

# MINUTES

## ZONE 3

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION ASSOCIATION JUNE 23, 2006 AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

---

- IN ATTENDANCE:** Debbie Bobocel – Delburne, Bernice Birtsch – Rimbey, Maureen Malaka – Trochu, Velma Keeler – Rocky Mountain House, Larry Holstead – Rocky Mountain House, Norbert Van Wyk – Red Deer, Dale Mather – Innisfail, Tim Ainscough – Innisfail, Jodi Drozda – Lacombe, Nina Gales – Olds, Cameron Mills – County of Wetaskiwin, Elizabeth Smart – Bentley, Nita Bartholow – Sundre, Bob Jenkins – Lacombe, Rick Binnendyk – Penhold, Lavinia Henderson – Kneehill County, Brenda Christie – Three Hills, Betty Quinlan – Ponoka, Curtis Herzberg – Ponoka, Darryl Joyce – Olds, Elly Martin – Rocky Mountain House, Victoria Brown – Municipal Affairs, Brian Reid – Infrastructure and Transportation, Astro Man – Infrastructure & Transportation, Don Heustis – Emergency Management Alberta.
- CALL TO ORDER** Zone Director Darryl Joyce called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m.
- WELCOME** Mayor Jim Bague brought greetings on behalf of the Town of Rocky Mountain House.
- AGENDA** The agenda was accepted as presented.
- MINUTES** The September 30, 2005 zone meeting minutes were accepted as presented.
- CAUCUS SESSION #1** **Dialogue With Municipal Affairs – Victoria Brown**
- Victoria Brown, from Municipal Affairs, gave an update on happenings within Municipal Affairs. Highlights of the presentation included:
- The Minister’s Council on Municipal Sustainability continues with four committees tasked with various responsibilities:
    - The first committee, led by the City of Calgary, is looking at new municipal revenue sources which includes: new taxes, transfer payments from the Province and the elimination of the education tax requisition.
    - The second committee is looking at the roles and responsibilities issue.
    - The third committee, led by the City of Edmonton, is looking at intermunicipal relationships including: land use planning, amalgamations and annexations.
    - The fourth committee is looking at the recommendations of the other three committees and determining what the implications are for small urban and rural municipalities.
  - A question was asked about the linear assessment issue and it was noted, by Norbert, the administration of the self reporting system is flawed and needs to be reviewed.
  - On the Targeted Investment Initiative 10 million dollars was distributed to 123 municipalities. The program is intended to provide assistance to municipalities that have the least ability to raise funds. They do not have Treasury Board approval to continue this as a permanent program. Discussion took place about the formula and the need to review it.

- The Municipal Sponsorship grant should be announced in early July with funding around 13.5 million dollars. No details were provided, however, it was noted the application process will be substantially streamlined.
- The Regulated Rate Review has been completed and it looks like, on average, everything is going up 5%. That does not include Telecomm which is seeing a substantial decrease of approximately 32.5% and Cable with a decrease of 32%. This will certainly hit urban municipalities the most.
- Norbert brought up the Cross Ministry initiative to look at land use planning issues across the Province. Victoria commented she would send this information to each zone directors with the details.
- Darryl commented the internship program was working well and he had heard the department was looking at internships for assessors and planners.
- Victoria concluded by noting the Municipal Excellence website was seeing a complete overhaul and she asked if anyone had problems if Municipal Affairs put municipal website links (to bylaws and other information) on this website. Nobody expressed any concerns.

## CAUCUS SESSION #2

### Alberta Infrastructure & Transportation – Brian Reid

Brian Reid, from the Red Deer office of Alberta Infrastructure & Transportation, attended to do a presentation on the new infrastructure project application process, 10 year capital plans and the reporting criteria and forms for all of the grants. In addition to the PowerPoint presentation (to be included with the minutes) highlights of his presentation included:

