

TEMISKAMING MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

REGULAR MEETING

January 30, 2025

	MEMBER	MEMBER
Armstrong	Jean Marc Boileau	Reynald Rivard
Brethour	Tom Goddard	Dave Wight
Casey	Bruno Trudel	
Chamberlain	Kerry Stewart	
Charlton/Dack	Bill Laurita	
Cobalt		
Coleman	Lois Perry	
Englehart	Brad Bockus	JoAnne Farmer
Evanturel	John McCarthy	
Gauthier		
Harley	Clifford Fielder	Sophie MacKewn
Harris	Ron Sutton	Brian Brownlee
Hilliard		
Hudson	Larry Craig	Gerry Seed
James		
Kerns		
Kirkland Lake	Rick Owen	
Larder Lake		
Latchford		
Matachewan		
McGarry		
Temagami	Dan O'Mara	
Temiskaming Shores	Mark Wilson	
Thornloe	Wayne Miller	
Speaker	Diane Johnston	
	John Vanthof	

Meeting opened at 6:34 pm.

Moved by:
Seconded by:

That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 24, 2024 be approved

Tabled

January 30, 2025

DELEGATION:

John Vanthof – Northern Road plan

- 100 individual companies are currently authorized to licence their own drivers.
- The pass rate for these drivers is 95% but the pass rate for drivers going through MTO licensing bureau is 65%.
- Numerous plans such as the Northern Road Plans have been put in place in previous years but they are currently sitting on shelves, collecting dust and no political will to implement the recommendations. It is very important the Northern Road Plan does not meet the same fate. It is up to all of us that the Northern Road Plan is implemented.

Mark Wilson – 2+1 Highway and ROMA

- 2+1 Highway is moving along really well.
- Mark is now ROMA director for the district.
- Emphasis is on better health care, housing and homelessness.

Danny Whalen (FONOM)

- A list of my recent FONOM business was discussed at the Executive meeting and I am providing this list to the membership.

Highway Safety

- It would seem the only political party that takes safety of highways 11 and 17 seriously is the New Democratic Party and our own MPP Vanthof is a driving force in pressing the topic with the provincial government.
- FONOM agrees with the suggested plan and recommendations and I have offered FONOM's full support.

Incidental Cabins

- I have met and discussed this topic with the Township of Coleman and provided thier documentation to the Ministry of Natural Resources. I have reached out to some north western Mayors who also have the same issue. I have provided the suggestions to the Township.

Nuclear Waste Management Organization

- I have been a member of the Municipal Consultation group for NWMO for the past 4 years. This group has finished up the work and held its final meeting.
- I have offered FONOM as an active participant on future work.

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FONOM Conference

- The 2025 FONOM conference will be held in North Bayon the 5th, 6th and 7th of May 2025. We will be hosting a Ministers Question and Answer period but should there be an early election we are planning to host the Northern Ontario Leaders Debate.

Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Recycling

- FONOM has been involved in the residential recycling program being changed and funded by the producers. We are now actively lobbying the province to include ICI and included sector for the producer paid recycling program.
- We are sending all our members a proposed resolution to support this action.

Asset Retirement Obligation

- FONOM has been researching this topic since receiving resolutions speaking to the cost of the required audit. Speaking with many well-respected auditors and firms across the province, it seems that many smaller municipalities are being advised that completing this audit will be costly.
- We have spoken with various auditors, Municipal Affairs staff, Municipal Finance Officers Association, Association of Municipal Clerk Treasurers and some municipal Asset Management Plan employees on this topic.
- Municipal Finance Officers Association has provided a paper on available training for accessing and using Amp it Up software for this audit. I have provided this paper to TMA.
- We caution any municipality to question any new company offering audit services for asset retirement audit and the cost of the services offered.
- As I prepare this list, I received an email for Municipal Affairs about creating extra training on this topic.

Hope Air

- We continue regular discussions with Hope Air and have also met to discuss provincial participation in supporting the charity. After our most recent meeting with Minister Jones we will arrange another meeting with Hope Air to discuss clarifications we received from the province.

