if the OMB overrules a development?
- Most OMB appeals are happening in the GTA. Most small municipalities have never had an appeal. Individual municipalities should be able to amend their OP as they see fit.
- Impartial mediation before an OMB hearing.
- Unless it is illegal, there should be no changing the OP. But who determines the law or mistake?
- All members to endorse the Aurora Resolution at their council meetings.
- Established to support the modified Aurora resolution and support the Summit Recommendations.

The members recessed for lunch at 11:45 and returned at 12:15, Vivian Bloom departed.

5. Glenda McKay opened the discussion on MMAH Letter to Municipal Clerks (Tenancy)

- This is a serious problem for local municipalities and we need to push back against this, strongly and forcefully. This letter was sent to the Municipal Clerks and not the Mayors.
- The Chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus has never seen the email and it also has never come to the AMO representative.
- It is currently proposed that these municipalities will assume these enforcement responsibilities July, 2018.

- The CBO's will be held responsible for these duties.
- Property Standard Bylaws doesn't mean that internal maintenance standards on residential rentals properties are being enforced.
- It's not a bylaw, it's a provincial regulation, so why should it be put on the CBO's work load when there is no funding coming with it.
- Most complaints come from the non-profit housing sector and that it is the County's responsibility.
- Now the small municipalities will be responsible for property inspections, issuing work orders, final inspections and be responsible for prosecuting landlords that don't comply.
- Mayor Gibson suggested to draft a resolution to reject any motion of this.
- Mayor McKay suggested to prepare a letter to AMO, ROMA and the EOWC asking them to review this issue.
- The lists are contradicting. Municipalities on the list don't have Property Standard Bylaws.
- Mayor Higgins will send a note to ROMA objecting to this matter and see what they are doing with this.
- Mayor Smith would like a small group to attend the Ontario East Conference as there will be representative from Municipal Affairs Housing in attendance. Bringing these issues to their attention would be wise.
- Provincial Ministries should be consistent on who information is being sent to.
- Mayor Love purposes to send a letter of thanks to Greater Madawaska's CAO to thank her for bringing this letter to everyone's attention.
- This issue is to be brought to the attention of the MPP's and County Council.

6. Action Log:

- Invite the local MPP and the zone rep from ROMA (*Action Complete*)
- Provide our RMFEO update presentation to each county (*Action Complete*)

- Send Mayor Ron Higgins information regarding how each municipality is effected by additional costs (*Action Complete*)
- Approach Roma about a workshop or booth at their conference (*Follow up with Ron Holmen*)
- Getting RMFEO pins (*In progress*)
- Ask ROMA and AMO about what they would like from us on waste project (*Action Complete*)
- Mayor Love's presentation on Parking Lot; assets management, infrastructure and funding gaps (upcoming webinars and meetings for an 'elected' official) (*Action will be presented at next meeting*)

7. Round Table

Mayor Higgins – ROMA representative for this area

Mayor Gibson – Letter from OFMEM, decided to monitor all municipalities without fire services. His Clerk to go through the letter.

Mayor Gruntz – Asks Sue Klatt to comment on the forum. She feels it's a very constructive forum and there are strength in numbers. She thinks the clerks should sit in on some meetings.

Mayor Love – Contemplating running for the ROMA position and encourages other Mayors to join her.

8. Review Actions from Today

Mayor Higgins reviewed the actions from this meeting:

- Everyone present is to send Mayor Love their tax rates
- Mayor Higgins is to draft a letter of objection to the MMAH
- A thank you letter will be sent to Greater Madawaska's' CAO
- Mayor McLaughlin to draft the Aurora Resolution

- Everyone is to invite their CAO/Clerks /Treasurer's to the next meeting
- Send Mayor Peckett numbers for those attending the next meeting
- Mayor Gibson will have his CBO draft a Property Standard's Bylaw

9. Adjourn

Prior to adjournment Mayor Gruntz thanked everyone for coming and raffled off a bottle of maple syrup.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Recorded By Nicole Kuiack, Receptionist