



Presented by Coaldale & District Chamber of Commerce on **Wednesday, May 9, 2018** at **12:00 p.m.** at the **Coaldale Inn**

**1. INTRODUCTIONS**

**2. TOWN COUNCIL REPORT**

Councillor Bill Chapman presented the following report:

“Today, I want to share with you some Council activities that are **external** and also **internal**. We have been quite busy on a number of files. Each and every member of Council is assigned to roles on Boards, Commissions, and Committees. Our Term has been highlighted with clear direction and **Mayor Craig** has truly been one of our busiest members. Certainly, our **CAO Kalen Hastings** has been a real inspiration and shows great talent in his vision for the Town.

**Externally:**

Recently, Council was pleased to support a letter to the **Lethbridge Chamber of**

**Commerce** through their request to build a systems approach to Transportation systems including rail, air, and road. The key effort is to create a Hub much that will be similar to Edmonton and Calgary. These Transportation systems networks are the new keys to Economic Development.

**MLA Grant Hunter** is here today, and he is a clear advocate for so many issues, and particularly the efforts of our Corridor from Medicine Hat to the Crowsnest Pass, to twin Highway 3. I want to thank you for all your work in this regard.

In my role as President of the **Highway 3 Twinning Development Association**, I was pleased to be invited by **Economic Development Lethbridge** and the **Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce** to take part in a seminar on regional transportation systems put on by **Canadian Institute of Traffic and Transportation**. They spoke on career path development and learning for people buying, selling and moving goods and services, or are impacted by supply chain logistics. Education is delivered through professional certification and courses on business development, plus designation.

Further to this seminar, I was also pleased to be invited to participate at the Lethbridge Chamber’s lunch meeting with **Minister of Economic Development and Trade Deron Bilous**. Following his presentation, I was invited to have a

further private meeting with him, and specifically to speak with him the **benefits of twinning Highway 3**. As a worthy investment, the economic impact would be \$3 to every \$1 into construction. And alone, it is determined that **Cavendish Farms** will need about 207,000 tons of potatoes, equal to about 7000 truck loads each year!

Those types of impacts will definitely be a part of our own economic systems in and around Coaldale.

Other dates for Economic Development Lethbridge this month will be focused on Food for Thought on Entrepreneur Mark Brand, presentations on NAFTA from the Canada West Foundation.

**Internally:**

On April 1, the Town was pleased to welcome about **129 new residents into Coaldale**, a part of the Annexation process we had been undertaking for the past two years. On May 29, Council will be hosting a BBQ for these new residents.

Last week, **McHappy Day** here in Coaldale raised \$7170 for **FCSS** for their new playground behind the HUB. Thank you to members of the Chamber who participated in this event! It is truly appreciated and goes to a worthy program here in Coaldale.

Starting today, **John Davidson School** is looking for volunteers for the next few days to build their new playground. Town of Coaldale allocates **\$25,000** towards playgrounds, and this one will be the third one in a series of rebuilds.

**E-106 fire engine** was initiated on April 23. It was a break from our traditional colors, and Chief Kevin McEowen felt this was a start for a re-brand for the Fire Department. The tradition of a Wet Down and Push goes back to the 1800s. They wet down the new apparatus from the pumper of the retiring truck, and after hand wiping it down, they actually push it into its new home! This unit was purchased for \$438,000 by Lethbridge County, and replaces one of their older fire trucks. It will be servicing the County service area, including the Town of Coaldale.

As we begin transitioning to a mid-size community, we are planning forward. Council has been working on a four year Strategic Plan. On April 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, we held two Open Houses to share the Plan the public and gather your input and suggestions. This Plan will provide direction or a road map, to staff regarding the vision, priorities, and focus areas and strategies for the next few years. These are our eleven areas of Strategy planning:

- Public Safety (Better lighting, flashing pedestrian lighting, Safe Routes to school)
- Finance (strategic investments, diverse revenue streams, and clearer information to the public about the Town's financial position)

- Economic Development (Chamber and Town working collaboratively to update the Town's website to make it more interactive, functional, and easier to use. Also investing in Main Street)
- Stakeholders and Partnerships (County, City, provincial, federal. Schools, AHS, meetings with industry, main street, commerce, and home-based businesses)
- Communication, Marketing, and Engagement (public info easily accessible, celebrate success, updating our website for many purposes, inform and engage our community)
- Management and Administration (Gold Standard, and employer of choice, leaders in workplace safety, attract and retain top flight talent, accreditation)
- Governance (Advocacy, municipal relations, strong communication and effective meaningful citizen engagement, transparency, lobby efforts)
- Planning and Infrastructure (to build our town into a thriving and dynamic community that upholds the
- Recreation and Culture
- Parks and Beautification
- Operations

While we don't have summaries from those two Open Houses, I am sure the community will be interested in some of our thoughts. The online Survey closes May 15.

