

MINUTES – JAN 26, 2016 7 pm OLDS TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRESENT: Joan O'Reilly, Judy Schlichenmayer, , Lyle Bliss, Fred Bay, Michelle Maschke, Kevin Heppler, Cpl. Mike Black, P.O. Joe Reid, Wayne Milaney, Wade Bearchell, Karol Jorgensen, Doug Wagstaff, Doug Collie

CALL TO ORDER - WELCOME & INTRODUCTION (Joan O'Reilly)

ADOPTION OF AGENDA MOTION: Wade / Lyle CARRIED

MINUTES REVIEW & APPROVAL AS CIRCULATED: (Nov 24, 2015) MOTION: Judy / Fred CARRIED

DELEGATION: – **Doug Wagstaff / Karol Jorgensen– Governance Review Process**

Doug will conduct an on-line survey from current and past representatives and get results back to committee, to use in evaluating how to best structure the committee, to serve the community in a meaningful and productive manner, emphasizing 2-way communication. Focus feedback to answer – What would you like to get from this committee? What information will encourage the public to ask – What can I do to help the RCMP? What information should be coming to this committee to share with the community at large? Crime trends and how to protect yourself – information/training on asset protection, fraud prevention, robbery prevention, etc.

The Olds Detachment's Annual Performance Plan will be presented to council in the near future. Community groups need to be represented to bring forward issues. This committee provides the liaison between citizens and RCMP.

1. **BUSINESS ARISING:**

1.1 **BYLAW FOR PAWN SHOPS – TOWN & COUNTY - TABLE**

2. **BRIEF REPORTS - NEW BUSINESS:**

a. **FINANCIAL REPORT** (Judy) balance December 31, 2015 \$1,460.64
MOTION TO ACCEPT: Judy / Fred CARRIED.

b. **OLDS RCMP REPORT** (Cpl Mike Black) (stat reports – available at meeting). Weekly Media Crime Reports posted on RCW website – Last year saw a significant increase in property theft – but many times vehicles / buildings were unlocked and had keys left in. Community as a whole continues to deter crime by reporting suspicious activity / vehicles. Social media has changed effectiveness by getting information out immediately. Couple of successful projects involving the suppression team has made a big dent in the drug trade. Traffic volumes continue to increase and stress resources. Enforcement has increased in school zones. Bike Patrol has been a big benefit. Chinook Edge and the RCMP have a lock-down plan. Annual safe program drills.

- c. **TOWN OF OLDS PROTECTIVE SERVICES (Joe Reid)**
Bylaw enforcement is focusing on parking issues. Participating in traffic stops with RCMP. Finding increase in lack of documents – insurance-registration.
- d. **OLDS CITIZENS ON PATROL REPORT (Doug Wagstaff)** Group
has temporarily suspended operations and the town is working with the group to get it active.
- e. **OLDS RURAL CRIME WATCH REPORT (Fred B)** Membership drive in full swing. Lots of interest in membership. Crime Prevention Trade show date set for Saturday, May 14, 2016 – at Olds Legion. General meeting tomorrow – AGM – March 23, 2016 . The Eagle Hill Co-op had their door kicked in and cigarettes stole. Lots of good information on the website on recent scams and police reports.
- f. **OLDS FISH & WILDLIFE (Adam Mirus): N/A**
- g. **TOWN OF BOWDEN COUNCILOR’S REPORT (Wayne Milaney)**
Bowden High School now has a football program and is generating lots of interest and support. Recruiting for CEO with Andy Weiss’s retirement – interviews scheduled first week of February. Crime is down right now. Looking at training for businesses on armed robbery.
- h. **TOWN OF OLDS COUNCILOR’S REPORT (Councilor Wade Bearchell)**
Issues with crossing on Hwy 2A at high school, AND intersection at old Cam Clark Ford. Provincial response has been that controlled crosswalk not warranted. Looking at downtown parking issues. Pedestrian safety improved. Near miss with train & vehicle when driver ran lights and train locked up brakes. Discussion on where safety valve for emergency is and concern to have all crossings blocked. This is an AB Transportation – CPR – Municipal – County issue.
- i. **MOUNTAIN VIEW COUNTY POLICING REPORT Kevin / Al Kemere)**
Traffic enforcement up with violation tickets up 400 last year. Slow down since Dec with traffic down – economy fallout? Eagle Hill County Shop broken into with truck stolen. Found burned up. Number of these types of crimes up.
- j. **OLDS SEARCH & RESCUE REPORT (Jack Humphries / Jim Finlay) N/A**

