

November 7, 2012



City Council Committee Report

TO: Mayor and Council

FR: Heather Kasprick, Deputy Clerk

RE: Thunder Bay Financial Workshops

Recommendation:

That authorization be and is hereby given for Councillor Louis Roussin to attend the MFOA Investment Basics and Beyond training session as well as the Exploring the FIR training session, taking place in Thunder Bay on November 22 and 23, 2012; and further

That all eligible expenses in accordance with Council's Travel & Per Diem Policy be hereby authorized.

Background:

The Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) has teamed up with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) to offer a practical seminar on how to optimize financial information reporting data. Municipal FIRs provide the richest and deepest database on municipal finance and performance indicators that there is in Ontario.

These sessions will focus on:

- The importance of FIRs and the MPMP for policy analysis and advocacy
- Understanding performance measures and utilization of the MPMP
- Using FIRs and MPMP data for financial analysis
- Interpreting FIR and MPMP data
- Accessing any municipal FIR and MPMP from your office

The focus is on the use of FIRs and MPMP as a policy or strategic tool to help the municipality dialogue on important issues that might not otherwise get attention and not about how to complete FIR or MPMP schedules. This is a full day session on Thursday, November 22nd in Thunder Bay.

The second session is the LAS and MFOA are offering a half-day seminar (9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) designed to help municipal staff and elected officials develop / refresh their understanding of the investment options available to Ontario municipalities.

Topics that will be covered at this session include:

- Municipal investment guidelines and rules
- Principles of cash management and forecasting

- Money market, bond and equity investment options
- Developing an investment strategy
- Using investments to plan for longer term infrastructure projects
- Investment case study from an area municipality

The seminar is designed for municipal staff and elected officials who are interested in investment options for their municipalities.

Budget:

Council Travel budget.

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

N/A