



Mayors and Reeves of Southeast and Southwest Alberta

MINUTES

**Friday, June 6, 2025 – 1:00pm
Heritage Inn, Taber
4830 46 Avenue**

1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Gordon Reynolds and Reeve Randy Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm. Round table introductions followed.

2.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved Mayor Dwight Davis - **Carried**

3.0 ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Reeve Tamara Miyanaga to adopt minutes. **Carried**.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Dr. Koegler and associates, Southern Alberta Medical Centre Committee Member

- Dr Rick Buck – working in Lethbridge Regional Hospital Emergency Room
- Discussed lack of physician and healthcare resources
- Rebecca Schipp – Deputy provost University of Lethbridge – advocating for rural health care
- Discussed distributed medical learning, partnership between University of Lethbridge and University of Calgary. The curriculum is University of Calgary curriculum.
- Discussed retention: Retention starts with belonging, the longer you can keep a learner in the community the more likely they are to stay working in the same community.
- Welcoming new learners and their loved ones will help them feel a sense of belonging.
- Encourage local youth to see medicine as attainable.
- Curriculum used in Southern Alberta is a 3 year curriculum.
- Discussed the admission process for rural candidates

4.2 Brent McEwan, Executive Director, Rural Health, Primary Care and Rural Health Division of Alberta Health

- The Rural Health Action Plan focusses on 5 areas:
 - 1- workforce – create a health and sustainable engage and efficient health workforce in rural Alberta, access and deliver quality health care when and where you need it. Focus on all areas of care as equally as possible. Rural and remote resident physician bursary program, funding them \$125 thousand to stay in rural 3 years. For remote students \$200 thousand to stay in remote for 3 years. The program running to February 2026, will follow the students throughout their careers to see how they do and where they land.

- 2- Access – rural hospital enhancement program – all 82 rural hospitals in the east-central area will be assessed on what shape they are in and the demands.
 - 3- Models of care – creating different solutions and care – Telus health will be doing a virtual health project in some communities.
 - 4- Community care – putting together a health tool kit that is web-based to find what you need.
 - 5 -Prevention/wellness – reduce risk factors to encourage protective measures to reduce strain on the health system including, mobile screening, targeted health promotion, tobacco/vaping reduction strategy, injury prevention in rural Alberta and STI and bloodborne disease prevention
- Rural health is not a distinct discipline. It encompasses all health disciplines and services within a defined geographical area, with multifaceted unique patient relationships.
 - Why focus on Rural? Everyone expects healthcare when needed and where. The solutions to problems often don't translate. With challenges in recruitment and retention communities feel disconnected. We are trying to work on equity vs equality. We can't build an equal system but need to build one of equity so you feel you have access to everything you need when you need it.

4.3 Chief Superintendent Wayne Nichols, Southern Alberta District Officer, RCMP

- Discussed encouraging strong communication between unit commanders and communities.
- Discussed that mistakes are made at times and the need to hear from community leaders when a mistake is made in order to investigate it and learn from mistakes.
- Discussed the heavy ticketing from Sherrif's around the "red zone". RCMP believe that educating locals is a better approach.
- Discussed the police funding model and the increase in costs for policing.

5.0 MP/MLA Reports

- No report

6.0 REPORTS

6.1 RMA – Reeve Jason Scheider

- Discussed policing. Encourages everyone to be a part of the review process.
- Discussed getting a lot of complaints about the Sheriffs. A permanent board has been set up to include the Sheriffs.
- Discussed the police funding model and the increase in costs for policing.
- Running for Municipal office webinars are now taking place. It is a good opportunity to educate those that are thinking about running for office.

6.2 AM – Deputy Mayor Deborah Reid-Mickler

- Encourages everyone to be a part of the police review process.
- The Minister has agreed to working with both committees in regards to the FCSS funding model.
- Looking for submissions of resolutions. Contact Deb if you need help writing a resolution.

7.0 Round Table Discussion

8.0 ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm

Please send any community information for distribution to M & R to MayorsandReevesSW@gmail.com