k. **WEBSITE PAGES ON:** <http://www.oldsruralcrimewatch.ca> and page on mountainviewcounty.com/ruralcrimewatch
NEW E-MAIL: ocp@oldsruralcrimewatch.ca

- l. **COMMERCIAL VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT (James Trombley) N/A**
- m. **OLDS COLLEGE & OCSA (Glenice Grover – OC Residence Mngr. / OCSA – VP Andrae Campbell) N/A**
- n. **OLDS HIGH SCHOOL (Tom Christensen) N/A**
- o. **SHERIFFS / FREEWAY (Cpl. Matt Firmston) N/A**

p. SAFE COMMUNITIES (Kathleen Raines) N/A

3. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS: - for info / discussion only

- 3.1 Town of Olds appointment – Wade Bearchell.
- 3.2 Town strategies to fight crime – Olds Albertan – Jan 19, 2016
- 3.3 Stolen guns a risk to community – MV Gazette Jan 19, 2016
- 3.4 Group hopes to revive old program to curb theft - MV Gazette Jan 19, 2016

4. NEW BUSINESS

- 4.1 AB Community Crime Prevention Assoc – Conference – Calgary April 27 & 28 Theme: Community Mobilization – will be re-visited next meeting.
- 4.2 Comments from AUMA fall conference & Key issues affecting safety in communities – from Red Deer & Lacombe Counties (APPENDIX A)

5. ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Communication through the media on Awareness: “What’s Happening in the Community” Community Service Announcements on Lock It or Loose It! Use of Social Media/CATV. Town-County-RCMP to do local community policing messages, working in cooperation with this committee and Citizens on Patrol – like MVC Bylaw articles.
- Cpl Morgan is doing regular police reports for media. These are also posted on RCW website.

6. ROUND TABLE

Reported that bullying is not a big problem – there are isolated incidents though.

7. ADJOURNMENT – 8:30 pm MOTION: FRED CARRIED

8. 2016 MEETING SCHEDULE:

Jan 26 Mar 22 May 24-AGM Sept 27 Nov 22

9. NEXT MEETING: 7:00 pm March 22, 2016 . OLDS TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

4TH Tuesday in SEP/NOV/JAN/MARCH/MAY)

FILE: CPC MIN JAN 26, 2016

APPENDIX A:

Good afternoon Judy, FYI and this outlines our discussion yesterday and the issues Inspector Bulgar brought up during the AUMA conference last week.

Jean

> Good afternoon Carsten,

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> Thank you again for meeting with Becky and I yesterday morning on your way to Calgary. As with yourself I prefer the face to face meetings as opposed to emails or telephone calls.

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> I appreciate you listening to our concerns about the Alberta board and **we look forward to some information on the " Hub concept"** which represents more of a shared responsibility on crime prevention with law enforcement. In fact I am going to send you an overview we prepared after meeting with the RD North MLA Kim Schreiner, who had asked for a meeting in August on our RCW initiative. She had requested some information on what was happening in the RD/ Lacombe county as she had heard some good things. During the discussion we also spoke of homelessness (as we are experiencing this in my division, in Gasoline Alley) and a treatment center.

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> One of the suggestions we had made was a template for all crime prevention groups, with the solicitor General acting as a mentor/guide which would allow communities and crime prevention groups to establish their strategy within a framework set out by the Solicitor General's dept due to the disconnect we found during our community meetings.

