

## **Meeting of the Joint Councils of Carberry and North Cypress-Langford, February 24, 2020**

The Joint Councils of Carberry and North Cypress-Langford met on Monday night, February 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of the Municipal Office. Mayor Olmstead was in the chair, with both CAOs and many but not all councilors present.

### **Delegation:**

When the opening formalities were over, the first thing was a visit from the new Manager of Leisure Services, Andrew Istace. Andrew is a native of Whitewood, Saskatchewan, where jobs at the rink, pool and ball park which peaked an interest in recreation. He resolved to find work in the field, and has been in Brandon until this position came open. He is happy to find a placement in a small town; compared to his time in Brandon he finds it much more congenial.

He has been picking up the details of the work done in the past, and setting up programs and events for the future, with the cooperation of the Arts Council, Service for Seniors, and others with an interest in recreation. Yoga has drawn good attendance, and Zumba is coming. He was encouraged to get the day camp going for the summer, and has already applied for funding for it. He is working with past pool personnel to get a staff ready for the re-opening of the swimming pool. Councilors welcomed him, and assured him that they were there to hear his concerns and help out where possible. The CAO's will be coaching him through the budgeting procedure. He will be reporting to the Rec Board, who in turn report to council with their needs and hopes come budget deliberations.

Stephenson was able to add that funding is almost all in place for a new waterslide for the pool, thanks to a \$30,000 donation from McCain's. It should be a welcome compensation for last summer's loss of the use of the pool, and will be big and fast enough that it will have to be positioned to have its outlet in a deeper part of the pool.

### **Unfinished Business:**

The contract with 1Life Safety is still waiting for the approval of the NCL council; there have been several delays while more input is sought.

Councilor M. Tolton reported, as representative to the Museum Board, that their project to inaugurate a monument to Carberry's Commonwealth Air Training Program aerodrome for unveiling on the 75th anniversary of VE Day (May 8 of this year) has not drawn the support they hoped. Costing is also proving difficult, with so many types of flagpole to choose from and some non-standard Air Force flags. The monument itself, a short obelisk of black granite, is the most costly component, at a figure of \$10,000 or more, and the engraving on it, which will involve some pictorial detail, may add up to \$5,000 further. On the bright side, a local contractor is considering supplying the concrete for free.

Councils assured Tolton that they are both in favour of the project, and will deliberate separately on the amounts they will subscribe. The Museum Board will be meeting later in the week to hash out details like the specific location for the monument, and to try and get closer to their budget figure. They hope for the day of inauguration, May 8, will perhaps prove to be too short, but there is also VJ Day, August 15. It was also pointed out that the start date for a monument expected to last for centuries was less important.

A discussion arose over the exchange of proposals to organize and pay for the work of the Municipal Office. The latest of the memoranda came from North Cypress-Langford, responding to that of the Town of Carberry, and suggesting that once budget deliberations are complete, the two CAOs develop a protocol to assess the actual costs of the offices' work and their sources, and come up with an evidence-based proposal by the end of the year, for use in the 2021 budget deliberations. At the root of the different positions are the

expectation of the Town that they would not suffer financially for the addition of the administration of Langford to the office's concerns, and NCL's contention that their retaining an ACAO at their own expense more than compensates for their withdrawal of the \$25,000 per year unilaterally that originally covered the expected extras.

Councils resolved to appoint Keith Loney as Fire Chief of the Carberry North Cypress-Langford Fire Department. His wages, training, and memberships will be shared 50/50 between the Town and the Municipality. They also appointed Don Menzies and Grady Stephenson as Deputy Chiefs, on the same basis.

A discussion arose about the terms of these appointments. It was pointed out that these are appointments, not elections; they are more like job placements, good subject to review, retirement, or resignation. There is however a responsibility to review the posts every three years or so. It was also noted that Stephenson's duties as CAO take precedence over his responsibilities to the Fire Department.

### **General Business:**

Councils discussed the charger for electric cars situated in the lane behind the Old Town Hall. It has been in place for eight years; it was supplied free. Though an older model, it is in use by passing electric vehicles, and Mayor Olmstead reports an increasing number of inquiries about it. Patrons need to leave the vehicle on charge for over an hour, so any visit usually occasions some sales to local restaurants and businesses. As to its future, there may be a way to be supplied with an upgrade to a faster system, but so far none has been offered. It is possible that it may be advantageous to site it at the Community Centre once its service distribution panels are upgraded.

Janitorial work at the office, the old town hall, and the public washrooms has been calculated to have cost \$38,000 in wages and benefits when done in-house by joint employees. There is reason to believe that a commercial janitorial service might be contracted for a saving. Council directed the administration to call for tenders to clean the Municipal Office, the Old Town Hall, and the Community Hall.

The necessary amendments to the Employee Policy that have been identified are still in the process of being drafted. The resolutions should be ready by the next meeting. Amendments will be required to the individual municipalities' policy and to the joint policy.

The Provincial Curling Club is seeking banner ads in the flyer for the bonspiel to be held in Melita. A Carberry rink is in contention. Council discussed their possible support of the event, and after a tied vote, declined to advertise.

The Manitoba 150 Committee is looking at an ambitious schedule of events and features for the Summer Kick-off Day, June 20. Though they have access to funding for some important elements of their program, the hoped-for funding from the Manitoba Government will not be received. Apparently many small town events were similarly denied funding. The committee has been suffering a drop-off in participating members as well, and has asked councils for increased input, both in financial help and in membership. All councilors will be advised of the next committee meeting, and are encouraged to attend. Council discussed funding the fee for the use of the fairgrounds for the day. They will ask the committee to make a presentation to the next meeting to discuss the ways in which councils can help with the many facets of the event.

Councils approved the Financial Officer to attend the Manitoba Municipal Administrators' Association conference on April 26-29 in Winnipeg, and agreed that the costs would be shared 50/50 between the two municipalities.

Councils also approved a necessary amendment to the wage set for CAO Fraser back in July of 2019. This was a "housekeeping" amendment requested by the auditors.

### **Committee Reports:**

The Manager of Parks, Facilities & Sanitation reports that he is working on minor repairs and planning major ones for the CPCC, including a water slide and restructuring the heating system. Also out for quotes is a new front window for 122 Main Street.

Plans are being prepared for the play structure in Art Sear Park, and for a shade structure requested by Service for Seniors for the park next to the Drop-In.

He is also working with Product Care Recycling to add a paint drop-off to the amenities at the transfer station.

The Financial Officer is well on with budget deliberations, and has much of the year-end work completed in time for sending unaudited financials to the Province. Work on the 2019 audit can start soon.

The Manager of Leisure Services reports that the rink has been used for the McCain Bonspiel and minor hockey provincial playoffs, and several out of town teams have time rented in March.

Two yoga classes have been successful and may be renewed, and in addition there may be a Zumba class started.

Grants for summer help have been applied for; lifeguards are being sought for the summer.

He will be attending Rec Connections in March and WRPA in April.

The Arts Council reports that Exit Stage Left returns to Carberry with a locally written play, "Or Best Offer" which will play at the Community Hall March 13 at 7:30 and March 14 at 1:00 p.m. The following week singer/songwriter Kenzie Jane will wind up a residency working with the Collegiate's youth choir showcasing the result at her concert on March 19 in the Community Hall. On March 20, the Hall will be the site of a dance recital for Taylor Orchard's classes. Registration is open for Ms. Orchard's summer dance camps as well.

The Arts Council is working with the Brandon Women's Shelter to provide information on domestic violence and the services available. Research is also under way to see if a course in sign language can be arranged.

The CDC has been busy with her job as Election Officer for the By-Election in Ward 3, and with booking the Community Hall as it goes into a busy season. The Manitoba 150 committee has been losing both members and funding since its enthusiastic inception, and she asks that councils help both financially and with work in the committee to ensure the success of this unique event.

She is going to present a proposal to upgrade and update the town/municipal website. With the loss of the News-Express, it is a valuable outreach tool.

With the Town CAO, mayor and councilors, she met to plan a strategy to revitalize Main Street. She has some reasons to feel this has promise.