- The Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program grant (AMIP) was meant to address deferred projects, not to reduce taxes.
- The Multi-Year Capital Plan was meant to be used as our plan and used by Infrastructure to meet the requirement of the Province.
- AMIP was recently amended to include police stations as core projects.
- AMIP is a ten year program with payments over the first five years.
- Payments, for the first three years, will be based on the estimated 2006 federal census numbers with the last two payments being adjusted to reflect the actual census numbers. This means, if the population growth of your individual municipality, doesn't keep up with the average then the last two payments will actually decrease as the redistribution takes place. This rewards high growth municipalities.
- The recent letter, from the Minister of Transportation, was misleading as it led people to believe they had already been approved, for the 2006 grants. The letter should have indicated the required reporting still needed to be done to receive the grants.
- The New Deal program was underway and it was looking like there would be two payments per year.
- This program would use the same forms as AMIP and SIP meaning a MYCIP would be required in addition to a Community Sustainability Plan.
- CAMRIF was recently unveiled and Brian suggested it might be a good program for regional water and wastewater systems.

## CAUCUS SESSION #3

### LGAA President Report/Zone Director Report

Due to time issues Caucus Session #4 was moved before lunch. President Lavinia Henderson gave a verbal report highlighting:

- She welcomed the Municipal Interns to the meeting.
- The LGAA session, at the AUMA convention, will be on the Tangible Capital Assets issue.
- The Conference Organizing Committee needs help.
- There has been minimal interest in the two LGAA scholarships.

Zone Director Darryl Joyce gave his report highlighting:

- Thanked Rocky Mountain House for stepping up and organizing the zone meeting at the last minute.
- Many changes on the Board over the last year including new 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Norm McInnis and a new Communications Coordinator, Stacy Byer.
- With the growth in conference numbers the association will now be using the area where the banquet is held instead of 1/2.
- For the first time ever LGAA attended the AAMD&C spring convention and trade show with our trade show booth.
- The 2006 budget has \$400 for each zone, \$200 from Municipal Affairs, for zone expenses.
- A laptop is being purchased to complement the projector that was purchased last year. Should alleviate any technical issues which have occasionally happened in the past.
- LGAA participating in a major marketing initiative, with ARMAA, SLGM, AUMA and AAMD&C in order to attract more people into a career in local government. Hoping for \$150,000 in funding from Municipal Affairs.
- Thanked everyone who helped out at the annual conference.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

Darryl presented Curtis Herzberg and Tim Ainscough with their five year LGAA pins.

#### **LUNCH**

Recessed for lunch, sponsored by Stantec Consulting Ltd., at 12:10 p.m. The meeting room was sponsored by Haywood Holmes & Partners.

#### **RECONVENE**

The meeting reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

#### **CAUCUS SESSION #4**

##### **Emergency Management Alberta – Don Heustis**

Don Heustis, from Emergency Management Alberta, attended to do a presentation on happenings within his department. Highlights included:

- Instead of providing training grants, EMA have hired two training officers to put on this training.
- \$175,000 in grants were approved, in 2006, for municipalities.
- The Minister has approved \$150,000 in Search and Rescue grants for 2007 as well as \$350,000 for municipalities.
- Under the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) the Department likes to see upgrades to EOC's. This could include gen sets and communications upgrades.
- It was noted, under JEPP, Sylvan Lake got funding for an electronic smart board.

#### **CAUCUS SESSION #5**

##### **Open Discussion**

Topics included, in the open discussion, included

- Discussion about Environment Canada interfering with discharge of lagoon water matters leading to multi-jurisdictional issues.

- The issue of linear assessment was discussed again with Norbert noting the City of Red Deer did have a franchise agreement with Shaw Cable which was over and above the linear assessment issue.
- Darryl raised the zone funding issue and asked everyone to think of some ideas for using this annual funding.
- Larry brought up the issue of illegal suites and asked if anyone else had this problem. Some discussion took place over this issue.
- Norbert mentioned the City of Red Deer's long range growth plans which included population of 300,000 and the industrial land annexation that was currently ongoing.

**PRESENTATION**

Darryl presented Debbie Bobocel with a card, flowers and a gift as she was leaving Alberta, to further her career in B.C., and this would be the last meeting she would be attending.

**NEXT ZONE MEETING**

It was decided the next zone meeting would be held in Olds on September 29, 2006. Door prizes were then given out to those in attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.