

BOARD MINUTES

Speaker Series Lunch



NOTICE OF MEETING

November 13, 2019 @ Noon
Coaldale Inn

The Coaldale and District Chamber of Commerce | Box 1117, Coaldale AB, T1M 1M9
Ph: 403-345-2358 | info@coaldalechamber.com | coaldalechamber.com

Attendance: **Clive Schumpeter**; **Colin Wier**, Alberta Birds of Prey; **Conrad Van Bostlen**, Grahams Garage; **Darlene Van Schouwen**, Sunny South News; **Daryl Tonin**, Stop N Go; **Derek Connick**, Westland Insurance; **Graham Duke**, KPMG; **Jack Penner**, Napa Auto Parts; **Jack Van Rijn**, Van Rijn Electric; **Jackie Pitstra**, Coaldale Dental; **Kalen Hasting**; Town of Coaldale; **Kim Craig**, Town of Coaldale; **Leonard Fast**, Leonard D. Fast Barrister & Solicitor; **Liz Allen**; **Morley Bell**, Community Futures; **Nikkie Jamieson**, Sunny South News; **Norbert Altvater**, Altvater Law; **Patricia Walls**, Alberta Work Place Solutions; **Randy Van Seters**, Inter Continental Truckbody; **René van de Vendel**, Destiny Homes; **Scott Walls**, Alberta Work Place Solutions; **Terry Roosen**, Scotia Bank; **Zachary Connick**

Guests: **Grant Hunter & Angela Wolgen Strojwas**, MLA Office
Colleen Van Raalte, Executive Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2.1. Addition of Deletions

MOTION

MSC: T. Roosen / J. Van Rijn

BIMT Board approves the agenda.

Carried

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Board meeting of October 9, 2019

MOTION

MSC: J. Van Rijn / D. Van Shouwen

BIMT Board approves the minutes of October 9, 2019.

Carried

4. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

4.1. Round Table Introductions

4.2. Executive Committee Update

-René speaks about the Executive Councils initiative regarding the setup of internal committees.

-Upcoming meeting on Wednesday, November 20 and would encourage the board to attend.

5. KEYNOTE SPEAKER (12:25 - 1:00 p.m.)

Hon. Grant Hunter MLA

-Greeting from the cabinet.

-Grant Hunter sits on the Treasury board

-Question: Where do we want to be in four years. Felt we needed to balance the budget.

-Want to speak to the Chamber and its members. We have a lot in common.

-Budget. First thing we did was commission outside sources to do some cross jurisdictional analysis.

-We used the info they had to formula the budget.

- The treasury board received good direction for the ministry of finance.
- We will not introduce a provincial sales tax.
- We don't have a revenue problem but a spending problem
- We got our debt from the highest spending record in the past four years.
- We will see deficit spending in the next three years.
- We got a lot of feedback from people.
- Community, small business, taxpayers. No one wants an increase in taxes.
- We compared what the NDP have done in the past.
- The NDP spending increased our debt significantly.
- Surplus and rainy-day funds were burnt through.
- NDP have over projected revenue by 6 billion.
- We (Conservatives) can balance budget without making cuts, but we would need to reduce the size of the government.
- Our goal is to appeal to the foreign investment.
- We have introduced our budget. Reduced spending by 2.8%.
- We have been working with the unions in the public sector to try to negotiate a 0 increase rather than a pay cut.
- Misinformation regarding Alberta health. We are not cutting, rather we are adding \$200 million to health care.
- \$100 M to mental health. \$40M to Opioid crisis.
- Education is being maintained. 15,000 new students have entered the system. We repurposed used grants to hiring teachers to education these 15,000 students.
- Social programs: Children services will see an increase. Stay tuned for more info.
- Seniors and housing will be increased.
- Social Services will be increased.
- We want to balance the budget. We did not want to go to 1993 cuts.
- 2.8% decrease in spending.
- Caveats are two things are outside of our ability to work control. Global recession and building of the pipeline.
- Grant Hunter is the Associate minister of Red Tape Reduction.
- What WAS the Alberta Advantage? Lower tax rates, sustainable govt, foreign investment interest. We had major corporate head offices in Alberta.
- Regulatory burdens (Red Tape) take up a lot of money. Need to reduce by 1/3.
- Regulatory burdens is not appealing to foreign investments.
- Solutions and progression come from innovators and job creators. We need to get out of their way. This will help the economy to grow.
- Getting good input and ideas from the community. Our website is taking thousands of submissions. This is important.
- We got rid of the carbon tax for the general population and plan to tax the heavy emitters.
- We need to innovate our way out of emission problems. Then sell the technology to places like China.
- We are reducing corporate taxes thus competing with the States.
- New job creation comes from Small business. Red tap inhibits growth.

Education

Q: Why is the increase of students so high? A: Quality of education. People are moving into this province.

- NDP states 4.7 billion in corporate handouts is a good idea.
- When you give your rich friends, a tax cut you affect small business.
- Small business get the best advantage to the tax rate benefit.
- Increase in corporate taxes backfired on the NDP. They didn't count on the fact that people will up and leave.

Education.

Q: Why was the tuition increase cap removed? A: Education is expensive. For some reason it cost us \$10,000 more to education students in Alberta as compared to Ontario. Why is that? We have to set priorities.

There is much opposition to the proposed site of a new High school Building.

-Grant Hunter Responds:

- I have heard from both sides. Based on what I see, I come to this conclusion. My guiding principles is to respect local decision making. These are the people who are closest to the decision making. These people are the most qualified to make appropriate decisions.
- As an MLA, I do not have a mandate to weight into this issue. If there are people who don't want the see the school on this site. You need to approach the local government such as Town Council, education districts, and the education minister. It's not on the capital funded projects list for this year. Funding for new school projects gets revisited each year.
- The train has left the station and I don't see how you can step back in the mid-way through the process.
- It should be noted that the Education minister and Transportation minister have approved the site.
- Member from the floor states that the new infrastructure would cost Albertans a lot of money.
- Hunter goes on to say that he does not have any legislative capabilities on this divisive issue.

Blue Collar Labor regulations

-Q: Are there any labor laws coming into play for banked hours? A: Labors laws are being worked on at the moment. We recognized that this is an issue.

Fight back strategy. We are working on setting up offices in other provinces to represent Alberta Interest.

- Citizen initiative referendums. Refer to the Manning conference in Red Deer.
- Reviewing why equalization is not working.
- Reviewing the possibility of collecting our own taxes and CPP and setting up our own police force.

-Grant Hunter has an office at Van Rijn's Electric. I am available to the town. I am in Edmonton five days a week. Minster duties are taking up some more time. Let me know if feel that your voice is not being heard. I need to hear from my local constituents.

6. **NEXT MEETING**

December 11, 2019 at Noon
Coaldale Inn

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION

MC: R. Van Seters

BIMT Board adjourns the meeting for November 13, 2019.

Carried