

Minutes
Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
Held Friday, May 8th, 2015
Flagstaff County Administration Building
12435 – Township Road 442
Sedgewick, Alberta

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Vice-Chairman Elroy Yakemchuk.

In Attendance: The List of Attendees is attached and forms part of these minutes.

Welcome and Introductions: All attendees introduced themselves and from which jurisdiction they we're representing.

Minutes: Moved By: Michael Simpson that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held April 4th, 2014 be accepted as presented.

Carried Unanimously:

Financials: The Secretary-Treasurer summarized the Financial Statements for the year ended August 31st, 2014. He reminded members that the Association holds no assets other than the bank account. At year end the Association holds \$21,413.35 in the bank account. For the 2013/2014 operational year \$14,817.77 was received in revenue and \$5,745.60 was expended.

Moved By: Sonny Rajoo that the Financial Statement for the year ended August 31st, 2015 be accepted as presented.

Carried Unanimously:

Annual General Meeting

May 8th, 2015

Page – 2 –

Highway Brief

Project:

Chairman Yakemchuk asked Mr. Rick Siddle and Mr. Roger Cole to make a presentation about their work to date on the Highway 36/881 Project.

Mr. Siddle stated that the brief will be based on the importance of the Highways and that the projects identified and the background information are essential to the province and the region. Mr. Siddle and Mr. Cole will be meeting next week with Mr. Shaun Hammond of Alberta Transportation to discuss what long and short range plans are being considered for Highway 36 and 881. We already know that the Chin Coulee highway repair is in the works for repair and improvement for the subsiding problem.

Jane Stroud re-inforced the problem with 881 not having passing lanes on the long haul hills on the highway. David Rattray identified that the three Highway 36 and Railway Intersections are important safety concerns which have to be addressed.

Mr. Siddle presented a listing provided by Alberta Transportation for projects planned in the next three years. Richard Preston noted that the list showed a project identified a Safety Rest Area 1 km. north of Highway 12. Alberta Transportation already has started a project for a weight scale south of Highway 12. Mr. Siddle will check to see if this is a typing error. Mr. Cole has investigated the Pilot Car Training Program. Alberta Motor Transportation Association is taking the lead in starting a program by the spring of 2016 which will be a Certificate Program.

Mr. Siddle asked whether they should pursue an idea where a person could download a mobile app which would identify a wide/high load travelling on Highway 36 and 881 so that a person could determine when the load would be in the area they are travelling. It could prove usefull especially for farmers moving equipment at the same time. Many of the members expressed support for such an app. They wondered if this could work in conjunction with the TRAVIS System and 511. Mr. Siddle and Mr. Cole will pursue the idea with Alberta Transportation. The app could be included as part of the project brief.

Annual General Meeting

May 8th, 2015

Page – 3

Mr. Cole stated they are also looking at a remote traffic control system. With technology a heavy wide load could remotely stop traffic at the top of a long hill like the Chin Coulee so that a crossing could be done safely. Mr. Siddle and Mr. Cole said with the election of a new Provincial Government taking office who will have no idea of the Association there may be a delay in meeting with a new Minister. Michael Simpson felt we should write a letter to the Premier and the M.L.A.'s to introduce ourselves. Mr. Siddle will prepare a letter for the new Minister of Transportation and that the brief is a document which is meant to assist in future highway infrastructure improvements. Robert Richard feels that the Board should meet with the Minister as soon as possible to present the brief once completed. Wayne Hammergren suggested meeting with the Minister at once of the conferences being either AUMA or AAMD&C. Elroy Yakemchuk suggest meeting with the new caucus. Mr. Cole stated that with the lack of experience of a new Minister he/she will be dependent upon senior bureaucrats for recommendations on our final brief. Mr. Siddle stated it will be crucial that M.L.A.'s representing the Highways are supportive and that the Association should make every effort to get them involved. Arnold Hanson stated that the final brief be presented to caucus so we can talk about the issues and keep the projects front and center. Richard Preston said that with Highway 36 and 881 designated high load corridors then the highways have to be treated as such and have more importance than other highways. Arnold Hanson suggested that a meeting be held yearly for the high load corridor. Michael Simpson asked if the brief will be available to the media so that public discussion can be held about the improvements. Sonny Rajoo stated that it's important not to frustrate the media when the report is completed. Owen Francis wants our message to be consistent and that we make sure that the Transportation Regional Offices are kept informed. Sonny Rajoo feels it will take 2 years for the new government to feel comfortable so we must make sure that the bureaucrats are involved. Wayne Hammergren stated that the report should include pictures which support our message. Mr. Cole stated if pictures are available please forward them.

