

## Special Meeting of Joint Councils, May 6, 2020

A special meeting of the Joint Councils of the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford and the Town of Carberry was held in the Carberry Community Memorial Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday May 6. Eight-foot tables had been set in a widely spaced circle, with a council member at each end to maintain the needed physical distancing. Reeve Adriaansen was in the chair, and all councilors were present, as were the two CAOs.

With the meeting opened and the agenda set, the first matter before councils was the request of the owners to establish a firm number in 'animal units' for the capacity of the feedlot to the west of town. An animal unit (AU) is an arbitrary value for the manure generated by 1000 pounds of animal(s). A capacity of 1000AU, for example, would let you support 1250 cattle weighing 800 pounds apiece.

The feedlot has been in place since well before capacities were limited by legislation. Physically, it was well built to handle 6600 head, and has been used for up to that in the past, though not continuously. More recently it has held as many as 2500 head (which would be 2000AU).

By legislation, any facility feeding more than 300AU must prepare and have approved a Manure Management Plan, which it submits to Manitoba Sustainable Development and Water Stewardship. The plan will take into account the matters of groundwater protection, nutrient loading and odour abatement. The rigor of the plan escalates as the capacity increases — from 301AU to 1600AU is one level, 1601AU to 3200AU another, and beyond 3201 the most stringent.

The municipality has been tasked with setting a capacity that they will accept. Under present rules, no facility of this size would be permitted so close to residential development or a town, but the feedlot has been in place and in operation on and off since the 1960's. A balance must be set between the nuisance of the feedlot and the need to keep it viable as a business and an economic asset to the municipality.

The municipalities' web site is in need of an upgrade. The present site has certain navigation drawbacks, and the small annual maintenance fee doesn't allow the provider much accommodation of the needs that arise. The Community Development Coordinator, after some research, would like to change over to All-Net Municipal Solutions, a very highly-rated firm that has been specializing in municipal websites for many years with excellent results, and a very useful range of features. They have two levels of service; a starter package that costs \$3995/yr. and a full-featured package at \$6995/yr. Councils agreed that there was value in the upgrade, and moved to accept the starter package, bearing in mind the possibility of upgrade if the changeover went well and the additional features proved desirable.

Members of Town Council brought forward a motion intended to clarify the protracted dispute between the two councils over the costs of the changes to the administration originally requested by North Cypress-Langford. The town was repeatedly assured that it would not suffer any increased expense as a result of the changes, and moved that NCL pay the additional costs the Town had incurred in hiring its own CAO instead of sharing the joint CAO and ACAO as before. After some discussion, a recorded vote defeated the motion.

There has been a request to lease one of the spaces at the Ball Park Camp Ground. For reasons arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic, the applicant wishes to live in a serviced trailer for the next few months. The rental fee of \$400/mo. would cover hydro and sewer connections. The question of whether to take advantage of the easing of isolation restrictions that has just been announced, and the extent to which campsites might be spaced to comply with physical distancing were discussed. Among the concerns expressed was that the restrictions on outdoor facilities might be reimposed if the pandemic showed a resurgence. Councils agreed that the campground should follow provincial guidelines that are set for opening and appropriate restrictions are put in place. The campground is seasonal from May to September and council would allow for the lease the space until the season is done.

The municipalities participate in a number of sub-boards which customarily receive a standard grant each year. With so much concern about finances as a result of the unprecedented difficulties this year, the question was raised whether these grants should continue. Several boards have underspent their grant often enough to build up a considerable surplus.

After some discussion, it was agreed that any sub-board requesting a grant would have to include in its request an unaudited financial statement and explain the uses to which the funding requested would be used for. Much of what these boards have to do will not be reduced by the pandemic, so their costs will remain.

The Manitoba 150 celebration has been postponed in consideration of the social distancing regulations in place this summer. Much of the funding will continue in place for when the events can be rescheduled, but where contracts are in place that can't be delayed a year, there is perhaps a chance to use the equipment for a local celebration as the distancing restrictions ease. There is certainly going to be a hunger for public entertainment as it becomes possible — even if cautious and still a bit distanced. Councils agreed that some sort of local public celebration of the easing of restrictions would be welcome and should be planned, tentatively for the late summer or early fall.

With that, councils went *in camera* as a committee of the whole to discuss personnel matters. Council went out of camera and adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

