**Chamber Membership Appreciation**

**With Guests**

**Victoria & Bill from Hwy 3 Twinning Association**

March 18th 2024

6-8pm Held a the CNP Golf Club

Minutes from meeting:

-45 attendees

-President Teyel Strandquist of the CNP Chamber welcomed everyone, **expressed** Thanks to everyone for coming out this evening. And to our members for being a part of the CNP Chamber. We did a little Ice Breaker and went around the room introducing who we were.

-Status of twining: Often this is a question the association receives, when will this start. As soon as Government funds and says go. The department of transportation will start twinning. There are 5 steps. Step 1. Functional Planning. Step 2. Design & impact. Step 3. Engineering. Step 4. Purchase of Land. Step 5. Constructions stats/Land clearing. Taber is in Step 5.

-Anyone can join the association with a membership fee, to receive minutes from all meetings, and ask questions, and be in the know.

- The Department of Transportation is awaiting the meeting to sit down and talk with Piikani nation. They are indeed in favor of the twinning through their land. They are waiting on more steps, development and community input.

-They are hoping to have a design selected by summer 2024 for CNP. First priority is the Tbaer project, 14 months for Taber to be completed. Hwy3x estimated 2 years to finalize design. There are environmental impacts to discuss. 2nd priority pincher Hwy. 3rd priority will be Medicine Hat to Severn Pearsons.

-This will be a 10-year project, in 8 stages. The government needs to have funding available to logically look at this.

-Clarification was needed on the new released information, is it a twinning or a freeway being built? There will only be twinning of single lane Hwy with bypasses, the rest is to prepare for future. 2 lanes in each direction for now.

- The Municipality has been working on proposed areas of Hwy and bypasses for a while now and taking into consideration what the town & citizens need. Proposed thoughts of: In Frank to move the tracks not the homes, that was unsuccessful. To run the Hwy behind Coleman through Pine view, wetlands south side. Through Blairmore lost lemon, bypass by IGA, then south along river until sentinel. Build bypass from frank to Bellevue, have a second route to go between communities. All these have been discussed and a panning for what will beter suite the community, environment and wildlife.

-Council was there to help and listen during Hwy 3 discussions that evening. They mentioned, they are here to help us and listen to our concerns through these meetings. Mayor has went to meetings to figure out what will be best for Frank and our area. More discussions need to be had to develop the Hwy. They will not move forward without talking more with the community.

-The Initial 2 lane HWY is buying land now for future.

-Question from members: What will the CNP gain from the freeway going 110km/hr?

-Statement from member: People have to sell their homes, where are they going to go with no homes here to move into. They have to leave their communities.

- Question from members: How will we rebuild for our people of CNP, and regain business?

-Member statement: not happy to have to pay to be able to speak on their concerns in their town that they pay to live here/be here.

--The HWY3 twinning association is just a lobby group, here for the people to help bring tees questions and answers back to the department of transportation. They are here to help us understand the process.

-A design engineer will look at all options proposed for future Hwy, they will evaluate. Community needs to engage in the development and with the council represent as concerned citizens to your council. Ask for discussions.

-Council is concerned about Frank and wants to know their options, can they just move the CP rail? When they are near and close to designing Frank they will all have more answers as to where the Hwy will be developed.

-Council meetings are open to public anyone can sit in on them.

-Question from member: Where do we go to get clarity on the timelines & designs? Presentation today is very confusing as a business owner & homeowner. Need more clarity.

-The 7 sections have been identified, current status is on the handout presented, and is found online. This is an impossible question to answer when Hwy will be completed. Could just take 2 years to design the Hwy.

-Question from member: where and when should we be addressing our questions & concerns??

-They should come all the time, don’t stop asking your council questions. Let the Chamber know, let the council know your concerns and questions. The timeline determination is unknown. Land negotiation, designs, environmental impact all unknown. The board must decide what they can lobby on.

-Question from member; Is there not a plan that they are on, what is the design, what has been presented, seen, discussed? That would be a question for the Mayor & council.

-Statement from member: There are 5 corridors here in play, how many wildlife overpasses will be taken into consideration and created.

-They will advocate for wildlife crosses. Repurposing old bridges for crossing were used in BC’s designs, that had caught the department’s eye to do the same here.

-Statement from member: 3 things that need to be advocated for; Animal crossings, Good exits & entrances into communities, Pull outs & rest stops.

-Statement from member: They want to see plans, designs In pace already for animal safety.

-Minister of transportation will meet with council to understand and better grasp of where the Hwy will run, where these crossings need to be. Direct these concerns so council knows.

-Question from member: Are Presentations from 2017 available for access to the public, why do we have to pay to see the?

-Question from member: How will traffic be mitigated during construction, last year we had over 1hr wait times to get on the Hwy from construction. These wait times hurt businesses, what will change? What will be in place for businesses? Where can I find updated information?

-Hwy 3 twinning association is a non-profit organization; we are not the department of transportation. We are here to help lobby on the people’s half. The board is made up of community members.

-The mayor Is the one to update us as a community.

-We plan to keep the HWY open as much as we can during construction to easier the traffic flow. Will make sure new construction/engineer will be better at planning for our area.

-Question from member: How much of Frank will be lost?

-There is no finalized answer yet. Once engineer is assigned will we know more. These are sensitive areas we are dealing with, we are aware of that. We are lobbying with you. Ministry is open to having communication now. Communication needs to happen more with the community, for safe passages, historic issues, businesses and animal corridors.

-Statement from members: This has been in the works since the 60/70’s, now we are listening, its time to be engaged!

-Chamber: We are holding this information night for our business members, we want to hear from you, we want to help advocate for you. We want you to be heard, and hear from the Hwy, ask your questions. Because as business people that is who we represent as a Chamber.

-Question from presenter: Have you had the opportunity to attend provincial meetings? Hald the crows have answered yes.

-Question from member; Priority is the human, how are we able to get to onside to the other side in our communities without cars? We want to still be able to use our legs for transportation. In the planning stages is there an option and safe passage way for humans to get across and access?

-Question from member: why are we worried about Coleman bypass when the Frank Slide is a historic site. Why don’t we focus on the historic sites first?

-The province selected where they are starting, all three sections next spring should have a design work up with engineers in place.

-They are working on what the community wants now. Not certain of what is happening here, here we are in the development stages with ministry.

-There is a 2 year design stage, then we tell them where everything goes. Once the contractor comes in they submit designs.

-Question from member: being a design build how much did that cost, what are the benefits of a design build?

-Question from member: What are you actually building a free way or a 2 lane design?

-making a 2 lane large enough to not have to come back and redo the HWY if in the future they need more roads access/lanes. Possibly in the future they see a need fr a 4 lane, that iis the cost issue, that’s the changes hold up.

-There were a lot of things that were not considered but will be now.

-Question from member: when will the engineering be completed?

-Steps to draw out contract to enter into design contract early summer. Design could be here by then. They are trying to obtain an engineer design. Designs of roadways take longer. Once they have the drawings of the HWY3 there will be a community hearing.

-The twining of Hwy 3 association business can join. People can go to their trade shows, chamber events and council for information.

-Ministry will review designs & consult with municipality for proper entrances and exites.

-The Hwy3 association advocated for the lights and limits of speed for our Howy, as well as the fencing for the animals through here.

In closing, council appreciates your concerns, they had them too. We have the same questions you have. We need to let the process go through its steps. Then we can address the outlines & change as needed. Once its done I hope it helps our community. We are here for when they bring back the designs, that is when we can get into a discussion again. We will always take your concerns into consideration. -Council.

Question & answer period concluded.