



Report to Council

Department: Office of the CAO
Division: Office of the CAO
Date: November 23, 2020
Prepared by: Chris Nepszy, P.Eng., PE
Report Number: Office of the CAO-2020-08
Subject: AMO Board Vacancy: Expression of Interest
Number of Pages: 6

Recommendation(s)

That Office of the CAO-2020-08 entitled AMO Board Vacancy: Expression of Interest prepared by Chris Nepszy, CAO dated November 23, 2020 be received, and

That Council supports the Town of Essex Chief Administrative Officers (CAO), Chris Nepszy's, candidacy for the position of Rural caucus of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board, and will cover expenses associated with the Board directorship.

Purpose

Council resolution supporting a municipal employee's expression of interest to fill the current AMO Board Vacancy is required.

Background and Discussion

Following the recent AMO Board elections as part of the AMO Conference and AGM, two Board vacancies remain. The vacancies are two municipal employee seats, one on the Rural Caucus and one on the Large Urban Caucus. The vacancies occur because no one was

nominated for these director positions in the election. AMO's By-Law No.2 governs the filling of the vacancies for the remainder of 2020-2022 Board term. Note that members of the AMO Rural Caucus are also appointed to the Board of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), which meets 8-9 times a year.

Qualified candidates (who meet the requirements set out in By-Law No. 2) will be interviewed by the respective Caucus members and a candidate for each Caucus will be recommended to the AMO Board for appointment for a term ending August 2022.

In filling any vacancy, the Board and Caucuses will be mindful of the need for broad geographic representation and gender representation. In the request for nominations for the recent Board election, nominations were encouraged from those who reflect the diversity of Ontario's communities.

What is the Board of Directors role?

The Caucus structure is how the Board is constructed. It is intended to represent the different types of municipal government structure, service responsibilities and geography. With 43 members, the Board has a pan-Ontario breadth so that its work reflects the range of its membership as it works to speak on shared interests and a common voice.

What is the time commitment?

The Board meets six times a year, generally the last Friday of the month. It is preceded by a Thursday Committee of the Whole meeting, and the caucuses meet individually before the Board meeting. The Board participates at the Annual Conference in August.

Meeting Schedule for 2021:

Thursday, January 28, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole

Friday, January 29, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Board of Directors

Thursday, March 25, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole

Friday, March 26, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Board of Directors

Thursday, June 24, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole

Friday, June 25, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Board of Directors

AMO Annual Conference

Saturday, August 14, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Board of Directors

Sunday, August 15, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Board of Directors

Thursday, September 23, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole

Friday, September 24, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Board of Directors

Thursday, November 25, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole

Friday, November 26, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Board of Directors

What they do?

AMO's Board of Directors consisting of leaders in their respective communities, contributes its vision, commitment and energy to advance common interests for the good of all Ontario municipalities. In a broad sense, the Board of Directors is AMO's governing body; it sets AMO's direction and adopts its policies and its priorities. As a corporate body, the Board of Directors ensures adherence to legal requirements, as set out in the foundation charter and in the law. The Board also delegates the overall management of the organization to the Executive Director and a team of professionals. The Executive Director is responsible for the Board's strategic orientation process and for its policies, as well as for the organization's financial and overall management.

AMO's 2020 Strategic Objectives are grounded in:

- Constructive, proactive municipal influence with Ontario government
- Collaboration within sector builds influence
- Support member advocacy with information, analysis, facts and key messages
- Provide education and programs that support municipal governments

Their four themes of objectives include:

1. POSITIONING MUNICIPAL INTERESTS

1. Secure financial gains of the previous decade

2. Protect and enhance financial tools, emphasize fiscal sustainability
3. Research impact of disruptive economy on property assessment
4. Effective deployment of infrastructure funding
5. Foster productive consultation: Public Health, EMS. Etc.
6. Advance interests in housing, EPR/diversion, SA Reform, policing regulations, Public Health, EMS/dispatch.
7. Review *Municipal Elections Act*, support voters list initiative implementation
8. Urgency of climate change

2. STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS TO BENEFIT MEMBERS

1. Strengthen engagement and collaboration with other municipal sector organizations, including LUMCO, to effect strong two-way communication and consensus
2. Engage with other BPS leaders for common purpose
3. Demonstrate AMO's value, relevance and influence through partnerships, e.g., media, other orders of government, Indigenous organizations, strategically aligned third party vendors
4. Renew engagement with members through strategic and advanced communication framework, and other media technologies

3. BUILDING MEMBER CAPACITY

1. Review and redevelop education and training programs reflecting new delivery modes, member interests and preparation for 2022 municipal elections/new councils
2. Evaluate/deliver new cost-effective training/event opportunities to support member interests
3. Work with FCM and others on promotion equity objectives in municipal governance, including FCM Parity project
4. Broaden dissemination and transference of best practices
5. Continue to expand the culture of asset management

4. BUILDING INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

1. Enhance employee engagement, review internal practices
2. Enhance data analysis capacity to support advocacy, service to members, digital government and Open Data
3. Increase involvement of women, youth and others at AMO, including more diverse voices at AMO Conf.
4. Implementation of AMO Youth Fellows Program
5. Continue to use Committee of the Whole approach to strengthen Board consensus and advocacy

The AMO Board will directly provide a representative from the Town of Essex the opportunity to be part of a broader policy development team, as well as providing interaction that benefits the municipality and the sector. Indirectly, the relationships forged from being an integral part of AMO, which represents 444 municipalities across Ontario will enhance the capacity of the CAO in their role for the Town of Essex.

Financial Impact

There is sufficient funds in the training and convention fund to cover the costs of travel and any needed accommodation required for meetings and conferences as a result of the role of Board Director. Note, that any costs associated with travel and lodging would be eliminated if future meetings/conferences are virtual.

Consultations

Jeffrey Morrison, Director, Corporate Services / Treasurer

Link to Strategic Priorities

- Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure which meets current and future needs of the municipality and its citizens.
- Create a safe, friendly and inclusive community which encourages healthy, active living for people of all ages and abilities.
- Provide a fiscal stewardship and value for tax dollars to ensure long-term financial health to the municipality.
- Manage responsible and viable growth while preserving and enhancing the unique rural and small town character of the community.
- Improve the experiences of individuals, as both citizens and customers, in their interactions with the Town of Essex.
- Improve the Town's capacity to meet the ongoing and future service needs of its citizens while ensuring the corporation is resilient in the face of unanticipated changes or disruptions.