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Regional Municipality of Muskoka

- At a recent funding announcement for the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, the regional Municipality of Muskoka was mentioned as successful applicants. This was unusual as this region was removed from Northern Ontario many years ago. After researching these announcements, it is our belief that the Regional Municipality of Muskoka will eventually become an equal member with Northern Ontario status.
- This will have major impacts on most all of our northern funding programs as well as requiring changes to many of the municipal partnership that support Health Units and other agencies. As well, as a current member of southern Ontario, Muskoka does not recognize the District Social Services Boards or legislation.
- We are researching the various programs and has a meeting set to discuss the changes with Muskoka. We will also meet with the Minister of Finance and other ministers representing the affected programs.

Provincial Contact

- FONOM has had very profitable meetings with the New Democratic Party and the Green Party regarding our long list of northern issues.
- We continue to meet regularly with all provincial Ministers. We have raised the profile of FONOM as proven by the number of times that ministry staff and Ministers reach out to me by email, text and telephone.

Chris Oslund – Incidental cabins

- Will attend the March meeting.

DISCUSSIONS:

Dave Wight – Reeve Brethour Township

- Brethour Township will more than likely be insolvent by 2025 year end.
- No reserves left.
- No gain in population
- Major drainage issues
- A bridge needs to be rebuilt
- Corporate farms with low tax rates.
- One company owns 50% of the farm land in the township.
- This trend can be seen spreading to other municipalities in the near future

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RESOLUTIONS:

Moved by:
Seconded by:

That the TMA executive board at its January 23rd meeting suggested an increase of \$25 to its membership fee from \$150 to \$175 annually.

Defeated

Moved by: Wayne Miller
Seconded by: Larry Craig

That the Temiskaming Municipal Association supports all recommendations from MPP Guy Bourgouin, MPP Lise Vaugeois and MPP in their presentation John Vanthof to the Ministry of Transport that;

All new drivers must be tested by MTO certified inspectors, not third-party private companies. If their student drivers cannot pass a legitimate road test, then these driving schools will be forced to change how they conduct business; and

Further More we must return the management of highway maintenance operations to the MTO, while working with contractors and providers throughout the North.

Increase staffing at scales and inspection sites, as well as OPP Traffic enforcement to ensure the laws currently in place are being followed.

Expedite the 2 + 1 pilot project and the construction of rest stops. Use the fill that is dug out to rebuild sections of the highway to crease parking pull offs.

Make snow tires mandatory for all passenger vehicles in Northern Ontario.

Ensure that driving schools comply with the current MELT training system.

Reform issues within MELT itself and expand requirements to include winter driving training.

Address the current abuse of “self insurance provisions” and ensure tow truck operators and other service providers can get paid for services from these schemes.

Require all commercial vehicles to have dash cams.

Increase the number of cameras and photo radars to slow down traffic.

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Emphasize rail to move goods so not as many loads must travel on the highway.

Return connecting links to the provincial highway system so that maintenance is uniform.

Better equip and increase the availability of rest stops with heated maintained rest washrooms.

Direct the cost of repairing damage to municipal roads caused by detour traffic from highway closures to the MTO.

Widen and pave all shoulders on Highways 11 and 17,

Make Highway 11 and 17 a divided four-lane highway wherever possible.

- If the 2+1 project proves successful, a continuous three lane would be a good intermediate step. The TransCanada Highway is the road system meant to move goods and people across the country, but it is no longer equipped to do that safely in Northern Ontario.

Further that this resolution be forwarded to all municipalities, Minister of Transportation, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Provincial Leaders.

Carried

Moved by: Clifford Fielder

Seconded by: Larry Craig

That Temiskaming Municipal Association receives and accepts the December 31, 2024 bank reconciliation as presented by the treasurer.

Carried

Moved by: Kerry Stewart

Seconded by: Wayne Miller

The meeting of January 30th, 2025 be adjourned at 8:13pm.

Carried

Executive meeting on March 20th, 2025 at 12:00 pm at the Thornloe hall.

TMA meeting March 27th, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the Rosaire and Wilfrid Paiement arena