



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

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MINUTES

January 19th, 2007

9:00am

Main Plenary, Ambassador Hotel, Kingston

1. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome (9:00am)

Bob welcomed everyone back to the meeting today and thanked the restaurant for their hospitality for last night's dinner. As Bob is completing his two-year term as Chair of the EOWC he wanted to note how proud he has been of the accomplishments of the Caucus. He would also like to thank Jacques Hetu for the wealth of wisdom that he passed along as Past-Chair. Bob also thanked Roger Anderson, past president of AMO and the Past Wardens for their support, guidance and input. Furthermore, Bob thanked the staff that holds this organization together as they are each exceptional individuals. Bob also made a recommendation for the 2007 Caucus, noting that since we have established a relationship with AMO, that it may be beneficial to cement our goal and objectives with them for future endeavors. Finally, Bob thanked our ministry representatives, particularly Vince Fabiilli and Warren Sleeth from MMAH who work tirelessly on the EOWC's behalf.

2. 2006 Accomplishments- Bob Sweet

Bob overviewed some of the EOWC's accomplishments throughout the last year, praising the individuals who made up the Caucus and their efforts on these issues.

3. Elections (9:15am)

- Chair
- Vice-Chair

At this point in the meeting Chair Bob Sweet turned the meeting over to Secretary/Treasurer Norm Lemke for the purpose of conducting the elections.

Moved by: Mayor Finnegan

Seconded by: Warden McEwen

THAT the nominations for Chair of the EOWC and Vice-Chair of the EOWC for 2007 commence.

CARRIED

Norm Lemke called for nominations for the position of Chair for the EOWC for 2007.

Moved by: Warden Visneskie

Seconded by: Mayor Finnegan

THAT Warden Douglas Struthers of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville be nominated for Chair of the EOWC for 2007.

CARRIED

Norm Lemke requested first call, second call and third and last call for further nominations for Chair. Norm Lemke asked for a mover and seconder to close the nominations for Chair.

Moved by: Warden McEwen
Seconded By: Warden Visneskie

THAT nominations for 2007 Chair be closed.

CARRIED

By acclamation the 2007 Chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus is Warden Struthers, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.

Norm Lemke then called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the EOWC for 2007.

Moved: Warden Macmillian
Seconded by: Chair Warden Struthers

THAT Warden Clayton McEwen be nomination for the position of 2007 Vice-Chair of the EOWC.

CARRIED

Norm Lemke requested first call, second call and third and last call for further nominations for Vice-Chair. Norm Lemke asked for a mover and seconder to close the nominations for Vice-Chair.

Moved by: Warden Fearrey
Seconded by: Mayor McGee

THAT nominations for 2007 Vice-Chair of the EOWC be closed.

CARRIED

By acclamation the 2007 Vice Chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus is Warden Clayton McEwen, County of Lennox and Addington.

Warden Struthers then took the Chair and made some opening comments. Chair Struthers noted that he is looking forward to working with such a strong Vice-Chair and to build upon the cooperation and communication established among all levels of government. Warden Struthers then presented a gift to Past-Chair Warden Sweet for his work over the last two years as Chair of the EOWC.

Chair Struthers also noted that 2007 is a unique year, because of the election. As a result we need to form a strategy starting at ROMA/OGRA and continuing for the rest of the year, with dollars expended for this purpose to assist in ensuring that our strategy is most

effective. Warden Struthers asked for a show of hands as to whom was interested in pursuing these objectives. The direction of the Caucus for 2007 is so noted by a majority show of hands.

The EOWC must have two elected officials sit on the steering committee for the prosperity plan. The next meeting will be February 7th in Ottawa, with the provincial ministerial committee. The two individuals who will be undertaking this task for 2007 will be Chair Douglas Struthers and Warden Ron Gerow.

4. Further EOWC Business

No further business at this time.

5. Arrival of MPP's and Honoured Guests (10:00am)

- Minister John Gerretsen
- Minister Leona Dombrowsky
- MPP Jim Brownell
- MPP Jeff Leal

Minister Gerretsen spoke to the Caucus, and congratulated the Wardens/Mayors on their recent election for a four-year term. This four-year term will hopefully save some money because there are fewer elections. Minister Gerretsen congratulated Chair Struthers for his successful nomination to Chair and would also like to thank Past-Chair Sweet for his service. Minister Gerretsen noted that he has always been impressed with the quality and analysis of work put together by the EOWC, which he is sure will continue in the coming year. He wanted to note that the government has put more money into municipal offices through; Gas Tax, Move Ontario Funding, new affordable housing funds, an OMPF increase, COMRIF and land ambulance funding throughout 2006 and will continue to address priorities in 2007. It is the hope that the Federal-Provincial-Municipal review will decide what items are properly funded out of the tax system.

Minister Dombrowsky also thanked the EOWC for the invitation and congratulated the elected officials on their four-year term of municipal service. Minister Dombrowsky also wanted to congratulate the EOWC on the four issues outlined within the Pre-Budget Submission, she has noted that these issues are important and has brought forward these issues to her colleagues, including Minister Sorbara.

Minister Dombrowsky is proud to have been part of COMRIF, which she feels demonstrated that these investments were just a start and that there is clearly a great need for this funding. In Intake Three alone, there was \$46 million dollars available for projects, however they received 292 applications with a request for approximately 1 billion dollars, unfortunately only 72 of these applications were approved. Minister Dombrowsky noted that if anything, this process reinforced that there need to be stable, sustainable funds.

The Ministers and MPPs' initiated an open discussion followed by a question and answer period.

Lunch (12:00pm)