



Annual General Meeting

**Minutes from
August 12, 2021**

Meeting Presided by Chair Danny Friesen

Thank-you to all who came out; 17 people in attendance

Finances

- Expenses paid out are 147.55/ month for a telephone line & \$1552.35 for building insurance
- Mackenzie County covers the cost of the property taxes as we're a non-profit organization
- As of July 31st, our bank balance was \$36,800
- The proceeds from our raffle are \$6505

Activities in the Past Year

- We met with MLA Dan Williams in spring
- Had a public meeting to talk about town beautification along the river front, and upgrades to the DA Thomas Park
- Applied for the AFCS Community Spirit Grant
- Recovery from flood devastation & Covid – most of our files and electronics were lost in the flood, and with restricted gatherings in the past year, we're working towards revitalizing the Board of Trade. A new set of bylaws will need to be written as the previous copies were lost in the flood

Bringing Business into Town

- We would love to see more businesses come into our town, including the following
 - Clothing store – there hasn't been a clothing store here since the Hudson's Bay Company left
 - Tire shop
 - Dentist – is it possible to have a dentist clinic here, for example, one week per month?
- How to we entice more business owners / entrepreneurs to our area?

What has the Board of Trade done in the Past?

- Hosted breakfasts
- Fundraising events
- Writing letters on behalf of businesses
- Lobbied for improvements to community
- Hosted a golf tournament
- Had keynote speakers at meetings, such as Daniel Ringrose for a tax talk
- Bike race
- Advertising sign on the West entrance into town
- Kenton Randle sign

Opportunities to Look into for the Future

- Matching advertising signs along the 88 for businesses to rent for \$1 / day (example given of Fairview's signs)
- Online advertising

Website

- We had a person hired to make a website a few years back. He sold the business to his partner, and now we haven't been able to contact the partner to update our page. We have decided to go another route, and a new website should be up in the near future
- Our Facebook page is active, and we will be posting information about local businesses on there, as well. If you are a business, please forward your business advertisement on to us (fortvermilionandareaboardoftrade@outlook.com)

Insurance Payout for Flood

- A contractor has completed some of the repairs from the flood, including the heating system. Our insurance has offered a cash payout of \$31,000 as an alternative to fixing the remainder of the basement, which could be used to upgrade the building, such as an exterior facelift. This will be voted on at our next meeting.

Building

- The building is available for rent; we would love for people to use it.
- Contact Danny or Noreen for rentals, \$50 / evening

REDI

- Our Board of Trade has REDI membership, and a representative is always welcome at their meetings, held 9 times per year, either in person or on Zoom.
 - Discussed at the meeting are the bigger economic picture of our region, for example, the A2A Rail Line. The A2A line is likely to cross the river a few miles downstream of Fort Vermilion

Elections

Brad Doerksen, Rudy Bueckert, and Eric Carter have all asked to step down from the Board of Directors. We need nominations to replace them, and a vote of approval for the current Directors, Danny Friesen, Chair, and Rodney Friesen.

- Nominations
 - Cheryll Welke
 - David Lizotte
 - Jed Randle
 - Thomas Simpson
 - Ray Toews
- A vote of support was given to all nominees and current board members, and Ray Toews was voted to be Vice Chair
- April Loewen replaced Sara (Schmidt) Nolt as the Secretary & Treasurer; she was given a vote of support at a meeting in March.

Raffle Draw

Our Raffle for raising funds for a War Memorial and Flag Pole was scheduled for April 27th, the day of the flood. Due to the flood, and other circumstances, the draw has been postponed until tonight.

- First prize, Lund Fishing Boat – Peter Martens
- 2nd prize, BBQ – Ray Toews
- 3rd prize, Fishing Gear – Bryan Kusch