

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Minutes
Annual General Meeting
held Friday, March 1st, 2013
Killam Seniors Centre
4929 – 50th Street
Killam, Alberta

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m. by Chairman Barry Morishita.
- In Attendance: The List of Attendees is attached and forms part of these minutes.
- Introductions: All attendants were asked to introduce themselves and what jurisdiction they were representing.
- Agenda: Moved By: Arnold Hanson that the agenda be adopted as presented.
Carried Unanimously:
- Minutes: Moved By: George Jamieson that the minutes of the May 25th, 2012 Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented.
Carried Unanimously:
- Chairman's Report: Chairman Morishita gave a report on the activities undertaken by the Board of Directors over the past year.
- The Board has had meetings in all three zones of the Association. These meetings continue to be helpful to the Board to understand the issues and concerns about Highway 36 in all areas.
 - The Board met with the Minister of Transportation to discuss all the concerns raised by members about Highway 36. These included road side turnouts, pilot car training certification, highway repair and maintenance issues, signage, intersection problems, twinning of Highway 63 and the general condition of Highway 36. The Minister encouraged the Association to participate in the Province's 40 year strategic planning on highways. All attendees received a copy of the Ministers response regarding the meeting as well as the Departments detailed response to the issues put before the Minister. Chairman Morishita feels that the Association was well received by the Minister and that the Association established credibility with the presentation.

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Renumbering Highway 881

To Number 36:

Robert Richard of Lac La Biche County brought forward a letter from Lac La Biche County requesting the Association to support the County's request to have Highway 881 renumbered to Highway 36. The County feels that this would make a continuous ribbon of Highway under the same number and solidify the high load status of Highway 36. This will also make Highway 36 the second longest trade corridor highway in Alberta spanning 1,000 kilometres. The County will also need the support of all MLA's

Highway Conditions:

Highway 36 north of the Sheerness Power Plant and north of Castor is in dire need of major overlays and rehabilitation. Owen Francis of Special Areas did say that the work north of Sheerness had be scheduled but did not get done.

Railroad Intersections:

One of the biggest concerns is the location of major railway lines in proximity to major intersections, namely, Highway 36 intersecting with Highways 13, 14 and 16. It was suggested that the Board arrange to meet with railway representatives to discuss future traffic volumes or possible rail line construction at these high profile intersections.

Underground Utilities:

Elaine Sorochan advised that the issue of funder the replacement and relocation of underground infrastructure located under Highway 36 through the Town of Two Hills has been resolved. The project will be funded by Municipal, Provincial and the Oil and Gas Industry. Industry will fund 66.7i% of the costs of the project.

Bridges & Guardrails:

With this years snow an issue has come to light regarding guardrails on parts of the highway. In many areas snow does blow across the road where guardrails exist and then the snow can not be properly cleared to the side. The drifts continue to build creating driving hazards. The Transportation Department should look at alternatives to the guard rails such as cable barriers thereby allowing snow to be removed or where practical maybe having the guard rails removed permanently.

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- Road Site Pull Outs: Ben Elfring of the M.D. of Taber reported that the M.D. is working on a road side pull out project at Vauxhall. The project will be a partnership between the M.D., Vauxhall and Private Industry. The size of the site is approximately 14 acres.
- Other Issues: Some issues which the Board was asked to discuss further with Alberta Transportation.
- At the intersection of Highway 36 and Highway 45 there is a large truck stop area, however this stop does not have any services and drivers have to find transportation to bring into Two Hills for meals or motel rooms. The Town of Two Hills and the County of Two Hills would like to some type of services placed at the truck stop.
 - Alberta Transportation has removed some turn outs or approaches which used to allow some of the wide loads to pull off in order to let traffic through. If some of these approaches or pull outs could be replaced it would allow better traffic flow when wide loads are travelling the highway.
 - The new Minister of Tourism is Dr. Richard Starks, M.L.A. for Vermillion-Lloydminster and maybe Tourism and Culture could be approached whether the type of pull outs and rest area could be funded by grants from the department.
- Establishing Priorities: Chairman Morishita stated that under the Strategic Plan Review of the agenda we should start to establish the priorities for the Board to work on in the coming year.
- Financial Reports: The Secretary – Treasurer gave the Financial Report for the year ended August 31st, 2012. The Association holds no assets other than the bank account. For the period the Association had revenues in the amount of \$8,850.34 and expenditures of \$4,792.79. The net surplus is 9,969.61 made up of \$5,912.06 from the previous year and \$4,557.55 in the current year. Expenditures for the most part was used for Board Meetings, Annual Meeting and attendance at the Ports to Plains Conference in Medicine Hat.

