

BOARD MINUTES

Speaker Series Lunch



NOTICE OF MEETING

January 15, 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:

- Allen Frisen**, Victim Services Unit
- Bill Chapman**, HWY 3 Twinning
- Briane Simpson**, Town of Coaldale
- Conrad Van Bostlen**, Grahams Garage
- Derek Connick**, Westland Insurance
- Jack Van Rijn**, Van Rijn Electric
- Jackie Pitstra**, Coaldale Dental
- Jeff Fujita**, CDES
- Kalen Hasting**; Town of Coaldale
- Kevin McKeown**, CDES
- Leonard Fast**, Leonard D. Fast Barrister & Solicitor;
- Lindsey Gargehring**, Victim Services Unit
- Penny Patching**, Lethbridge Communities Future
- Randy Van Seters**, ITB
- René van de Vendel**, Destiny Homes;
- Terry Roosen**, Scotiabank

Guests: **Colleen Van Raalte**, Executive Assistant

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

-AGM is coming up. Please consider letting your name stand for Board and executive positions

2. BRIANE SIMPSON – TOWN OF COALDALE

- We did received a letter from the Chamber
- Exciting news. From CDES
- Kevin Mckeown fire chief since 2017. Lived here since 2007. I worked full time under Andy.
- Currently the Coaldale Fire Department has 31 volunteers.
- They sacrifice a lot of personal time serving their community.
- We pride ourselves in staying innovative to provide the best service to Coaldale
- Local business has supported this service by allowing volunteers to leave work to attend calls with no reduction in pay.
- We have increased our daytime staffing adding more employees to help with day side service.
- 10-15% increase in calls. Especially during the day.
- We understand that business sacrifice a lot by letting their employees serve in this capacity.
- Town will give up to \$2000 in business tax credit for business who support the volunteers
- CDES plays a major role to maintain safty. It's great that to have people be able to respond during the day, This keeps taxes for community down.
- 8,700 populations is current population. When we get closer to 120000-150000 we will shift to using a blended model similar to other small towns. Full time + half volunteers. Direction would also come from the Town.
- This is the business Tax credit of it's kind in Alberta.
- What is the connection between you and medical ambulance.
- 2010 EMS was taken by AHS. We work together to provide care to our citizens.
- 10% turn over. Credit used also a great recruitment tool.
- Town is very grateful to all the local businesses.

- Coaldale will qualify to become a town at 10,000 people but we do not receive extra funds for infrastructure, we may even incur some new expenses as a result.
- The Town recognizes and encourages Town employees to volunteer for CDES.

3. PENNY PATCHING – COMMUNITY FUTURES

- Survey results are in.
- Town has increased the limited area. It will be officially announced by the Town in February.

4. KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Allan Friesen – Victim Services Unit Lethbridge (Serving Coaldale and other local areas)

- We have 2 paid employees. Lyndsy + Adonus
- They provide services to people that have been victimized by crime and sudden death. Sexual assault, neglect. Children have to provide reports or even testify. Our Service dog there to calm the child and give cues to adults when the child has become too stressed.
- We have been providing this service to rural southern Alberta for approximately 30 years
- We get \$150,000 a year from Alberta Gov't
- They have been expanding our geographical area but not our funding. So we need to provide more service for less money.
- If province were to take over this program, it would cost them a lot more than what the model is reflecting today.
- We have approximately 16 volunteers.
- Takes a long time to train the volunteers.
- Our call volumes are going up. We had 3,000 calls last year.
- Program manager was given accolades for getting "dangerous status" to a dangerous offender in the area.
- If you don't have the experience these types of problems then you don't know we exist.
- Our goal is to provide help for anyone who needs it.
- 67% for the people we serve are kids.
- We are trying to work on a scheme that starts with prevention.
- Funding doesn't even cover the current provided service let alone any plans to initiate prevention.
- Solicitor General provides funding. We are not happy with them.
- Kids are going to have poor health in children as we see an increase on severity of trauma.
- We are putting out fires as opposed to prevention.
- We are telling our story and looking for funding.
- Bad things are going to happen. But we can provide hope. It only takes one to become a safe person for an individual in crisis. That one person can make all the difference in the longer term to that person.
- Our volunteers are committed we just need more! We can't work to our best potential if don't have the best people.
- City of Lethbridge is reorganizing its community services to reduce adverse experience to help children develop to their full potential.
- Our unit covers Coaldale and surrounding county of Lethbridge area. Picture butte, Raymond, Magrath, Milk River
- Question: Have you had any one on ones with your MLAs.
- Answer: We feel that the Gov't budget may not help considering the cuts that the Conservative Gov't has been handing down. But it is a good idea. We will reach out.
- Question: Can you create more society so that a single unit will cover a single geographical area, and thus maybe receive more funds.
- Answer: It doesn't work that way. It would be way more time consuming and would probably cost more in the end.
- Questions: Do you work with other organizations like FCSS to provide services to victims.
- Answer: We all work together to provide the best care for the individual. We all have a different role.
- Question: Are you looking for donations.
- Answer: Yes we are approaching business.

- All SVU have business that sponsor them. We are looking for community partners.
- Another stat to consider is that in our area child abuse is 3 times more likely than other.
- We are running a 30,000 deficit.
- For this type of service, will you not be fighting for money from similar organizations?
- Yes and we do try to collaborate to provide services to citizens.
- We need to focus on our small communities to get the service they need within their own communities.

5. **NEXT MEETING**

February 12, 2019 at Noon
Coaldale Inn