

Joint Councils, February 26, 2024

The Joint Councils' Committee of the Town of Carberry and the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford met in the NCL office council chambers on Monday February 26, 2024, with Reeve Drayson in the chair, supported by Councilors Olmstead and Van Kommer, and Mayor Muirhead supported by Councilors Kalinowich and Sudak. Also present were CAOs Parker and Stephenson.

Unfinished Business:

The first item of business was a discussion of the daycare situation. In both municipalities, the lack of daycare has been an ongoing concern, with the Carberry Child Care Co-op having a waiting list of over 100 names. The situation is not uncommon in the province, but daycare can be a deciding factor in a prospective resident's choice of location. The province started to address the situation under the previous government by donating RTM daycare centres to needful municipalities who undertook to provide tax-free land and certain amenities and services. Carberry was missed on the first distribution of 25 centres but was high on the remaining list. It is probable that the new government will continue the program, and measures should be taken to be ready to accept the centre if awarded. Carberry's EDO is establishing a committee to facilitate and expedite the building if awarded, with a mandate to find another way to establish a building if the RTM idea does not pan out. The first priority is to find the land on which to site the building. Provincial requirements are for two acres, fenced, with services. The centre would be a joint asset and responsibility, so land already jointly owned in the Rec parcel west of Wellwood Road would be ideal. A location on Stickle Avenue West, at the head of Dufferin Street has been suggested. Once both councils have resolved to approve it, the EDO and her committee can get to work on the other details — sewer, hydro, and fencing — and get back to the councils with pricing. If there is no provincially supplied building, the committee would either contract a builder to erect one and lease it, or the Joint Councils could own and lease the building.

The second matter discussed was Carberry's need for a Weed Supervisor as required by the Municipal Act. Because legislated safety precautions preclude much spraying within the town, the Town's Weed Supervisor has few duties, and it is usual to name the RM's Weed Supervisor as being also the Town's. The problem of how he/she is paid needs to be

addressed. The meeting agreed that a percentage figure was not suitable, and NCL agreed to prepare a cost-recovery figure for call-outs to Town.

General Business:

It will be necessary to hold a meeting to discuss Joint budget matters as soon as possible, since they contribute to the overall budget process. Carberry's ACAO is unavailable until after the next Town Council meeting, so it was agreed that an email would go out asking for acceptable dates if March 14 wouldn't be possible.

The Committee resolved to accept with regrets the resignation of Zaine McConnell from Parks and Rec's labour force.

Farm Credit Canada has donated \$2,000 for upgrades to the ball park's concession building, and because Carberry has been awarded the Minor Ball U13 Boys' provincials in early July there are other details that will need improvement. This is the first time in recent memory that provincials have been held here, and the very active Minor Ball committee will have a list of detail improvements wanted. The on-site campground will be quickly filled, and the fairgrounds needed as well. If the new campground would be ready in time, it would be an asset.

A question has arisen now that users are being charged for use of the Transfer Station. What is to be done about material brought in by non-residents of the Town or NCL? Taxpayers of the two municipalities are already covering the administrative and staffing costs, and only need to pay for particular loads such as mattresses or construction waste that are put in the roll-off bins. Evergreen has no wish to handle waste from anywhere outside of their contributing municipalities. The check-in details taken while the user is on the scale include an address, but that can be falsified or misleading. If any waste is taken from non-residents, is it letting in material that Evergreen should not receive? If it is charged at less than another jurisdiction's rate, would it be worth the gas to bring material here? A non-resident user fee in addition to the tonnage charge may be the answer. In order to determine if this is a recurring problem, the Manager of Sanitation will be asked to keep statistics for a month or two to assess the gravity of the situation.

Councils will pass a motion to acquire some portable fence panels to prevent any vehicle leaving the Transfer Station without crossing the scale.

Committee Reports:

The Manager of Leisure Services reports that a full calendar of bonspiels and hockey tournaments will keep the rink busy, and Mass Registration for the spring will take place on Wednesday, March 20. With a new gas meter installed at the Hall, the emergency generator will soon be installed. The Rec Board is proceeding with details of the Campground and Soccer Pitch. They plan a Sportsmen's Gala for April 5 at the CPCC. At the museum, a failure of the furnace caused some burst pipes, requiring a new pump and pressure tank. Age Friendly Manitoba awarded a \$10,000 grant, with an additional \$5,000 to recognize milestones in Carberry and NCL. At the Transfer Station, the scale is recalibrated, and loads are being charged. The Step 2 program has found an instructor and is running at 122 Main Street. The YMCA will partner with the Rec Board to run a summer day camp. Job ads are in place for summer help, as well as for a parks and rec labourer.

The Archivist has received some donations and many requests for historical information. She has received a grant to promote collaboration among archivists and knowledge keepers and will use it to host a gathering at 122 Main in March. She is taking courses to complete her qualification in museum practises. With the librarian she is working on an interview protocol to collect local verbal knowledge.

The Arts Council has various classes and projects on the go, including a free after-school arts program at 122 Main on Tuesdays. The BU Chorale will present a concert in the Hall on March 1 after working with CC music students in the afternoon. A Children's Business Fair is planned for May 11 outdoors, weather permitting. The final concert for the Council's piano students under Irene Wong-Montgomery will be held on March 15 in the United Church.

The Health Action Committee will be rolling out the red carpet for Dr. Ahmed on March 1. Talks with the province and the other stakeholders continue to try and ease the path to certification for Internationally Educated Health Professionals.

Evergreen Environmental will be trading up their skid steer.

The Fire Department had a wide range of calls this month. Their new helmets have arrived, and a grant from BASF was received for equipment upgrades thanks to Michelle Hill. Six members have recertified their first aid training. New winter tires on the rescue truck have been well reviewed.

At the Museum, the furnace failed, and caused the well and pump to freeze up. Repairs have been affected, but pressure still isn't what it was. Cost of repairs may reach \$3,000, but at least no display material was damaged. Gordon Goldsborough has been signed up to speak at a fundraiser on April 21.

The money for the new handivan should arrive in April, after the government fiscal year end.

Communications:

A response from the Assistant Deputy Minister of Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care outlines the steps being taken to expedite the accreditation of Internationally Educated Health Professionals (IEHPs).

The Western Manitoba Regional Library sent the minutes of their latest board meeting.

Around the Table:

Councilor Van Kommer reported that the recently held Men's & Ladies' Curling Bonspiel had been a great success, well organised and profitable to the area merchants and services.

CAO Stephenson reported that fire inspections are being conducted on all municipal buildings. Annual services are required for all gas-fired appliances and furnaces in public buildings. He also noted that TAC Ventures had again been awarded the contract for solid waste handling for the next five years. The hope to get Accessibility Grants for physical projects is off; the grants are not for that but for software, training, and the like.

With that, Councils went *in camera* to discuss personnel and preliminary matters and adjourned at 10:00pm.