

MINUTES

ZONE 3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION ASSOCIATION JUNE 3, 2005 AT SYLVAN LAKE

- IN ATTENDANCE:** Jack Ramsden – Three Hills, Dale Mather – Innisfail, Carey Keleman – Innisfail, Velma Keeler – Rocky Mountain House, Larry Holdstead – Rocky Mountain House, Ken Kendall – Lacombe, Bob Jenkins – Lacombe, Michelle Smith – Elnora, Rick Binnendyk – Penhold, Norbert Van Wyk – Red Deer, Andy Weiss – Bowden, Therese Kleeberger – Eckville, Helen Dietz – Sylvan Lake, Brenda Christie – Three Hills, Myra Reiter – S.V. of Sylvan Lake, Nita Bartholow – Town of Sundre, Therese Myndio – City of Wetaskiwin, Jay Merchant – Red Deer County, June Boyda – Town of Millet, Myron Thompson – Town of Sylvan Lake, Susan Wood – Town of Rocky Mountain House, Elaine Campbell – Town of Sylvan Lake, Lavinia Henderson – Kneehill County, Elizabeth Smart – Town of Bentley, Curtis Herzberg – Town of Ponoka, Jeannette Austin – Town of Carstairs, Darryl Joyce – Olds, Gary Sandberg & Mina Montroy – Alberta Municipal Affairs, Ed Marchak - AUMA.
- CALL TO ORDER** Zone Director Darryl Joyce called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.
- WELCOME** Richard Horncastle, Economic Development Officer from Sylvan Lake, brought greetings on behalf of the Town.
- PRESENTATION** Zone Director Darryl Joyce presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Curtis Herzberg for his service as Zone Director for Zone #7.
- AGENDA** The following items were added to the agenda:
- 8d) Policy on Local Government certification
 - 8e) Lot prices around the zone
- MINUTES** The minutes of the October 1, 2004 zone meeting were reviewed and accepted without any changes.
- CAUCUS SESSION #1** **Dialog With Alberta Municipal Affairs**
- Gary Sandberg and Mina Montroy attended. Items noted included:
- Municipal Affairs will be going out to municipalities regarding changes to the Local Authorities Election Act. Additional election discussion included:
 - Norbert Van Wyk commented the Local Authorities Election Act was a big concern to the City of Red Deer as the review was being done by an M.L.A. committee. He also felt the timing was bad as at least one and a half years was needed, prior to the next election, to implement changes.
 - Discussion also took place about voter identification and, under the current system, the ability for some voters to vote more than once.
 - Rocky Mountain House indicated they tried not to use staff as Returning Officers.
 - Vote on Bylaws was discussed and the inability on non-resident business owners to have a democratic say in these votes.

- Courses will be put on over the Municipal Excellence program and Subdivision and Development Appeal Boards.
- Special grants, for “needy” municipalities was discussed and Michelle Smith expressed concerns the grant “tweaking” excluded small communities that were responsible with their millrates.
- Gary stated the Minister would like a fully funded program that is predictable.
- Rick Binnendyk asked about linear assessment and sharing this assessment with urban municipalities. A lengthy discussion ensued with the following being noted:
 - Bob Jenkins stated the Province should recognize some assessment should be to the benefit of the entire Province.
 - Norbert expressed concern that, under the current self reporting system, there is no audit process.
 - Gary acknowledged some of the concerns and mentioned Assessment Services would be coming out to put on assessment sessions.
- Norbert noted the ambulance funding and stated the change in funding was not appreciated and wanted Gary to take back, to the Minister, the comment that municipalities did not want the Minister to lose site of this issue.
- Gary mentioned the Minister of Municipal Affairs was advocating transitional funding for another year.
- Darryl commented municipalities over 5,000 did not want the Minister to stop advocating for equitable police funding.
- Bob Jenkins expressed concern over accounting of municipal fixed assets and the push, by the accounting community, to change the accounting practice.
- Gary mentioned the Municipal Sponsorship Grant had 500,000 added to the program with data collection applications, under the MIMS program, being fast tracked. Gary also commented, the \$40,000 for MIMS data collection would count as a single municipality enhanced application and the municipality could not apply for a second single municipality enhanced grant.

CAUCUS SESSION #2 LGAA President Report/Zone Director Report/Board Retreat Report

President Lavinia Henderson gave a verbal report highlighting:

- New municipal interns in 2005
- Three training workshops had just been done.
- The Board is looking at additional training workshops in the fall.
- The LGAA has been given the opportunity for six people to sit on an assessment focus group.

