

National Roads Authority
Minutes of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Board held at the
NRA Offices, 370 North Sound Road, George Town,
Grand Cayman, Thursday, April 20, 2006 at 3:00p.m.

Present:

J L Hurlston	Chairman
Troy Whittaker	Deputy Chairman
Hon. Min. Arden McLean	(invited)
Vijay Parabdeen	(invited)
Denis Thibeault	(invited)
Michael Barnett	
Edward Howard	
Gina Ebanks-Petrie	
Justin Woods	
Steve McField	
Debra Welcome	
Carson Ebanks	
Colford Scott	
Dean Walton	(newly appointed member)
Lois A. Hall-Vaughan	Executive Secretary

Apologies:

Frank McCoy	(newly appointed member)
Kenross Conolly	(newly appointed member)
Gary Rankin	(newly appointed member)

1. Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:14 p.m. and convened with a word of prayer.

2. Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members in attendance to the meeting especially the Hon. Min. Arden McLean, Mr. Vijay Parabdeen and the new Board Member Mr. Dean Walton. The Chairman also indicated that with the appointment of the new members it is anticipated that the experience of being unable to reach a quorum for previous meetings will change. He then invited the Minister to address the members.

3. Hon. Min. Arden McLean's address

The Hon. Minister acknowledged the termination of two Board Members and the appointment of four new members, one of which Mr. Dean Walton was present at the meeting. He stated that these are young, progressive, capable Caymanians needed to move the country forward and who will compliment the other members of the Board. He apologized for the fact that more women were not appointed to sit on the Board, however he was confident that the two current members were capable and up to the challenge of serving on the Board.

The Minister then gave a brief description of himself and his personal expectations along with his motto of 'Go harder, go more'. He also gave his expectations as a Minister and what he intends to accomplish during his tenure in office. The Minister acknowledged the challenges his ministry along with NRA faces in meeting the country's road requirements and the controlling of traffic. He discussed his request for the acceleration of the Esterley Tibbetts Highway (an extremely challenging project) with expected date of completion being June 2006 emphasizing the utilization of every available equipment and funds to finish the highway extension in the time specified.

The Minister emphasized the need to properly plan for the future whether it is short, long or medium term and that a better financial reporting system needs to be in place.

The Minister encouraged the management of the NRA and the Board to expose and get the young engineers employed at the NRA involved in the projects undertaken by the NRA.

He noted that the requested \$2.9 mil, as an advance or working capital for the main road project this year has not been approved, however \$2mil advance plus the \$1.4 for the most recent invoice, has been approved.

The Minister responded to questions from the members, these included the government's intention of having more 'green areas' in George Town which one area has been indicated to be grounds of the present Glass House when the new Government Administration Building is completed. Upgrading of the area in front of the Court House. A suggestion was also made for the refurbishing of the statue of Mr. Jim Bodden which stands in front of the Court House. The question was raised if any thought was given to the implications of cruise ships docked so close to downtown George Town on the waterfront would be. This will be looked into.

The Minister inquired on the status of the paving of Shedden Road, to which he was informed that that project was priority and is expected to begin soon.

4. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes previously circulated by email were accepted as is and seconded. The Minute Book has arrived on the island and will be available at the next meeting.

5. Matters Arising

(i) General Report by MD

a. Staff

The Chairman again reminded the Board Members that input regarding the Personnel Policy Manual which was circulated in October 2005 is still being requested. It was suggested that inputs could be done and submitted to the Human Resources Manager on her return at the end of April 2006 from Maternity leave.

Interviews for the post of IT Administrator are being done.

- b. Paving
The first piece of equipment, the small roller has arrived and shipping information on the large compactor is with Island Paving. The trucks are expected within a week or two. The arrival of the paver is now expected sometime in June 2006. With this delay other arrangements will have to be looked at re the acquisition of the paver.
- c. Road Register
This is being worked on and the Permanent Secretary will be updated on the status at the weekly meetings.
- d. School Signals/Speed Limits – Red Bay & Savannah Primary Schools
The decision to amend the Traffic Law to enforce a 15mph speed limit in the school zone is still to be decided by the Minister.
- e. Paving/Kerbs/Drains-Roundabout, Elgin Avenue/Connector Highway
Funding issues for this project has been resolved and work is expected to restart as soon as possible and considered priority. Completion is expected to be June 30, 2006. The wells have been drilled and are to be boxed.
- f. Esterley Tibbetts Highway Extension
Work continues on this project. It is noted that the Galleria Plaza to Snug Harbour section of the highway extension is drivable.

The geotextile (a stabilizer) is currently being laid down.

The Chairman expressed his concern on liaising with the Ritz to ensure that they complete the section they are responsible to construct on time. This will be investigated. However if the Ritz is not ready in time traffic will be able to use Canal Point Rd. as a turn off.

The Minister requested the possibility of work to be done in the nights. This is expected to be a challenge and will be looked into for future implementation (possible hauling and delivery of materials).

He also requested the closure of Peninsula Avenue to vehicular traffic. This is to be done to facilitate road construction, however residential traffic will be allowed in the area.

The possibility of a drainage problem for the Strand and other businesses in the area was expressed and the NRA is aware of it and the situation will be monitored.

