

Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
Veterans Memorial Highway Association
held Friday, May 6, 2011
Alberta Room, County of Paintearth No. 18
Castor, Alberta

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:35 A.M. By Chairman Barry Morishita.

In Attendance: Barry Morishita City of Brooks
George Jamiesen County of Minburn
Arnold Hansen Beaver County
Sonny Rajoo Town of Two Hills
Charles Girard Town of Hanna

Absent: Molly Douglass County of Newell
Peter Kirylchuk Lac La Biche County
Ben Elfring M. D. of Taber
Elroy Yakemchuk County of Two Hills

Administration Michael Yakielashek Secretary – Treasurer

Agenda: Moved By: Charles Girard Seconded By: George Jamiesen
That the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously:

Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of the Strategic Plan and Annual Meeting and the Board of Directors Meeting held on April 1st, 2011.

Moved By: Arnold Hanson Seconded By: Sonny Rajoo
That the minutes of the April 1st, 2011 Strategic Plan, Annual Meeting and Board of Directors meeting be accepted as presented.

Carried Unanimously:

Financials: The Board reviewed the Accounts Payable Listing dated May 6, 2011, the Cash Statement for the month ended March 31st, 2011 and the Budget Control for period ended March 31st, 2011.

Moved By: Charles Girard Seconded By: Arnold Hanson
That the Accounts Payable Listing, Cash Statement and Budget Control be accepted as presented.

Carried Unanimously:

Old Business:

Video Conferencing: Board Members were to check whether they could get access to video conferencing capabilities. The Board would like to try and hold meetings

Ben Elfring entered the meeting at 10:43 A.M.
All members present have access to video conferencing equipment The Board in the future will try to use the systems.

Executive
Director:

The Board was notified that Michael Yakielashek will continue to do administration for the time being.

Strategic Plan:

Larry Davidson, Economic Development Officer for Paintearth Economic Partnership Society was asked to join the meeting at 10:45 A.M. Chairman Morishita asked Mr. Davidson to discuss with the Board his investigation into grant programs to facilitate the strategic plan. Mr. Davidson presented to the Board the work, which needed to be done under the strategic plan. The estimated grant application would be in the amount of \$96,000.00. The two grants being investigated is the RADF program through the Province of Alberta and the Community Development Program administered by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

The RADF will not fund any capital except for small items such as computers, etc. RADF also wants to see a larger project which would take 2 to 3 years and be sustainable after the project is completed. The Community Development Program must be completed by 2013. This program is a 50/50 cost share basis. Mr. Davidson with the Board's support sees the project over a 4 year period.

- Year 1 Study the impact of Highway 36 and Economic Development and Tourism to the region and the Province of Alberta.
- Year 2 Show the overall impact Highway 36 has on the Province of Alberta, the Eastern Corridor, Canada and the United States.
- Year 3 Promotion of the use of Highway 36 in Alberta, Canada and the United States.
- Year 4 Provide a report what the long term 20 to 50 year benefits would be economically to Alberta, Canada and the United States.

These studies would reflect cross board trades issues, connectivity and the credibility of the Highway. The studies have to address issues from industry various trade organizations, and marketing. Under the RADF program we have to look at the bigger picture. Cost estimates would be in the \$300,000.00 to \$350,000.00 range. We need to produce a transportation package for MLA's to expand our lobby efforts. The VMHA must become a sustainable organization. In addition, the studies need to address industries such as agriculture, metals and tourism under the long term goals.

The Association needs to develop a Power Point Presentation to make presentations to potential partnerships and cooperative working relationships. The Association should consider membership to the Ports to Plains. A draft letter of support will be circulated to members for review. Industry will also be contacted for support. Legions along the Highway will be asked for support and Directors will contact local legions.

Chairman Morishita thanked Mr. Davidson for his report and Mr. Davidson left the meeting room at 11:20 A.M.

Board Policies:

The Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to develop and draft policies for the Board of Directors on the following items.

- Meetings: In person and video conferencing
- Expenses: \$200.00 limit for administration