Annual General Meeting

May 8th, 2015

Page – 4 –

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Ben Elfring suggested a letter to the new Minister as soon as the appointment has been made so that the Association has visibility before we make the brief presentation. Richard Preston had a concern that Highway 41 was being presented as a Corridor and that the Association make sure that our focus is on Highway 36 and 881. Arnold Hanson said that the Highway 41 group wants a 24 hour crossing at Wild Horse. David Rattray said that the Highway 41 group has been very proactive. Sonny Rajoo said he feels that the U.S. government is not interested in having another 24 hour border crossing. Wayne Hammergren said that the American Highway which goes to Wild Horse needs a lot of work. Robert Richard said that we need to raise our profile by pushing the high load corridor and that Highway 36 is the second longest highway in the Province which serves as the gateway to the north east development. Ben Elfring also wanted mention of our relationship with the Legions. Michael Simpson stated that upgrades to Highway 36 and 881 would Represent a major benefit to the Province as a whole as well as eastern Alberta.

Election of
Directors

South Zone:

The Secretary-Treasurer called for nominations for three (3) Directors to represent the South Zone being that area south of the Red Deer River to the United States Border.

Moved By: Ben Elfring that Wayne Hammergren be nominated as a Director for the South Zone.

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Annual General Meeting
May 8th, 2015
Page – 5 -

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

The Secretary-Treasurer called for further nominations for the South Zone and there being no further nominations declared Wayne Hammergren, Ben Elfring and Barry Morishita elected as Directors to represent the South Zone on the Board of Directors.

Central Zone:

The Secretary-Treasurer called for nominations for three (3) Directors to represent the Central Zone being that area North of the Red Deer River to the north boundary of the County of Minburn.

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

Moved By: Sonny Rajoo that Michael Simpson be nominated as a Director for the Central Zone.

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

The Secretary-Treasurer called for further nominations for the Central Zone and there being no further nominations declared Arnold Hanson, Michael Simpson and David Rattray elected as Directors to represent the Central Zone on the Board of Directors.

North Zone

District 1:

The Secretary-Treasurer called for nominations for three (3) Directors to represent the North Zone District 1 being that area from the North Boundary of the County of Minburn to the north boundary of Lac La Biche County.

Annual General Meeting
May 8th, 2015
Page – 6 –

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

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

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

The Secretary-Treasurer called for further nominations and there being none declared Elroy Yakemchuk, Sonny Rajoo and Robert Richard elected as Directors to represent the North Zone District 1 on the Board of Directors.

North Zone
District 2

The Secretary-Treasurer called for the nomination of Two (2) Directors to represent North Zone District 2 being all that area north of the north boundary of Lac La Biche County.

Moved By: Robert Richard that Jane Stroud be nominated as a Director for North Zone District 2.

Moved By: Jane Stroud that Tyler Ault be nominated as a Director for North Zone District 2.

The Secretary-Treasurer called for further nominations and there being none declared Jane Stroud and Tyler Ault elected as Directors to represent the North Zone District 2 on the Board of Directors.

Membership
Fees:

Moved By: Arnold Hanson that the membership fees remain at \$0.10 per capita.

Carried Unanimously:

Annual General Meeting

May 8th, 2015

Page – 7 –

Adjournment: Moved By: Sonny Rajoo that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously:

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer