

In June of 2017, Town of Coaldale Council passed the Code of Conduct (Bylaw #734-GE-06-17) that incorporated guidelines for Town Council members, concerning their activities as councilors.

On July 28, 2017 a call was made by the Town of Coaldale to my electrical company concerning a service call to the Coaldale Curling Rink. A crew was dispatched and repairs were completed at the request of Town Staff.

At the onset of the September 25th meeting of council, I declared a conflict for the invoice from my company in the amount of \$1,371.16 as listed on the Town of Coaldale cheque run. As a result, Mayor Kim Craig made a formal complaint that I was in breach of the newly formed Code of Conduct bylaw.

As per the new Code of Conduct, the work request should have been authorized by Coaldale Town Council prior to a crew being dispatched. As a result, I breached Part 1, Paragraph 8.6(a) of Town of Coaldale Bylaw #734-GE-06-17. Because of this breach, I will be receiving a letter stating that the Code of Conduct bylaw needs to be reviewed by me, with a suggestion that all of council review the new document to familiarize themselves with it.

The Code of Conduct Bylaw currently says that any work completed by a company owned by a member of council, except for emergency calls and/or incidentals, needs to be authorized by council prior to any work being done. After I obtained a legal opinion, it was suggested that the Town of Coaldale incorporate an amendment to the bylaw that will direct administration to draft a Request for Proposal (RFP). This process is very common with municipalities and government agencies.

The request would require all companies doing business with the Town of Coaldale, including my own, to provide labour rates, and material mark-up costs to the town. This information would be used to create templates for smaller, emergent projects that would not going through a bidding process.

My company is one of several electrical firms that the Town of Coaldale currently utilizes. Based on availability, technical experience required for the job, and a rotation among the local businesses, a company is chosen to do the work.

Municipalities often have business owners, with whom they do business, as members of council, not only in Alberta, but across Canada. To deter a business owner from running for council because they would not be allowed to continue their business relationship, would affect the quality of candidates running for a seat in a Municipal Election.