

LGAA Zone 4 Meeting – October 25, 2006 – Holden

- ◆ We had 18 municipalities represented at this meeting, including potential new members..
- ◆ Meeting was held in Holden so we could be sure to congratulate Christine MacKay who is retiring as CAO in Holden after 28 years, she was presented with gifts from the members of Zone 4. (LGAA Coffee Carafe, Zone 4 will pay her registration fees for 2007 LGAA Convention in Red Deer and several balls of yarn so she can continue to knit)

TOPICS DISCUSSED

- ◆ **Tangible Capital Assets**

Chris Parkins, Manager of Financial Advisory Services at Alberta Municipal Affairs was in attendance and made a presentation on Tangible Capital Assets.
- ◆ She provided overview of the program, reasons for what is being done, important dates and municipal implications; she advised not to panic as we do have some time to get this in place. She advised Alberta Transportation did a similar type project about 10 years ago and had a process to establish capitalization of assets.
- ◆ She advised there will be regular updates from the steering committee and that Alberta Municipal Affairs is planning Training Seminars for finance personnel in spring of 2007. She also answered other numerous queries from those in attendance.
- ◆ The definition of exactly what is a capital asset garnered considerable discussion as it varies from community to community
- ◆ **Grants**
 - ◆ **Municipal Sponsorship Program**
 - ◆ Question was posed if anyone had heard about Municipal Sponsorship Grants, but no one had received a reply to date
 - ◆ Comments were received that the application process was a lot easier this time and the bonuses for projects inter-municipal and priority were thought to be good ideas
 - ◆ Larger communities such as Vegreville found the new formula penalized them greatly in the amount of funding they could access under this program
 - ◆ **CFEP or CIP Programs**
 - ◆ Concern expresses that when you make application you never receive a confirmation that the application was ever received
 - ◆ Most grants require you not start the project until grant is approved but some communities have done the project and then applied for grants to reduce the debt incurred by the project
 - ◆ Members felt specific application dates and deadlines would be beneficial for these programs

◆ **General Discussion**

- ◆ Discussion was briefly held on following topics
 - ◆ Levels of Service for Fire Departments
 - ◆ Commercial Lease Rates for Municipal Owned Buildings
 - ◆ Employee to Research and Complete Grant Applications

◆ **2007 LGAA Convention in Red Deer**

- ◆ Zone 4 is the zone scheduled to provide entertainment at the LGAA convention next March. We will have our next meeting in January or February in Tofield and members were urged to bring suggestions of what can be done to this meeting
- ◆ Since Zone 4 will also be the feature zone we will also we need to supply door prizes, brochures etc.

◆ **Future Meetings & Potential Topics**

- ◆ Forestberg will be hosting Small Communities Conference March 29 – 31, 2007
- ◆ Kitscoty will be hosting the ATCO Electric Workshop on April 12, 2007 and theme will be Roles of Members on Voluntary Organizations
- ◆ Next Zone 4 Meeting Date – to be in Tofield on February 16th, 2007
 - ◆ Convention Skit and Displays
- ◆ Late May/Early June Zone 4 Meeting to be held in Sedgewick
 - ◆ Orientation Packages – everyone to bring what they provide after an election to newly elected officials.
- ◆ Other Agenda Suggestions
 - ◆ Citizen Engagement & Community Visions – Citizens Advisory Groups (how to establish and the value from these groups).
 - ◆ Expanding the Intern Program for time and to allow it to be of benefit to smaller communities
 - ◆ Tangible Capital Assets – Follow Up