

Minutes  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Veterans Memorial Highway Association  
Held Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Viking Seniors Citizens Club  
5024 – 53 Avenue  
Viking, Alberta

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

In Attendance:	Elroy Yakemchuk	County of Two Hills
	Arnold Hanson	Beaver County
	Robert Richard	Lac La Biche County
	Jerry Haymour	Lac La Biche County
	Michael Simpson	Town of Vegreville
	Willie Babiuk	Town of Two Hills
	Wayne Hammergren	County of Newell
	Michael Yakielashek	Secretary-Treasurer

Rodger Cole	Guest
Rick Siddle	Guest

Agenda: Motion: Arnold Hanson that the agenda be accepted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously:

Highway 36/881

Project: Mr. Siddle and Mr. Cole had submitted a proposal upon the request of the Veterans Memorial Highway Association to make a report which builds a case why certain works are required to be done on Highway 36 and 881 which are beneficial to the Province in the movement of goods, services and people north and south Eastern Alberta. Mr. Cole and Mr. Siddle were in attendance to discuss their proposal. Mr. Siddle stated in creating this brief is should be focusing on the political making decision.

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The brief must make a case which has to have merit with the Minister of Transportation as well as with Caucus. They plan to use all the anecdote information which is available on the highways, good examples of what happens on the highways, more research on the high load corridor.

They will also spend time which will recognize the problems of a two lane highway and with it being the high/load corridor why these are different than other highways. It was identified in the Alberta Transportation 40 Strategic Plan that building staging areas are important to traffic movement.

Michael Simpson asked Mr. Siddle and Mr. Cole to investigate the issue of permits by the Province for Highway 36 and 881 as to their value and where the money ends up. Robert Richard agreed that this brief outlines the distinctive use of these highways in comparison to other highways in the Province. Michael Simpson also asked that tourism be a component of the brief. Mr. Cole stated that they will outline the use of the highways from shoulder to shoulder to show the diversity of the traffic. Arnold Hanson asked that we tie in business and economic development opportunities, understand the limitations the highways present and how strong future growth depends upon infrastructure improvements. Wayne Hammergren asked whether the media would be involved. Mr. Siddle said we could investigate possibilities such as a media tour and a briefing once the report is complete. Michael Simpson stated that crash data is not that valuable and that we talk to people who feel that the highways are unsafe from personal experiences. Arnold Hanson would like to see the report identify municipalities which have an interest in developing a partnership for construction of rest stop areas for high/load truck traffic. The Secretary-Treasurer will provide Mr. Siddle and Mr. Cole with names of municipal contacts. Michael Simpson feels that the Province can fund infrastructure improvements through Ministerial Levys from potential economic growth improved highway could generate.

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Mr. Cole asked whether Regional Directors are aware of the Association and what we are looking for. Alberta Transportation is aware of the Association, has attended meetings, provided some information, but have been neutral in their answers to questions about long term improvements needed. Jerry Hamour said that it seems that highway development or improvements comes with economic activity such as the development in Conklin which generate needed road improvements.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Cole and Mr. Siddle in their proposal had outlined a number of stakeholders which they would contact and asked the Board about others who they should also talk to. The Board offered the following.

Coalition for Highway 63/881	Ports to Plains Alliance
Economic Development Officers	Ambulance Services
RCMP	Fire Departments
Voker Severn	Carillion

Mr. Siddle asked that the Association write a letter of introduction to all members for support so when contacted the members will be forthcoming with information. Mr. Siddle and Mr. Cole are developing the approach to the brief so that the messaging will represent all the members and stakeholders. The use of Press Releases usually has marginal benefit, but they will look at a strategy for media. Mr. Cole added that information for members will go through the Secretary – Treasurer for continuity. Mr. Siddle also will look at imagery, video and power point so that the Association can use the brief for presentations other than just the Province. Mr. Siddle stated they are looking at August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 as a completion date. Robert Richard asked Mr. Siddle and Mr. Cole to investigate why the high/load corridor identifies Highway 36 and 881, but in some areas you have to detour around and come back.

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We do not know why this happens is it because of power lines or other problems.

Vice – Chairman Yakemchuk thanked Mr. Siddle and Mr. Cole for coming and discussing the project.

Service Contract: Motion: Arnold Hanson that the Vice-Chairman sign the Service Contract between the Veterans Memorial Highway Association and Mr. Siddle and Mr. Cole in order to begin the project.

Carried Unanimously:

Minutes: The minutes of the February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 South Zone Meeting and the Board Directors Meeting were presented to the Board.

Motion: Michael Simpson that the minutes of the South Zone Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting held on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously:

Financials: The Secretary – Treasurer presented the Accounts Payable Listing dated March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Cash Statement for the month ended February 28, 2015 and the Operational Budget Control for the month ended February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Motion: Arnold Hanson that the Financial Reports be accepted as presented.

Carried Unanimously:

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Annual Meeting: The Board advised the Secretary- Treasurer to plan the Annual General Meeting for Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Adjournment: Motion: Robert Richard that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously:

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 P.M.

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Vice-Chairman

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Secretary-Treasurer