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Moved By: Ben Elfring that the Financial Reports be accepted as presented.

Carried Unanimously:

ByLaw Amendment:

Moved By: Arnold Hanson that Section 7 of the Association ByLaws be amended as follows:
``The Board of Directors shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting of the Association. The Board of Directors shall be elected from the three (3) zones of The Association. Central Zone and South Zone shall elect three (3) representatives each and the North Zone shall elect five (5) representatives to the Board of Directors three (3) from District One (1) and two from District two (2).``

Carried Unanimously:

Moved By: Charles Girard that Section 8 of the Association ByLaws be amended as follows:
``North Zone``
Shall be divided into two districts. District one (1) shall be that area north of the north boundary of the County of Minburn No. 27 up to an including the north boundary of Lac La Biche County. District two (2) shall be all that area which lies north of the north boundary of Lac La Biche County.

Carried Unanimously:

Highway 881 to 36

Moved By: Robert Richard
That the Veterans Memorial Highway Association support Lac La Biche County`s request to the Government of Alberta to renumber Highway 881 to Highway 36 within the municipalities of Lac La Biche County and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Carried Unanimously:

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- Strategic Planning Discussion took place on a strategic plan for the upcoming year which will set priorities for the Board of Directors to work on.
- Maintenance Levels: Along Highway 36 there appears to be varying levels of service being provided from contractors. The Board of Directors is directed to get information as to what guidelines are set for maintenance levels and to what standards. There are different contractors for the zones and the Association needs to find out if the guidelines are different from area to area.
- Railway Crossings: Establish contact with Railway representatives for CN and CP and discuss future traffic volumes for the main lines at Highway 36 intersections with Highways 13, 14 and 16.
- Policies: Develop policies for advocacy and safety pertaining to Highway 36.
- Pull Outs/Rest Areas: Investigate whether potential grants may exist for the Legion Honorary signage for road side pull outs and rest areas.
Need to come up with a model plan how these pull outs and rest areas will be developed. If possible we can use the M.D. of Taber model for possible future development.
- Economic Development: Develop a strategy to enhance economic development along Highway 36. Take out memberships with the Rural Economic Development Associations which have Highway 36 within their respective boundaries.
- Website: Align our website with links to the REDA organizations.
- Moved By: Elaine Sorochan that the Association become associate or affiliate members of the Rural Economic Development Associations which contain Highway 36.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

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Election of Directors:

South Zone: The Secretary-Treasurer called for nominations for three (3) Directors to represent the South Zone.

Moved By: Ben Elfring
That Barry Morishita be nominated as a Director for the South Zone.

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Moved By: Ben Elfring
That Molly Douglass be nominated as a Director for the South Zone.

The Secretary-Treasurer requested for further nominations for the South Zone and with there being no further nominations declared that Ben Elfring, Barry Morishita and Molly Douglass elected as Directors for the South Zone.

Central Zone: The Secretary-Treasurer called for the nomination of three (3) Directors to represent the Central Zone.

Moved By: Garry Stevenson that Charlotte Curtis be nominated as a Director for the Central Zone.

Moved By: George Jamieson that Arnold Hanson be nominated as a Director for the Central Zone.

Moved By: Walter Weber that Charles Girard be nominated as a Director for the Central Zone.

Moved By: Elroy Yakemchuk that George Jamieson be nominated as a Director for the Central Zone.

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The Secretary-Treasurer called for further nominations for Director for the Central Zone and there being none an election as held to elect the three (3) Directors for the Central Zone.

Upon completion of the election the Secretary-Treasurer declared that Arnold Hanson, Charles Girard and George Jamieson elected as Directors for the Central Zone.

North Zone District 1

The Secretary-Treasurer called for nominations for the three (3) Directors to represent the North Zone District 1.

Moved By: George Jamieson that Robert Richard be nominated as a Director for the North Zone District 1.

Moved By: Arnold Hanson that Elroy Yekemchuk be nominated as a Director for the North Zone District 1.

Moved By: Elroy Yakemchuk that Elaine Sorochan be nominated as a Director for the North Zone District 1.

The Secretary-Treasurer called for further nominations and there not being any further nominations declared Robert Richard, Elaine Sorochan and Elroy Yakemchuk elected as Directors for the North Zone District 1.

The election of the two (2) directors for the North Zone District 2 shall take place at a later date.

Membership Fees:

Discussion was held regarding membership fees. It was the consensus of the members present that the fees remain unchanged.

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Adjournment: Moved By: Barry Morishita that the meeting be adjourned,

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary-Treasurer

DRAFT

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