



Rural Mayors' Forum Meeting

Minutes of May 5, 2017

Host: Township of Lanark Highlands, Location: County of Lanark Building, Perth

Those in attendance were:

Mayor Brian Stewart, Township of Lanark Highlands

Mayor Shaun McLaughlin, Municipality of Mississippi Mills

Mayor Bob Kingsbury, Township of Horton

Mayor Ron Higgins, Township of North Frontenac

Mayor Tom Peckett, Township McNab Braeside

Reeve Bonnie Adams, Township of Carlow Mayo

Mayor Glenda McKay, Township of Greater Madawaska

Reeve Garry Gruntz, Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan

Mayor Jim Gibson, United Townships of Head Clara Maria

Deputy-Reeve Brian Campbell, Tay Valley Township

Reeve Henry Hogg, Township of Addington Highlands

Mayor Kim Love, Township of Madawaska Valley

Mayor Jane Dumas, Township of South Algonquin

Also present were:

M.P.P. Randy Hillier, Lanark, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington

Deputy Mayor John Hall, Township of Lanark Highlands

Councillor Linda Hansen, Township of Lanark Highlands

Lanark County Warden Bill Dobson

Regrets:

Mayor Vivian Bloom, Municipality of Hastings Highlands

Welcome

Mayor Brian Stewart called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

- MPP Randy Hillier greeted the group and spoke primarily on legislation which could impact small rural municipalities. Specifically, he brought to the group's attention the topic of septic bed policy (this information has been posted to Facebook). MPP Hillier



stated that this is a good example of the continuing policies that originate in Toronto which inhibit rural growth. The proposed new provincial policy will limit where development can occur – especially in the Canadian Shield. He advised concerned persons to contact MMAH about this matter.

- Mayor Brian Stewart welcomed Mayor Jane Dumas of South Algonquin, Stacey Blair, Clerk Administrator of Lanark Highlands, Deputy Mayor John Hall and Councillor Linda Hansen also of Lanark Highlands to the meeting.
- MPP Hillier provided an Announcement - Property Rights Symposium – 6:30 Lombardy, Tuesday May 23, 2017. Both he and MP Scott Reid will be in attendance.

1. Software Presentation – Deputy Mayor John Hall

Lanark Highlands' Deputy Mayor John Hall made a presentation on a records management software program that he has developed. It is a comprehensive records management system that can be used to quick retrieval of items such as by-laws which can be searched for by various parameters such as type or year. The software can also be used to organize policies, meetings, reports, agreements, job descriptions, etc. There is also a section for storing legislation. Current version headings include – By-laws, Policies, Planning, Meetings, Finance, Human Resources, Waste Sites, Legislation and File Search, and word search functions. The software is a visual studio data base. Deputy Mayor Hall has volunteered to share this software with other municipalities once completed.

Deputy Mayor Hall also gave a demonstration of the financial software that he has developed for Lanark Highlands. By implementing this system, he was able to show inaccuracies and coding errors which resulted in budget inaccuracies. Through the use of this system, these errors have been largely eliminated. He also showed how program can be used for budget development. Prior to the introduction of this program, department managers did not have up to date access to financials. This program helps assist with financially responsible decision making.

2. Resolution – Addition of South Algonquin as a Member of the Rural Mayors' Forum of Eastern Ontario

Resolution

Moved by Jim Gibson and seconded by Bob Kingsbury:

WHEREAS a vacancy exists in the membership of the Rural Mayors' Forum of Eastern Ontario;



AND WHEREAS the Township of South Algonquin has expressed a desire to join the Rural Mayors' Forum of Eastern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Township of South Algonquin would add a beneficial dynamic that the Rural Mayors' Forum of Eastern Ontario currently does not have, namely a Northern status organization;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Rural Mayors' Forum of Eastern Ontario grants membership to the Township of South Algonquin.

CARRIED

Lanark Highlands' Mayor Brian Stewart welcomed South Algonquin to the group. South Algonquin Mayor Jane Dumas thanked the group for being included into the group.

Mayor Ron Higgins of North Frontenac will prepare a press release to ROMA and AMO regarding this matter and will also send a welcome letter to South Algonquin.

3. Unofficial Minutes, April 2017 – prepared by Mississippi Mills' Mayor Shaun McLaughlin

Discussion:

- "Ride Sharing" has been logged as an action item.
- Rural transportation systems has been logged as an action item.

4. Discussion on Resolution Pertaining to B-08-09-03 (Septage)

Mayor Jim Gibson of the United Townships of Head Clara Maria provided an update regarding septage and the provincial government. He has filed an FOI to seek more information on this matter but has had no response. Further, he went to proponents, the Ontario Waste Water Association to enquire about what happened at the meeting. He was told him that ministry staff are aware of opposition to this change; and are looking to find out how to treat contact with septage and untreated sewage. Mayor Gibson is proposing to prepare a chronological sequence of events and make note of every time there is no response received by the Ministry.

A general discussion around the table followed and the following points were made:

- Ron Higgins stated that a working relationship with province is lacking and that the group needs to put together a chronological report of requests issued and list of non-response and that it has become necessary to have a meeting with Minister Bill Morrow.



