

National Roads Authority
Minutes of the Ninth Meeting of the Board

Place: PWD Offices, North Sound Road, Grand Cayman.

Date: Thursday 24 February, 2005 at 3:00 pm

Present:

J L Hurlston Chairman
Marilyn Conolly
Debra Welcome
Justin Woods
Rollin Jackson

In attendance: Mr. Colford Scott
 Mr. Paul Parchment
 Mr. Michael Barnett

1. Call to Order
2. Apologies Received
3. Opening Remarks
4. Minutes of previous meeting
5. Pending Matters
6. Central Highways Corridor
7. Vehicle and Equipment Replacement
8. Unfinished Business
9. New Business
10. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for making it possible to attend. It was noted that a sixth director was needed to make a quorum.

2. Apologies Received

Apologies were received from Mrs. Gina Ebanks-Petrie, Mr. Troy Whittaker, and Mr. Steve McField. Apologies were received from Mr. Paul Parchment and Mr. Justin Wood for their late arrivals respectively.

3. Opening Remarks.

The Chairman expressed his pleasure in seeing the NRA logos displayed on the new vehicles. This sentiment was echoed by Ms. Marilyn Conolly who inquired as to whether the Authority had undertaken to order uniforms for the staff displaying the new logo. The MD responded that this had been done and that polo shirts had been ordered for the Directors and Staff.

4. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the two previous meetings held on 2nd December, 2004 and 13th January, 2005 were reviewed and confirmed.

5. Pending Matters

The Chairman expressed his concerns regarding the lack of communication between the Board and the designated Executive Secretary **S. 23 (1) FOI Law**. It was noted that little or

no contact had been established following **S. 23(1) FOI Law** illness and subsequent hospitalization.

It was resolved that the position of Executive Secretary would be advertised locally beginning March 1st, 2005. The Chairman reported that the Executive Sub-Committee of the Board would repeat the process of interviewing all applicants and provide a report to the Board on a fast-tracked basis.

6. Central Highways Corridor.

The Chairman distributed a copy of the Ministry's priority list for the year remaining 2004/05. The list included four key objectives and the Hon. Minister's comments were as outlined as follows:

Extension of the Esterley Tibbetts Highway from the Hyatt Roundabout to Canal Point.

This extension is necessary to facilitate the development of an alternative route to West Bay and to alleviate congestion on the present route. The Lands and Survey Department have been requested to produce maps for gazettal on an urgent basis in order to facilitate the commencement and completion of this phase of the Esterley Tibbetts Highway.

Development of a Central Highway to the Eastern Districts

The development of a Central Highway has been previously discussed and I wish to see the design, declaration and development of this new roadway a reality. Such a road will serve the Island as a whole, especially those persons in the Eastern Districts. The importance of an inland road is now self-evident and it is imperative that a corridor is declared as soon as possible to ensure orderly development.

Prospect Bypass Road

This road will be used to connect the Grand Harbour roundabout at the western end of Old Prospect and Shamrock Road and will end at Poindexter Road immediately south of the Prospect Primary School. This is a crucial link to the development of a Central Highway and as such the corridor should be secured as soon as possible. Also it will provide the Planning Department with a guideline when considering applications for other developments.

Spotts-Newlands Bypass Road

This road will initiate at the end of the Prospect Bypass on Poindexter Road and will continue eastward to connect with Hirst Road at approximately one half mile south of ICCI. This is also a critical link in the plans for a Central highway and if this corridor is not secured, there is no other alternative to connect with the Central Highway.

Update on Priority List

As of February 23rd, 2005 the gazette drawings for the Esterley Tibbetts had been prepared and sent to L&S Department to be assessed under section 3 of the Roads Law. The route design for the section of the East-West Highway from Prospect to Newlands (Hirst Road) is nearing completion and will shortly be sent over to L&S for gazettal under section 3.

The revised route of the Eastern Highway continuing from Newlands to the Eastern Districts is to be gazetted under section 25 of the roads law following the review and approval by the Central Planning Authority and the Department of the Environment.

7. Vehicle and Equipment Replacement

PWD staff has advised the MD that the Annex building housing the NRA offices would be completed by mid to late March. MD confirmed that two office trailers had been ordered to

accommodate displaced staff members and would be arriving at the end of March. Five replacement dump trucks, one grader, one roller, one loader and one compressor are also expected to arrive during March.

8. Unfinished Business:

Finances:

The Assistant Director of Finance (AD/F) advised that every effort was being made to take over the financial affairs of the Authority from the Ministry and Treasury. The Chairman questioned if this transition could be finalized by March 15th, 2005 and what implications if any would arise. The AD/F responded with assistance from Mrs. Welcome that upon completion of this process the Treasury would essentially only have the responsibility for printing the NRA cheques.

He presented an update on the state of the finances as at 23rd February, 2005 which detailed the original and the approved supplemental appropriations.

9. New Business

- (i) The Chairman advised that consideration be given to the timeline needed to gather and collate information for the presentation of the NRA Annual Report officially due at June 30th 2005. He reiterated the point in regard to fast tracking the placement of the new Executive Secretary as much of these responsibilities would be assumed by that person.
- (ii) The Chairman questioned whether the revenue streams necessary to undertake the new directives were in place. He advised the Directors that new and innovative measures of financing such projects may have to be considered in the future. Examples of PFI arrangements involving toll roads and concession agreements were discussed and it was resolved that these issues would be reviewed again at future meetings.
- (iii) Ms. Marilyn Conolly advised the MD that all senior staff should be made cognizant of the fact that additional demands may be placed on them during the period leading up to the upcoming general elections. The MD agreed that this would be done as quickly as possible.
- (iv) The MD raised the question as to whether an additional 14 hurricane loans could be made available to qualified staff members. The approximate amount loaned out to date was declared by the AD/F at around \$75,000. The Chairman advised that approval was given subject to keeping the total amount loaned out at around the \$100,000 cap limit sought. The request was approved.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Confirmed:

Chairman.....

