

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Meeting of RCCI Standing Committee

On Cantonment Affairs

Venue: Khalid Waheed Conference Hall, RCCI

Date: 4th June, 2014

Time: 2:30pm

Chairman: Mr. Manzar Khurshid Shaikh

Vice Chairman: Mr. Hassan Mustafa

Chief Guest: Mr. Fahim Zafar Khan Executive Officer Rawalpindi Cantonment Board

Minutes Recorded by: Ms. Amara Saleem R&D Officer

S. No.	Points Of Discussion
	The meeting was formally started with the recitation of Holy Quran.
1.	<p>Chairman of Standing committee on Cantonment Affairs Mr. Manzar Khurshid Shaikh welcomed chief guest Mr. Fahim Zafar Khan Executive Officer Rawalpindi Cantonment Board and all members to the meeting.</p> <p>He elaborated the distinction of Rawalpindi cantonment board being one of the leading cantonment boards. He further added that many pending issues need to be resolved.</p>
2.	<p>Presentation was given by Mr. Manzar Khurshid Shaikh related to the present concerning issues including the pending issues which were also presented in our preceding meetings held on 6th July, 2012 & 11th December, 2013.</p> <p>Pertaining issues are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Property tax▪ Professional tax▪ Board tax▪ Water Scarcity▪ Parking issues▪ Traffic issues▪ Encroachment▪ Road Accidents▪ Additional Grave Yard for Cant Residents as Race Course Grave Yard is reaching it full utilization capacity <p>All issues were well addressed by the chairman Mr. Manzar Khurshid Shaikh a brief of them is presented below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increase in Property Tax Rate should not be more than 10% after three years assessment cycle.2. The issue of Overlapping of professional tax between local government and provincial

	<p>government taxes should be abolished forthwith.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Tax free identification board should be allowed up to a maximum size of 60 sqft and rates to be reduced for board tax. 4. Water Scarcity is one of the major issues in almost all cantt areas. 5. Parking issue in interior Cantt areas of Rawalpindi. Shops in the vicinity of Peshawar Road are not easily accessible because of parking problems. 6. Multi-purpose parking plazas on public private partnership basis in the busy shopping centers and all the major markets of the city to provide a separate parking facility for the traders as well as visitors. 7. Issues related to traffic, road accidents and encroachment were discussed. 8. There is need of more graveyards because of increase in population and filling of the existing graveyards.
3.	<p>Some current prevailing issues are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic lights are operating only on the Mall road. • Solar lights are to be installed in saddar. • As sanitation is part of beautification, Haider & Bank road of Rawalpindi is at worst sanitation conditions.
4.	<p>President RCCI Dr. Shimail Daud Arain acknowledged the presence of chief guest Mr. Fahim Zafar by giving us the opportunity to discuss about the board. He highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As waste disposal company is giving contract for the board overall system should be organized at the parallel level. • Receptacles are not enough or over run at many places in the board. • We should jointly work for the beautification maintenance of Rawalpindi Cantonment Board.
5.	<p>Chief Guest Mr. Fahim Zafar Khan stated that his motive is to endeavor a clear difference in Rawalpindi board. He further added that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem related to property tax is the issue of judiness. • Tax is our right but it should be imposed through proper assessment. • All maintenance within this board should be of international standards. Work on Mall Road has already been started. • He assured and pledged that tangible changes will be seen in coming days and this pace will keep on increasing by the support of chamber members through contribution in form of paying taxes. • Public toilets will be made in Saddar Bazar.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saddar will be soon free from all hawkers and encroachers. • A proper waiting area will be constructed in front of National Bank in saddar which the main hub. • Our office has open door policy and provides a facilitation centre. • To resolves the issues related to the taxes a committee to be formulized from plaza to plaza. <p>Work already executed includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To make functional Street lights of cantonment area is being started. ➤ Graveyard issue is being communicated to MNA. Prepositions are having in this context. ➤ Openness of roads will be done along with their repairing. ➤ Concerns related to the professional tax, levy professional tax communicated to the concerned authority. Might be a settlement be done through negotiation or legislation. ➤ He proposed that I will welcome any suggestions or requests for transformation of the Saddar area. ➤ Cooperation of chamber members will help to achieve a win/win situation. ➤ Improvement depends a lot on the civil infrastructure and environment.
6.	Ch. Abdul Rauf Former President RCCI & Chairman of Assessment Committee suggested that business community has supported a lot in the concerns related to the assessment.
7.	Mr. Najam Rehan, Former President RCCI stated that three main issues in cantonment are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beggars 2. Banks 3. Parking Issues due to generators of shops <p>Chief Guest addressed these issues as keen observations and assured that definitely focus on it.</p>
8.	Mr. Shaikh Hafeez focused on the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns Of Taxation • No Water Supply In Commercial Areas • Disturbance in flow of traffic because of Metro bus • Underground parking <p>Chief guest stated that we can utilize haider road for parking abundant land is present.</p>
9.	One of the member stated that many encroachers are at the areas of naseerabad, Allahabad and chur harpal.
10.	Mr. Zafar Jamal stated that opposite of chur due to the formations of too many schools residents are facing many problems in this regard.
11.	Mr. Qadri assured every type of support needed for the maintenance of the Rawalpindi Cantonment board.
12.	Mr. Sajid Mumtaz was nominated as coordinator for Cantonment Board.
13.	At the end, Vice Chairman Standing Committee Mr.Hassan Mustafa thanked chief guest, all the participants and meeting was adjourned with the vote of thanks.