

Report to: South Huron Council
From : Mayor Maureen Cole

Date: Sept 4/2018

Subject: Association of Municipalities Conference August 19-22 In Ottawa

Recommendations

That the report of Mayor Cole dated Sept 4/2018 be received.

That the itemized expenses for the Mayor and councillors who have attended the FCM and AMO conferences in June and August of 2018 be provided at next council meeting

That the delegation reports be made available through the website, forwarded to the Rec / Hub Steering Committee and attached to this report in the minutes.

Purpose:

Feedback has received from council and public, regarding expenses for conferences. There has also been a request for a report on the AMO conference, who attended, as well as outcomes of delegations.

Report:

Mayor Cole accompanied by Deputy Mayor Frayne, Councillors Tomes, Oke , and Hebert attended the event with over 1900 leaders and staff from Ontario municipalities.

It is evident that all municipalities face similar challenges, with opportunities to share experiences and best practice.

Premier Doug Ford made an address, with a commitment for open and honest dialogue with municipalities, who he recognizes as being those closest to the decision making process, for infrastructure and service delivery that has a daily impact on communities.

The ministers forum, was enlightening with questions regarding Police services act, healthcare, education, housing and funding.

According to the survey of Ontario residents, Infrastructure/transportation is the top challenge facing municipal governments. and many were unaware that 47% of every tax dollar is collected by the federal government, 44% by the province, and 9% remains for municipalities.

49% oppose municipal government cutting service to freeze property taxes, however there is a concern that local property taxes will not cover the costs of infrastructure, and that municipalities should be given a greater share of tax revenue.

Information on the presentations can be seen at www.amo.on.ca

The trade show, breakfasts and lunches offered tools for municipal leaders to follow up with, such as energy discussions and IESO and FCM funding tools, policing bureau, and fire Marshall's office.

Break out sessions such as " Spurring Rural Economic activities", "Innovative solutions for small town Ontario" and " On the way to inclusive Community Building" discussed how small towns and small changes can make a difference in people's lives.

There was of course opportunities for networking with fellow mayors and councillors from municipalities across Ontario.

I was encouraged by delegation presentations and by the response from the Offices of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, OMAFRA, and Minister of Infrastructure.

AMO has advised that the first rollout of the Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Bilateral Agreement, is expected to be sometime after the fall election, They also encourage municipalities to identify their priority infrastructure projects, to put ourselves in a good position for the application.

We are encouraged with the invite from delegations, to follow up meetings, as well as a meeting with Lisa Thompson. It was a great opportunity to continue to build relationships with provincial partners,

Financial Impact

There is a cost of Mayor and Council expenses as a result of attending the conference, and the delegations.

Strategic plan:

4.2.3.1 Long term vision for South Huron

4.2.4 Priorities..

7.2.2 Increased Communications And Municipal Leadership

Respectfully submitted