Our **Pool will be opening on June 25**. Due to the prolonged winter, they are just beginning to commence the project to meet new required provincial standards for pool operations. Town staff wants to ensure that it is operating well before any public is admitted.

As you may know, the **Cannabis Survey (non-medical)** was put on our Town's website. The Survey will assist Council in setting a course for our Planning department to understand some terms of reference regarding its addition to the Land Use Bylaw. Who has looked or filled out this Survey?

Lastly, our **Development Stats** for the first Quarter of this year are very encouraging. While at the same time last year, **Residential construction** was the highest over the past five years, it was this year that our **Commercial has shown unprecedented growth**, over \$14m.

### 3. **LETHBRIDGE COUNTY REPORT** **New CAO Begins May 28**

Ann Mitchell has been appointed to the position of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) effective May 28, 2018. She takes over from Sheldon Steinke, who stepped in as interim CAO following the retirement of Rick Robinson in September 2017. Mitchell brings 20 years of municipal government experience to the position, the last 13 years of which have been as CAO in rural municipalities in Ontario. She comes to the Lethbridge County appointment from

the Municipality of Sioux Lookout, where she served as the CAO from 2012 to April 2018.

### **State of Local Emergency due to Flooding & Road Bans**

After monitoring flooding conditions in the County and taking preventive measures to mitigate flooding, a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) was declared the morning of April 16. Flooding was localized in the County. During the SOLE approximately 30 roads were closed but no evacuations were done. County crews assisted with pumping and mitigating flooding in areas of concern. The SOLE was terminated at 4:00 pm on April 17.

Road bans were lifted on April 19 on all calcium stabilized haul roads that were completed in 2016 and 2017. Municipal Services observed that these roads held up well over the winter and through the thaw and that no bans were necessary.

### **Coaldale Fire Engine 106**

Lethbridge County Council was on hand to celebrate alongside the Town of Coaldale as Coaldale and District Emergency Services took possession of the new Engine 106 on April 23. This new engine was funded by Lethbridge County and it will replace the current aging 1996 engine.

A push-in ceremony was held in which Coaldale Firefighters kept with tradition by hosing down the new engine with water from the retiring engine, then pushing the new E 106 into the station.

### **Lethbridge Airport**

An agreement in principle has been reached to transfer ownership of the Lethbridge Airport to the City of Lethbridge from Lethbridge County. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was approved in March for the ownership and governance of the airport to be transferred to the City by June 1, 2018. The County and City will now work together to draft all formal agreements necessary to fulfill the intent of the MOU. An Airport Transition Committee has been established by the City to ensure a seamless transfer of ownership, oversee the development of a new governance model, and begin planning future enhancements for the Lethbridge Airport.

Integra Air announced on May 4, 2018 that it would suspend operations at the Lethbridge Airport on May 7, 2018. It is disappointing to lose a valuable air service for passengers. WestJet will begin flying at the airport June 21, 2018 with three daily flights under the WestJet Link program.

### **Development in Lethbridge County**

#### **January-March 2018 Report:**

44 development permit applications were received. In that time frame 26 were issued with the remaining 18 applications still in circulation. Of the permits that were issued 6 were residential, 8 accessory buildings (ie. Personal use shops/garages), 1 commercial/industrial, 6 agricultural, 1 signage, and 2 home

occupation, 1 public/institutional, and 1 demolition. The Subdivision Authority made decisions on 3 subdivision applications and approved them all.

To compare, in 2017, 37 development permit applications were received and 17 permits issued between January 1 and March 31.

### **Link Pathway**

At the May 4, 2017 Council meeting, County Council approved a motion that the County would begin discussions to enter into an agreement with the Link Pathway Society for \$1.00 per year to maintain the pathway once it is completed.

At the September 21, 2017 meeting County Council defeated a motion that Council would provide a letter of commitment for in-kind support to a maximum of \$100,000 contribution to the LINK Regional Pathway Society. There has been no pledge from Council for any future financial support for the pathway.

#### **4. Grant Hunter MLA for Carston-Taber-Warner**

Consolidation of seven electoral divisions into six in the eastern side of the province to account for the population in those areas having grown at a rate below that of the province as a whole; those existing seven electoral divisions are Battle River-Wainwright, Drumheller-Stettler, Strathmore-Brooks, Little Bow, Cardston-Taber-Warner, Cypress-Medicine Hat and Vermilion-Lloydminster.

The Carston-Taber-Warner riding will encompass portions that include Coaldale, Milk River, Bow Island, Foremost and hamlets right to the county of Forty Miles eastern border.

Grant will bring his perspective on changes we will be facing with the realignment and also with the loss of current MLA David Schneider, Little Bow riding.