Utilities are currently being relocated on Canal Point Dr.

- g. Kirk Motors/Dorcy Drive – roundabout
Work on this project is expected to commence shortly and is priority.
- h. Clarinda Bay Wall
The wall is now 38 - 40% completed by the sub-contractor, two feet above road level with a rock wall finish.
- i. Street lights
The inventory of street lights has been received from CUC. The NRA is now compiling the data to verify working/nonworking street lights.
- j. Gazette – location of National Roads Authority offices
The Notice informing of the location of the NRA offices have been published in Gazette # 6 – 2006 dated Monday, March 20, 2006.
- k. Drain Register
The locating and mapping of all government drains on the island have been done. This will be compiled on a data base. On completion a copy is to be forwarded to the Ministry.
- l. Savannah Gully/Seawall
It was noted that this project have been referred back to the core of Central Government to be done as a consultancy project. Funds have been identified for the design of sea defenses.

It was noted that some members stated that if the question arose from the Finance Committee of where the funds went from the EPS they would not be responding.

It was also noted that the NRA will not be doing any further work on the gully.

It was noted that unauthorized removal of sand from the gully was being done without the knowledge or authorization of the NRA.

(ii) Financial Report

At the end of the ninth period ended March 31, 2006 the NRA remains within the budget.

With nine months gone in the budget year, our expenditure on NRA 2 amounts to \$3,763,325 representing 82% of our annual budget.

Expenditure in regards to executive assets to March 31, 2006 amounts to \$4,304,242 which is 48% of the annual budget. This is expected to increase significantly over the coming months as work continues on the Esterley Tibbetts Highway extension. In addition commitments amounting to \$437,148 will take it to \$4,741,390 which is 52% of the annual budget.

A further request of \$38,000 for equity injection has been made, however this has not yet been received. Once received, this will put the budget at 67% for the year.

Based on figures for the nine months ended March 31, 2006 the NRA should be able to accomplish its objectives with the budget.

BUDGET 2006 – 2007

The 2006 – 2007 budget is currently being prepared. The proposed NRA 1, 2 & 3 budget for the year is \$5,151,194 an increase of \$76,126 or 1.5%. The executive assets and the equity injections have not yet been proposed. In the meantime estimates are being derived for likely projects for the year. Once the amount for the executive assets has been agreed, a list of projects to be undertaken will be agreed with the Ministry.

6. Other Business

1. Performance Appraisal of the Managing Director
The Chairman suggested that this be deferred to the next scheduled meeting. This will be reviewed at the next scheduled meeting.

2. East/west corridor – Gazetted May 2005
Mrs. Gina Ebanks-Petrie informed members that prior to the gazetting of the corridor the Dept. of Environment had written a memo requesting that the proposed corridor not be gazetted until the proposed route had been subjected to the proper environmental and technical analyses. She noted that the Dept. of Environment had received an application for review from the Planning Department for a sub-division off Frank Sound road which had recently been returned to the Dept. of Environment for a second look as it had to be redesigned to accommodate this proposed highway. Although this gazetting is not concrete but just a line on the map, it becomes concrete when things get built along that line. It was noted that there are issues with the gazettal which warrant it being revisited.

This will be done in writing and this concern will be looked into with the assistance of a consultant on the design of public roads.

3. Request for approval – Annual Caribbean Conference of Accountants
The request for approval re airfare, registration and accommodation was made for Mr. Barnett to attend this 3 day conference in June 2006 in Barbados. This conference will update Mr. Barnett on the latest in the accounting field. This was approved.

4. National Roads Plan – Page 16 (Esterley Tibbetts Highway)
The new school being built in Caymana Bay project to the east of the highway is requesting access on the highway, however the

NRA would prefer that access not be given on to the existing two lane road but the road be built to four lanes. The Burns Conolly group has indicated that they would recommend the building this section of the road by the Caymana Bay project. i.e. 40' of additional road width to be built from the bright street lights going east. Approval is being sought for the NRA to give Caymana Bay the right to construct this road to the specifications provided by the NRA over the existing corridor.

5. Red Gate/North Sound Rd. connector

This is expected to be a joint venture with the Andro Group Ltd. and the NRA. S. 23(1) of the FOI Law has offered a \$30,000 contribution and the NRA is to do an estimate to be sent to the Ministry for approval. This has already been gazetted under Section 3. Approval is being sought from the Board for this project. This was approved.

6. Leave Requests

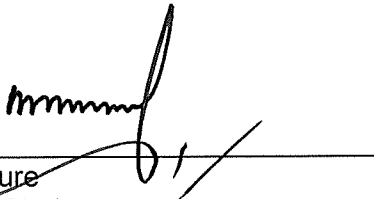
Approval is being sought for special leave request for S. 23(1) S.23 (1) who represented S. 23(1) of the FOI Law meet (4 days) end of March 2006 to the beginning of April 2006. Also compassionate leave for S. 23 (1) to attend a funeral in March 2006. Approval was granted for both requests.

7. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, May 18, 2006.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 pm.



Signature
Board Chairman
Confirmation of Minutes -20.04.06
Date: 18.05.06



Signature
Executive Secretary
Seconded: Confirmation of Minutes
Date: 18.05.06