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> After attending the AUMA last week and listening to RCMP Inspector Charmaine Bulgar speak on her group ALERT and how they work in partnership with other law enforcement and groups, the HUB concept makes a lot of sense. She emphasized that they ensure they don't exclude any partnerships with any organization, including the American's.

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> I was horrified at what she had to say about the 400% increase in crime throughout Alberta, in spite of our economic downturn. She spoke of " puppet clubs" (bike gangs), African groups (increase in shootings) and how the ALERT team works at being more strategical, as opposed to reactive. She spoke of 30 - 40 % of organized crime within our Alberta communities and the problems they are experiencing with " Freeman on the land" making threats to judges and to the courts. She also spoke of the Fentanyl problem, which is coming from China and finding its way into Alberta via B.C. and noted it would get worse before it gets better.

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> She also spoke of the I.C.E. (Immigration & Customs Enforcement) in relation to child exploration with individuals being picked up in

Calgary recently and as she noted much more of it going on within Alberta.

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> The face of our crime is definitely changing and as communities (rural or urban) we also need to change how we do things in all aspects.

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> Our group prepared a strategical plan in June, which our group felt was imperative, due to the benefit we saw in going forward. We are very grateful to Mr Floyd Mullaney for his assistance with this document, as he facilitated the entire process.

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> It has given us clarity/ redefined our role under new leadership and assisted in identifying target groups. It will also allow us to deal positively with the inevitable/decrease crisis management in how we deal with crime issues, use resources efficiently and effectively and gain commitment allowing our group to work toward common goals. It will provide us with an opportunity to incorporate new ideas/approaches when dealing with complex and complicated crime issues arising within our communities.

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> Should you have any questions kindly contact myself or Becky and we would be pleased to answer them. We are in the initial stages of getting our policies/ procedures in place and overall we are all very proud of the direction RCW RD/Lacombe is headed.

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> thank you once again for meeting with us, and look forward to more discussion.

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> Jean

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Four months, fourteen community meetings within Red Deer and Lacombe Counties, hundreds of Central Albertans, some tragic stories, combined with some amazing examples of how communities are coping/taking action in dealing with the crime issues we appear to be experiencing within these two counties.

Key issues affecting safety in our communities?

1. Justice System –

- Throughout the community meetings we have heard over and over again, why are people who are committing horrendous crimes, being re cycled through the Justice system? What deterrent is there?
- Communities feel it's escalated to serious and dangerous situations for both law enforcement and communities. The culprits know they are "untouchable". They are very "brazen" and feel they have the right to rob and pillage and threaten citizens.
- Businesses - issues with insurance companies due to the amount of vandalism, thefts

- Sentences if given are too light, lack meaningful consequences, and the process takes too long.
- Under – staffed and overburdened prosecution service, affecting the quality of service being provided.
- Limited resources

2. RCMP –

- 90% paperwork/ 10% policing
- Response times within counties (vastness of area with limited resources)
- Wait times on 911 and complaint lines
- RCMP lack up-to-date technology, while criminals have had “state of the art technology” for decades.
- A common Communication system within law enforcement groups in the province?
- Crime prevention – is this the responsibility of law enforcement? Or communities?
- RCMP being challenged by a rapidly changing and increasingly complex and complicated society. Are its members trained to cope with this complexity?
- Public expectations unrealistic

3. Service Groups – Rural Crime Watch/Citizens on Patrol

- More emphasis on crime prevention
- **Severe disconnect** between Crime Prevention groups (groups are in silos)
- Rural Crime Watch - inconsistencies regarding membership fees, fan out systems, antiquated equipment
- Changing communities (families under stress/family breakdown)

OBSERVATION:

The general feeling within the communities is frustration and concern! With many communities being connected and communicating, while others are disconnected and struggling to find how to connect.

The face of crime is changing and as communities, we also have to change how we do things, as this province continues to grow and develop. We must make the time, to become engaged and involved in our communities.

There is no easy solution and it should be viewed, as an evolution of new ideas and practices as we go forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jean Bota