Michelle Smith asked if the LGAA would be willing to have another minutes session in Red Deer.

Zone Director Darryl Joyce gave his report highlighting:

- New members in the zone
- 2005 Conference was another success and the 2006 Conference had been scheduled for March 22nd to 24th next year. Zone 3 is going to be the showcase zone.
- Trade show contract has been awarded to Double Dutch for a second year.

- The LGAA is starting work on information and brochures to promote our profession. Barb Kowalchuk is taking the lead on this project.
- Education sessions, at the AUMA convention, were discussed with the preferred LGAA topic being Mediation and Negotiation.
- Municipal Affairs would like to become more active with the Trade Show and zone meetings. There could be additional financial incentives.
- Attended the Quebec Association of Municipal Administrators conference in Sherbrooke from May 17th to May 21st.

CAUCUS SESSION #3 Election of Zone 3 Director

Lavinia Henderson assumed the chair and called for nominations for Zone 3 Director.

Bob Jenkins nominated Darryl Joyce who accepted the nomination.

Lavinia called for nominations a second and third time and, with none being received, declared Darryl Joyce elected by acclamation.

CAUCUS SESSION #4 Open Discussion

Ambulance Funding

Norbert Van Wyk highlighted the process the City of Red Deer went through to determine that 4 million dollars of health care costs were imbedded in their emergency services. After the ambulance transition was cancelled the City decided they needed to fight this battle and were very discouraged by comments the City would “pay for this”.

Ken Kendall noted he was part of the AUMA committee and provided technical support to AUMA staff during negotiations. He commented he was concerned that nobody seemed to be getting any updates on the two pilot projects.

Wrongful Dismissal Insurance Coverage

Darryl mentioned the Town of Olds found out the AUMA’s wrongful dismissal coverage did not really cover the Town at all and wondered if anyone knew when this coverage would actually pay out. Olds had found out the Ten thousand dollar deductible was not the maximum the Town would pay, therefore, the deductible provided a false sense of security.

Internship Program

Darryl presented a list of all the interns that had been hired for 2005/2006.

Policy on LGA Certification

Discussion took place about whether some municipalities had policies on how many staff could enroll in the LGA program.

LUNCH

Recessed for lunch, sponsored by Tagish Engineering and Parkland Community Planning Services at 12 noon. Mayor Brian Lambertson joined the group for lunch.

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

CAUCUS SESSION #5 Ed Marchak - AUMA

Ed Marchak, from AUMA, attended with the following discussion items noted:

- In the 2005 Municipal Sponsorship Program 5 points have been added for “green” projects
- A data gathering component, using MIMS, has been added and Ed suggested doing it as an intermunicipal project and then applying for the rest of the entitlement as a single municipal enhanced.
- AUMA has an application template ready to go for MIMS applications.
- Ed and Gary emphasized that, even with the new MIMS application, municipalities cannot do a MIMS project AND a single municipal enhanced project unless one of them is an intermunicipal application.
- Under the Provinces new Infrastructure grant municipalities can use the grant as their matching funds for other grants (ie. ICAP or SIP).
- ICAP 2 is being introduced as MRIF, however, will not be based on a per capital entitlement, but on an application by application basis as many municipalities did not use this grant the first time around. AUMA still lobbying Province and Feds as the main reason was these municipalities could not afford their matching requirement. With new infrastructure grant they will now be able to match.
- Federal Fuel tax grant will not be as straight forward as initially hoped. Feds have added a condition which will be for municipalities to include an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan with their application. Within this ICSP will be the multi-year capital infrastructure plan. The Federal Government is planning to meet this fall to determine what an ICSP will be, as they currently don’t know what one looks like, and then, by January 2006 we might be able to apply for the money.
- On July 19th and 20th the AUMA will be holding a Presidents Summit on Community Sustainability where there will be a session on developing Community Sustainability plans. Ironically, the Federal Government is going to register a number of staff to learn about these plans.
- Norbert Van Wyk asked what the AUMA was doing to hold the Province to its promise on Ambulance.
- Policing was discussed with the comment that AUMA needs to continue to lobbying the Provincial Government for equal funding for all municipalities (ie. Province funds all policing costs for first 5,000 population).

CAUCUS SESSION #4 Open Discussion – Con’t

Lot Prices in the Region

Liz Smart asked obtained feedback on what residential lots were selling for in comparably sized municipalities.

NEXT ZONE MEETING

It was decided the next zone meeting would be jointly held, in Three Hills, by The Town of Three Hills and Kneehill County on September 30, 2005. Five door prizes were then given out to those in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.