Evergreen Environmental can finally say that the gasifier is in the final testing stage, and may even be ready for its first work on site this summer. The board has been holding strategic planning meetings, harmonizing tipping fees and discussing how or whether to add new members. It will cost a new member over \$110 per capita to join, which may be financed in stages, and present members are aware that adding members also shortens the life of the facility.

The Fire Department's latest report shows only light activity on the emergency side, but lots of testing and upgrading both equipment and personnel qualifications. With the Chief and Deputy Chiefs appointed they will go on to accept applications for captains. They thank councils for their continued support and feel lucky to have such equipment and

infrastructure.

The Library Board has been assessed membership fees of \$11.20 per capita for their participation in the Western Manitoba Regional Library. They are going to ask the Community Foundation for funding for two laptops they need. They were also looking to install a "wisdom bench" to provide a place for elders to sit and share their knowledge. The search for a citizen representative has found Whitney Pingert to join the board.

The Museum Board will be hosting a fundraising concert by 'Prairie Joe' in the Community Hall on March 28. They will also be having a meeting to hammer out details of the CATP monument this week.

Cypress Planning is considering a raise to their base funding rate, which hasn't been substantially changed since 1983. They are also concerned about the impending retirement of John McEntee. Finding a new Development Officer will be difficult. In the planning district's history, there have been only two such officers; the job is evidently a "keeper." It's likely that WestCan Human Resources will find either a recent graduate planner with no practical experience in the trade, or a candidate (like McEntee) with plenty of trade experience and no formal qualifications. The only other alternative would be to find an experienced planner/development officer and pay them more than their salary elsewhere.

Word from Service for Seniors/Handivan is that activities are going well. They have been working with Gail of Daughter on Call to survey the community and determine if changing the fee structure and the services would attract more clients for the Journey Villas.

They are hoping for a shade structure in the park beside the Drop In Centre, and looking for grants from the Canadian Dermatology Association and Manitoba Build 150 for it. A typical 20 x 20 shade structure runs about \$33,000. They already have \$2717.25 towards it from Youth in Philanthropy.

The handivans each needed some detail repairs to pass their annual safety check as required. So far, no new funding has been announced to help with Handivan acquisition, so the board is holding off on any purchases or exchanges.

#### **Communications:**

A request has come from the 6th Annual Potato Truck Pull asking for sponsorship. Councils agreed to subscribe \$600, with the funds to come equally from the Town of Carberry and the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford.

Council discussed whether they should draft a policy about which requests for support, sponsorship or advertising they will accept. It was felt that the gain in transparency and simplicity was offset by the loss of discretion. There are always special considerations.

#### **Around the Table:**

Councilor Blair wondered about tickets for the upcoming Sportsmen's Gala fundraiser. He was advised that though it's not sold out, sales are brisk, and he should hurry if he wants to get a seat.

Councilor Muirhead reminded the Town CAO that AMM should be advised of Lorry Balabanski's death. Lorry was a town councilor from 1983 to 1992.

He also reported that he had recently found out that the clinic had ongoing issues with their water system. Complaints internally within Prairie Mountain Health have had no effect, but a call from CAO Stephenson to a contact of his at PMH was able to get some action, and the situation rectified. Muirhead was amazed that communication was so poor between the Health Action Committee and PMH. He hoped it would be possible to determine why there is no longer a front office/reception at the Health Centre.

Councilor D. Olmstead congratulated the organizers of the McCain's Bonspiel that had just concluded. She also commended the Neepawa Banner on their Carberry/NCL coverage, and reminded everyone to consider advertising there as one of their options.

CAO Fraser noted that the Manitoba 150 committee has been referring to their planned events as Carberry's, and reminded them that North Cypress-Langford is part of the festivities and their expenses too. She also echoed Councilor Olmstead in praising the McCain's Bonspiel just completed.

Mayor Olmstead expressed his condolences to the family of Lorry Balabanski, and asked that the administration send an official card of condolence.

CAO Fraser reminded everyone that the by-election to fill the Ward 3 seat on NCL's council will take place in Brookdale on March 4, with an advance poll in the council chambers of the Municipal Office on Friday February 28. The race is between Jolene Balciunas and Clyde McCallum.

With that, Councils adjourned at 9:02 PM.