GRANDE SPIRIT FOUNDATION SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES
Admin Board Room, Grande Prairie, 1:00 pm
Wednesday July 29, 2026

Present:	Judy Kokotilo-Bekkerus	Town of Beaverlodge
	Tom Burton	MD of Greenview
	Tammy Yaremko	Town of Spirit River - Virtual
	Albert Poetker	Birch Hills County
	Tony Van Rootselaar	MD of Spirit River
	Roxann Dreger	Village of Rycroft - Virtual
	Karen Rosvold	County of Grande Prairie
	Chris Thiessen	City of Grande Prairie - Virtual
	Ken Hildebrand	Town of Sexsmith
Administration:	Steve Madden	CAO
	Sharilyn Legault	Acting Finance Director
	Shari Hrehoruk	Director of Operations
	John Steward	Director of Projects and Maintenance
	Kelsey Hartum	Executive Assistant
Absent:	Tanya Skinner	Town of Wembley
	Ed Armagost	Saddle Hills County

1. CALL TO ORDER
   J. Kokotilo-Bekkerus called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

2. CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
   RESOLUTION # 2065 – Moved by T. Burton to approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED

4. NEW BUSINESS
   4.1 RFD – Heritage Lodge Electrical Replacement
   This item was originally discussed at the June Finance Committee meeting where administration stated there would be a need for a special board meeting once more information was available.
   In the middle of June 2026, a maintenance technician smelled burning while in the basement. After investigating, it was found that the insulation in the panel was melting. The panel needed to be shut off, ATCO came to look and all power needed to be turned off. With all the rain in June, water had gotten into the ATCO sump where it then dripped on the active switch which then super cooled things and cracked it. Grande Spirit Foundation can't control the power coming in and the heat from the power was what melted things. The panel was deemed at the end of its life when an inspector came in to take a look at the repair in the lines. The inspector provided a short period to replace this, and it is possible that other elements may be lost if the panel is not replaced.
   When the panel is being replaced, the coolers and kitchen will be on generators to keep things running. There will be one night for sure without power.

   C. Thiessen joined via teams at 1:05 pm.

   Maintenance is working to make sure there are minimal interruptions to everyone. There is a backup power system, but it is small. It was discovered that there were open breakers on the back up power source where the sumps could be put on there and looking into the coolers being moved on to the back up power as well. Maintenance is also looking at an upgrade to the backup power, but this will come at a later date as a

capital item. The overall panel replacement process started in June as the time frame to get a panel fabricated is September. It is a local and reputable contractor for the electoral work that will be done. When it comes to resident safety, it is a top priority. For those residents who have mini fridges in their units for meds, Home Care helped during the initial outage and meds were moved over to Pioneer Lodge. The power was out for four days which had its difficulties. The bathrooms had puck lights put in, that run off batteries, to help as the bathrooms are the darkest part of a unit. The BBQ was used to help with the kitchen being down, as well as sharing the kitchen at Pioneer Lodge. There were a lot of activities to help keep the spirits up, as well as the bus being available for trips. There was one resident who requires oxygen and they were moved to Pioneer Lodge while the power was out. There was a docking station brought in for residents to charge electronics and hearing aids. With the short notice, not a lot of families were able to bring residents to their homes but hoping with enough notice the families will be able to help out a bit more.

There was a report created to go over all the items that happened and the learnings from emergency power outages. The planned power outage will affect 70 residents as well as the Administration building and the Family Housing office.

Maintenance is looking for a generator connection at Heritage Lodge and looking at using it for the office buildings as well. If this doesn't work, there are other options that are being looked at to keep the office buildings operational. There is the option of having small generator units for the offices to keep the phones and internet running. With the outage in June, there has been a plan created for the Family Housing office if the power is out.

There is no date set, but once the panel is completed that will be when communication starts. This will be when letters and verbal communication happen with residents and families. Not looking to rush anything but want to make sure the proper processes are followed and make sure there is enough time to contact everyone.

RESOLUTION # 2066 – Moved by A. Poetker to approve a transfer of $167,081.25 from Building Reserve to Accumulated Surplus to fund the replacement of the main electrical service panel and cables at Heritage Lodge. CARRIED

5. CLOSED SESSION

6. ADJOURNMENT at 1:26 pm

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Judy Kokotilo-Bekkerus, Chair *Date*

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Steve Madden, CAO