

Minutes

Friday October 8, 2004
LGAA Zone 7/ ARMAA Zone 4
Fall Spring Zone Meeting

The meeting was held at the Provincial Building in Fairview. Thank you to the Town of Fairview and the M.D. of Fairview for hosting today's meeting and providing lunch and snacks.

Present: Sharon Unrau (Village of Nampa), Irene Cooper (Birch Hills County), Greg Scerbak (City of Grande Prairie), Harry Aspin (Village of Berwyn), Ken Morgan (Town of High Prairie), Bob Miles (Northern Sunrise County), Penny Fox (LGAA Zone Director), Christene Livingstone (Village of Hythe), Gerard Nicolet (Town of Falher), Kevin Miner (Saddle Hills County), Lloyd Johnston (Town of Fairview) Joyce Sydnes (M.D. of Peace #135), Robert Jorgensen (M.D. of Fairview), Faye Kary (M.D. of Northern Lights), John Eriksson (M.D. of Big Lakes), Sandy Isaac (Village of Rycroft), Linda Winnerstrom (Town of Spirit River), Leanne Walmsley (Village of Hines Creek), Cathie Bailey (Town of Grimshaw), Jeff Renaud (M.D. of Big Lakes), Diane Hunter (Town of High Level), BillKostiw (M.D. of Clear Hills).

Call to Order: Bob Miles called the meeting to order at 10:12. Introductions were made of all those in attendance. Penny Fox will take the minutes of this meeting.

Agenda: The agenda was adopted as presented.

Minutes: Minutes of the spring meeting were distributed.

10:10 Dan Dibbelt, Economic Development Officer, Northern Sunrise County

Dan made a presentation to the group about the economic development initiatives currently taking place in the region. Information was presented on the Northern Beef Initiative, PREDA - Peace Regional Economic Development Alliance and Branding the Peace.

10:45 – Mandy Shum - Alberta Transportation, .

Mandy presented the "Sign Up Alberta" information package. The province has recently initiated a new highway sign policy and tourism and services signs will be changing. Managers from the Peace River office were also present to answer questions in regards to the new policies and how they will affect the region.

11:30 Mark Cooper, Municipal Affairs

Mark gave a presentation on the results of the recent C.A.O survey done by Ipsos Reid. He focused on the highlights of the survey and was able to show comparisons with the last survey in 2002. The results verify that municipalities are going to continue having difficulty finding management staff in the years to come. Training is also an issue that was addressed and Mark is working with municipal affairs to see if training in the common areas of concern can be achieved in the new year.

12:00 Tara Gerke and Rainer Semler, AUMA

They presented a package of information on the membership services offered by AUMA. A variety of information on their membership programs, potential new services, insurance, risk control and the benefits program was presented. Information on the energy aggregation, natural gas program and munishare was also given. There was also a short question and answer period.

12:45 Lunch - A delicious lunch was provided compliments of the M.D. of Fairview and the Town of Fairview.

1:30 Kevin Dewhirst - Occupational Health & Safety

Kevin did a powerpoint presentation about the occupational health and safety act and how some of the recent changes require attention to training, workplace violence and noise control. He also provided information on the importance of establishing the "prime contractor" role at each work site and that documentation is essential. Hazard assessment of each work site is also critical and is often overlooked. He stressed the importance of management to make sure staff are following the regulations.

1:15 - John Scott, ASSET Project Manager, Alberta Municipal Affairs

John gave an update on what has been happening on ASSET since his presentation at our last zone meeting. He also provided each municipality with their own assessment reports. He gave a complete breakdown of each of the reports available to administrators using the system.

2:00 - Gary Sandberg, Karen Wronko, Municipal Affairs

Gary thanked the group for inviting him and Karen to the meeting. This is the third time he has attended our meetings and appreciates being able to participate. He introduced Karen and then they proceeded to present information on what they have been hearing from our group (and other administrators). Gary stated that what he has heard in zone 7 is similar to that heard across the province. Karen broke their information into 4 main topics:

Advocacy - municipalities want the department to advocate on municipal issues to other provincial departments and to help those other departments understand the importance of the issues.

Information/Advice - the department should be the information source for municipalities.

Engagement - administrators are looking for some contact with municipal affairs staff. The department needs to be present and include municipalities in decision making before decisions are thrust upon them. Advisors should be out and about visiting municipalities. The department should take on more training that is targeted, quick, focused and spread throughout the province.

Dollars - there should be a guide to all grants, modify and make it easier to get at the grant money (forget the complicated formulas). Grant approval needs to be faster as by the time the grant is approved the quotes are too old or the construction season has passed.

Other topics - the assessor internship also needs support as there is an immediate need in that field.

Move to total market value assessment across the board or at least upgrade all the regulated assessment.

2:30 Bob Miles, ARMAA Zone 4

Bob asked if there were any topics on which he and Penny could work together to host training sessions here in the northwest region. The topic of budget and strategic planning was one of the topics identified in the CAO survey. If the province is going to move forward with this training than we would like to be a pilot project for that training.

2:45 - Zone Reports

Penny Fox, Zone 7 LGAA - Penny read a report from President Brad Watson. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Bob Miles, Zone 4 ARMAA - Bob gave an update of activities, a brief review of the conference recently held in Rocky Mountain House and a brief explanation of the Municipal Wildfire Committee that is in place.

3:00 Next Meeting - The Town of High Prairie will host the next meeting on April 22, 2005.

Adjourn: We adjourned at 3:15 - Happy Thanksgiving to All!

2:30 Association Reports:

Penny Fox, Director Zone 7 LGAA, brought greetings on behalf of President Brad Watson. Brad had faxed a report for the group which Penny read. Brad is moving out of the zone and he will be missed by the group.

Bob Miles, Director Zone 4 ARMAA – reported on his recent visit to the Manitoba (MMAA's) Conference. There are many similar activities and concerns between the two associations. Bob also offered to put together any other meetings/workshops of interest that would be helpful to the group prior to the fall zone meeting. Call Bob at 780-625-0013 for any ARMAA questions.

Next Meeting; A date of Friday, October 8, 2004 was set for the next meeting. Lloyd Johnston of the Town of Fairview offered to host.

Adjourn: Moved by John Eriksson that the meeting adjourn at 3:08