

Joint Councils, March 25, 2024

The committee of the Joint Councils of Carberry and North Cypress-Langford met on Monday evening, March 25, in the council chambers of the Town. Mayor Muirhead was in the chair, with Councilors Kalinowich and Rea, and Reeve Drayson was present with Councilors Olmstead and VanKommer.

As Mayor Muirhead called the meeting to order, he pointed out that it was Councilor Rea's first meeting of the Joint Councils since her by-election victory on March 6, and presented her.

Unfinished Business:

The first item of business was the proposed daycare. A committee of 15 members is in place, at least four of whom are already taking the mandatory course for daycare board members, and they are ready to start preparations as soon as the location for the facility is settled. As to that, councils quickly agreed that the suggested location in the southwest corner of the jointly owned rec lands was ideal. There remain details to be ironed out; the exact placement and the way the land is turned over to the daycare. If it is to be donated, there must be a legal subdivision, which might take extra time, so perhaps a dollar-a-year lease would be more appropriate. Legal advice will be sought.

The daycare committee's first fundraising goal is \$20,000, to get the site and services into place. In the ongoing silence from the new government, they will be operating on the assumption that they will have to build their facility. Plans call for a capacity of 60, divided among infants, pre-school, and school age. (The government's RTM had a capacity of 50). They hope to build and be ready to open in two years. The cost estimates run between \$800,000 and \$1,100,000 of which 60% would be available from the government(s), and 40% would have to be locally raised. It is understood that if the plan goes ahead, there will be applications from all over the area, including Brandon. Sixty places would not even clear the waiting list at CCCC. If the new facility fills too fast, they can consider a second facility.

The Joint Services Agreement, which sets the framework for cooperation between Carberry and NCL, is still under discussion. It was agreed that the details of the negotiations would be kept *in camera*.

A new 3-year lease for the physicians' suite at Lyons Estate was agreed on, with the costs divided equally among the Town, NCL, and the Community Foundation.

With the impending staging of the U13 Provincial Baseball championships at Carberry's ball diamonds, there is urgency to make improvements to the facilities. Minor Ball has presented a wish list of upgrades, with a considerable total price tag. Minor Ball will be asked to a meeting to distinguish between needs and wants, and to advise what grants have been applied for. Though there are items like aggregate for the base path, much centres around the shed in the centre of the park, where a well has been drilled and a pump sourced, but the hookup and onward piping remain unspecified. The decisions will be taken to the budget deliberations.

General Business:

Regulations mandate a full inspection of all public gas-fired appliances, and these inspections are under way, along with fire inspections of all buildings, which won't have to be done annually. Both inspections will result in costs to comply with recommendations.

The valuations of all buildings for insurance purposes have been received, and there were some shocking rises. Greatest was the valuation of the old offices at 121 Main Street, where the construction method was reviewed, resulting in a rise from \$700 thousand to well over a million. Councils discussed the possibility of seeking local cover instead of the AMM's plan. They can sometimes offer very advantageous rates, as was noticed in some other municipalities. CAO Stephenson has been investigating what local brokers can offer.

Councils agreed to hire two applicants as joint utility employees at the rates set out in the employment agreement. The costs will be split between the two municipalities equally.

Committee Reports:

The Manager of Leisure Services reports that as the ice season winds down the staff have season-end maintenance tasks scheduled at the CPCC. Summer staff look promising. At the Hall, the generator should soon be placed, and LED replacement lights installed. The beverage cooler and the PA system are showing their age and may need replacement. Maple bugs have been an embarrassment. One of the trucks blew an engine, and another that was stored all winter will need to be repaired to return to service.

At the Transfer Station, the start of charging for some loads has caused people to leave without going over the scale, or without stopping on it. There have also been problems explaining that the attendants need to know your address to save you from paying. With Minor Ball she has been discussing the upgrades to the diamonds, and the responsibility for maintenance and upkeep of whatever is done. She is working with CACF to paint and tidy the skate park, for which they have a dedicated fund. During a bonspiel, an elderly spectator became disoriented, went onto the pool deck, and was locked out there by the automatic door. This was possible because the changerooms were open and the exit door must not be locked.

The archivist has been working with the cemetery and the Legion to try and document deaths for which there are no headstones. She used a grant from the Association of Manitoba Archives to hold a gathering of archivists and knowledge keepers from surrounding communities. She is collaborating with the librarian to start a series of interviews with seniors to create and store oral reminiscences and histories. She has been approved by her board to take on a student volunteer to help with the homeowner lists. They also approved an upgrade to her computer.

The Arts Council had a successful recital by the BU Chorale at the Hall. There have been several craft events and classes, and a recital by the students of their piano teacher Irene Wong-Montgomery. Their successful after-school arts program wound up on March 19, with thanks to several volunteers. They are looking forward to a Children's Business Fair on May 11.

The Health Action Committee have been asked to host a meeting at the clinic, and the list of participants is exciting — the Minister of Health and an ADM, executives from Prairie Mountain Health, and several physicians who have been expressing their concerns about the certification of Internationally Educated Health Professionals. The joint committee hoped to expedite the preparation of the venue for such a significant meeting. Dr. Sarpong, a Manitoba physician, has suggested that Dr. Tannasse be retained as a "clinical assistant" who would perform the duties of a physician but under a licensed physician's [his] supervision until he has filled in the last of the requirements to be licensed in Manitoba. Sarpong has confidence that there are many UK physicians available for whom this practise would be welcome.

The Fire Department attended to a chimney fire and three MVCs this month. It is planned that on the Friday of the Homecoming a social will be held on Main or at the rink to mark the Department's 125th year of service. Next year, the Grand Valley Mutual Aid will be hosting the meeting of Manitoba Fire Chiefs and hope to combine it with training courses and demonstrations of equipment, and invite municipalities to send representatives to see and understand the concerns of the firefighters, and to assure those demonstrating equipment that they are talking to the decision makers responsible for supporting fire departments' budgets.

The Western Manitoba Regional Library has seen a sharp rise in use for their Brandon branches, particularly the Shoppers' Mall branch, and have received a grant from the Forrest High School's Youth in Philanthropy.

The Handivan committee is still waiting for the money for their new van. It will be held up until after the start of the government's new fiscal year on April 1.

Around the Table:

Mayor Muirhead advised the meeting that with the reassignment of duties occasioned by Councilor Rea's election, the Town's representatives on the various committees and sub-boards may have changed.

With that, the meeting went *in camera* to discuss personnel and preliminary matters and adjourned at 9:05 pm.