

Minister Meetings Continue *Three minister meetings kept the AMM executive hopping on February 15. Here is a recap of the issues discussed during those meetings.*

Minister of Labour and Immigration, Nancy Allan

The AMM began the meeting with Minister Allan by raising the issue of silent floor joists. This resolution was carried at the AMM Convention and has had some recent media attention. The Minister noted that the Building Standards Board, which the AMM participates on, is reviewing this issue.

Regarding province-wide 911 subscriptions, the AMM informed the Minister that a resolution concerning this issue was also passed by the AMM membership.

The AMM raised the issue of traffic control and compensation for motor vehicle accidents with Minister Allan. This is a concern for municipalities as it is not a municipal responsibility, yet municipal fire departments are forced to control traffic at accident scenes. The AMM also expressed concerns with increased fire inspections being required. The Minister indicated that there is some confusion on this issue, and the intent is to require inspections on the high hazard areas only.

The need to increase funding for mutual aid districts (MADs) was also discussed. The Minister explained that not all MADs use the money allocated. She committed to providing the AMM with a list of districts that are using all of their funding, as this appears to be a regional concern.

Finally, the AMM thanked the Minister for the speedy resolution of the Architects and Engineers Act issue and the cooperation of the department.

Minister of Industry, Economic Development and Mines, Jim Rondeau

The AMM opened the meeting with Minister Rondeau by raising the issue of increases to the Mining Aggregate Fees. The department indicated that this was last increased in 1992 to 4.4 cents. The levy is under regulations in the Municipal Act but the department along with IAT is willing to look at this issue.

The AMM also raised the issue of taxation on gravel pits with the Minister. The department indicated that there was some confusion around this issue, and committed to providing a clear overview of this issue for the AMM that could be used in the AMM magazine.

On the issue of cleaning up contaminated sites, the Province indicated that since 2000, it has put \$1M into efforts in this area. The Province has also been working with companies on the rehabilitation plans, and there is currently a system in place to ensure that all operations, new and existing, have decommission plans.

Regarding geophysical operation approvals, the department indicated that when these operations use road allowances they are to get the approval of the road authority and then return them to the original condition. The department will be going through the regulations and will consider this issue at that time.

Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth, Peter Bjornson

The AMM raised the issue of the municipal agenda with Minister Bjornson and explained how the education tax issue is part of a greater issue for municipalities. The AMM updated the Minister on its position following the AMM Convention, and also stressed the importance of school boards and the need to ensure there is a local stake in the process. The AMM clarified that it is not a part of an education coalition.

The Minister indicated that he saw the new position as encouraging, and reiterated what his government has done on this issue. The Minister wants to have an honest dialogue on this issue and the Province is committed to continuing to fund education at the rate of economic growth. He indicated that he feels that there have been some concerns regarding the changes in assessment, with most school divisions actually expecting a modest increase and an overall reduction in mill rates. It remains unclear, however, if this is the last year of the reduction in the ESL. There is currently \$34 million left to be eliminated.

There was also a discussion about the ways municipalities and school boards could work together to share services. Ideas such as shared libraries and community assets inventories were discussed. ■

“The AMM explained how the education tax issue is part of a greater issue for municipalities.”



Coming Events

2006 Mayors, Reeves and CAOs Meeting Schedule

Northern District Monday, March 13

The Sam Waller Museum, The Pas

Parklands District Tuesday, March 14

Grace Baptist Church, Ochre River

Mid-Western District Monday, March 20

Elkhorn Resort Spa & Conference Centre, Onanole

Western District Tuesday, March 21

Ninette Centennial Hall, Ninette

Central District Wednesday, March 22

Rosenort Arena, Rosenort

Eastern District Thursday, March 23

Shevchenko Ukrainian Centre (Rosa Hall), Dominion City

Interlake District Friday, March 24

Selkirk Inn & Conference Centre, Selkirk

Notices

2006 Attorney General Safer Communities Awards

Nominations are open for the 2006 Manitoba Attorney General Safer Communities Awards which recognize organizations and individuals who make outstanding contributions to crime prevention in Manitoba.

Categories are individuals under 18 years, individuals over 18, community-based initiatives, community justice and Citizens on Patrol groups.

For nomination forms, contact the Manitoba Attorney General Safer Communities Awards at:

1430 - 405 Broadway,
Winnipeg MB R3C 3L6
Phone: 204-945-6769 or
toll-free 1-800-282-8069, ext. 6769

Nominations must be received by March 31.

Notices

Municipal Elections Website

The Manitoba Municipal Elections Website features links to relevant legislation, frequently asked questions about municipal elections, a link to the Candidate's Guidebook to running in a municipal election, information for voters on available voting opportunities, and links to reminder election bulletins. The website is located at:

http://www.gov.mb.ca/ia/programs/local_gov/elections.html

Job Postings

City of Selkirk Director of Community Services

The City of Selkirk is seeking an individual for the position of Director of Community Services.

Under the general direction of the Chief Administrative Officer, this position will be responsible for the efficient and effective delivery of services by the Department of Community Services, including leadership direction for the provision of services in the areas of Economic Development, Leisure and Heritage, Recreation Facilities, Community and Planning Liaison.

Please apply in confidence, indicating Competition No. 2006-02 by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 17, 2006 to:

Human Resources,
City of Selkirk,
200 Eaton Avenue
Selkirk, Manitoba R1A 0W6
FAX No.: 1-204-482-5448
EMAIL: hr@cityofselkirk.com
Inquiries: 1-204-785-4905

Job Postings

RM of Headingley Development Officer

The RM of Headingley is seeking a Development Officer to manage the land development and planning services provided to its 2000 citizens.

Under the general direction of the Chief Administrative Officer the Development Officer is responsible for the management of the land development and planning functions of the municipality, and assists with the public works functions.

Individuals interested in this opportunity should forward a resume to Carol Barbeau, quoting project #61007, at consultant@harrisconsult.com

Village of Winnipegosis Chief Administrative Officer

The Council of the Village of Winnipegosis is seeking applications for qualified individuals for the position of Chief Administrative Officer, for an approximate start date of June 1, 2006.

The incumbent will work with council in managing the affairs of the Village which will include, but is not limited to, responsibility for all financial matters; municipal records; tax roll; budget preparation and financial statement preparation.

Candidates should submit a written application with resume in a sealed envelope marked "Confidential, Application CAO" by 4:30 pm, March 15, 2006, to:

Village of Winnipegosis
Box 370
Winnipegosis, MB R0L 2G0

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PLEASE NOTE:

The job postings listed on this page have been edited for space. View the **complete** postings, as well as additional postings not featured here, at

http://www.amm.mb.ca/member_job.html