- The group will enquire as to what support can be acquired from ROMA and AMO.
- Glenda McKay stated that the province should be accountable to the public by responding to this groups request in a timely fashion.
- Tom Peckett asserted that the group deserves a proper answer, and that the Ministry needs to recognize rural Ontario.
- Ron Higgins will go ahead with lake 88 interview regarding the work that has been done by this group on septage. The newer issue of proposed septic requirements can be raised at this time. Additionally, he has contacted the Ministry and spoke with someone but has yet to receive more information.
- Brian Stewart stated that this group needs to raise awareness about the of lack of communication received by MMAH staff.

This item will be brought back on future agendas so that the group can continue to move forward on this.

5. Discussion – Claw back of the Federal Government’s 1/3 tax exemption

Bob Kingsbury stated that he attended a round table meeting with MP Cheryl Gallant, and enquired about what is this going to cost each municipality.

- He stated that this will cost them approximately \$2600
- This presents a problem in trying to encourage young people to get involved in municipal politics; it generally costs people a large sum of money to be mayor
- Kim Love spoke with AMO, they are doing a survey to determine the impacts on municipal councils; doing survey analysis; local treasurers will soon receive enquiry from AMO.
- This policy will impact ability to attract good candidates.
- Brian Stewart stated that the group needs to make sure that the treasurer of each municipality is doing this report and making sure that it is submitted to AMO.
- Ron Higgins will send out a reminder to the group and staff.

6. Action Log – Ron Higgins

- OPP follow up with MPAC
- Recruitment – new members



- Update re. OPP meeting, Kim Love to send tax rates; Ron Higgins will send an email about sending tax rates to Kim Love
- Update for new billing, base service costs, clarification vs. calls for service,
- Procedural guideline for this forum
- Get into ROMA and AMMO alerts – other organizations accept newsletters; work at this forum relates to cottage associations; Jim Gibson to call
- Set up a sewage presentation – Shaun McLaughlin to include in his meeting next month; doing a site tour, when meeting is over “reed bed presentation”
- Identify an infrastructure project OCIF – in parking lot for next year
- Contact uber for presentation, Glenda McKay suggested that it would be better to consider a ride share app. It was suggested that there should be a delegation to the Lanark Transportation Committee, Tay Valley Township is having a presentation at their next meeting about seniors transportation; age friendly committee; this presentation can be forwarded to group
- Ron Higgins, Tom Peckett and Bob Kingsbury to work on waste management – looking to establish incinerator in Eastern Ontario, because this is a very controversial item, this is something that group will want to continue to examine; will require more research to understand pros and cons; will bring back to a future meeting

Break for lunch 12:22 p.m.

Lanark County Warden Bill Dobson joined the meeting and addressed the group. He thanked the group for the invitation.

7. Discussion – Identify priority items.

Primes and timelines to provide Provincial Government parties group position on key issues to use for their election strategy development:

- Policing – end of May is anticipated update on Police Services Act, input from PSBs and OAPSB:
 - o Add to next month’s meeting to see if more info comes forward
 - o Billing – municipalities don’t have the ability to audit calls for service,
 - o At end of 2018, all municipalities will be at the same billing level, should be some input in contract negotiations – inability to do something about police members who are on paid leave
 - Problems with funding model, how are parties going to address this
 - Make sure that OPP have to include cost of officers



- Try to get the province to upload policing due to unaffordability, need to lobby for this
 - Need a different system of being heard if municipalities are going to be stuck with these costs
 - Should present to all parties – need a series of questions to ask at all candidates meetings
 - MPAC formula to be included
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- Electricity, green energy act, delivery charges, rates, Ron Higgins will lead
 - Municipal funding - regulatory downloads, OCIF funding needs to be more clear
 - The group was asked as to how many were successful on OCIF – A number of groups were successful regardless of debt or reserve levels. Many of the successful OCIF applications were prepared by an engineering firm or consultant. Prime for municipal funding – Shaun McLaughlin, putting Vivian Bloom on tentatively
 - Doctor Recruitment - Bob Kingsbury prime – Jane Dumas on the team, Some communities are having difficulty getting doctors, existing doctors are retiring, new doctors taking less patients, Hastings County offers a subsidy to new doctors. It has been a good program and a great success. Smaller communities need more funding to attract new doctors, impacts economic development. Bill Dobson noted that there had been a shortage in Smiths Falls and that introducing a turn-key operation and a doctors' hub helped.
 - Building Code – septic, resident tenancy act, Jim Gibson prime for septic, Brian Campbell part of team;
 - Cellular – EOWC is working on this, remove from list, same for broad band
 - New issues to be added – how do provincial candidates intend to conduct public consultation? And how is public informed about public consultation in advance? This is a more general question – prime Jim Gibson, Garry Gruntz part of team
 - Bill Dobson offered the following topics for future consideration – Opioid crisis, Violence against women, county wide integrity commissioner (County Clerk Leslie Drynan has prepared a report on this) include in next agenda.
 - Rural Mayors forum could look at a sorting process about validity of complaints, rather than investigate each complaint, Mississippi Mills has put together a policy to deal with vexatious people.



8. Review of new actions from today:

- Press release AMO and ROMA acceptance of South Algonquin
- Book Lake 88 InFocus session on the septage issues

9. Round Table - New Business

Kim Love – letter from Minister Lalonde about delegation, got a response but will still have to pursue MPAC

Ron Higgins – provides quarterly reports to council on Rural Mayors' Forum

10. Next meeting June 2, Mississippi Mills

Meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.