

## Town Council, May 14, 2024

The Council of the Town of Carberry met on Tuesday, May 14, at 7:00 p.m. in their council chambers. All members of council were present, along with Youth Councilor Downey and CAO Stephenson.

The first order of business was to hold a public hearing on a variation order, V04-24-C, which was requested by Riverbend Building Supplies on behalf of Resurrection Life Ministries. The request is to vary the setback for a landlocked bi-level place of worship and assembly in an RG zone from 25' down to 10'. This would allow more efficient use of the space and provide more parking places for the building. DO Andrews of the Planning District explained that the wall that faces the rear property line has no exit door, so no one is likely to be trapped in the space. The ramp required by accessibility concerns at the front of the building will take up quite a bit of room otherwise available for parking. The matter of drainage is not yet addressed; this VO is just about position. The drawings for the building, once approved under Part Three regulations, will specify the necessary steps to ensure that drainage does not interfere with any neighbours. If parking is a concern, it can be made a condition of the building's permit.

Four citizens were present to discuss the order. The first to speak was concerned that the location at an intersection of Fanny Street and Third Avenue was already a busy one, and that a use that involved gathering children was putting them at hazard of the heavy traffic in the area. The additional parking would also be a problem to the traffic and the neighbours, and the provisions for pick-up and drop-off of children would further aggravate the traffic situation.

The second to speak was concerned with the site's drainage, noting that already there is pooling before the water drains out to Third Avenue. He asked what assurance he might get that his adjacent property would not suffer flooding.

Third speaker asked whether the building would be used for a daycare. The description put forward by Resurrection Life suggested a youth centre of diverse character, but was daycare a significant element?

The fourth speaker was Ray Johnson, speaking for the application. He agreed that drainage has long been an issue at the site and was confident that the new development permit would address that issue. Though the

building is meant for a range of facilities related to youth it was true that they were considering a daycare of Christian character as one element. When asked about any other changes he might wish to make at the site he mentioned that a centre aimed at youth would want hoops set up for basketball. He hoped that he would be able to ensure that enough off-street parking was available for the purposes of this building and his primary hall but was leaving that to the planning authority approving the building permit. He agreed that Fanny was a busy street and might need crosswalks and stop signs to protect young pedestrians. In response to a question about noise he said the building was to have full insulation and only limited piercing towards the neighbours, and a neighbour assured the meeting that it was not a problem at the moment.

DO Andrews advised that the proposed building would fall under the provisions of Part III. Approval would therefore be given by the province.

The participants were thanked for their concern and their input, the public meeting was adjourned, and the council meeting resumed. The first resolution was to approve the variation order V04-24-C from the public meeting, reducing the setback from 25' to 10'.

Amy Denbow of the Assessment Office came to Council to present the 2025 assessment for the Town of Carberry. In a complex calculation, the assessments of each property are revised every two years to a baseline set two years previously. The 2025 assessment will be based on the market values of properties in 2023. For Carberry, the average change in assessment is 12% upwards, which will cause a reduction in the mill rate to achieve a status quo budget. As a result, residential properties will pay about the same, farm land will decrease by 7.9%, commercial/industrial by 0.2%, and institutional property will decrease by 6.9%. Changes in assessment methods mean that pipelines and railways will feel an upward tax of 7.1% and 4.5% respectively. Someone from the Assessment Branch will be present at the Town Office on June 12. The deadline for an appeal of an assessment is September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Denbow was thanked for her presentation, which was accepted by motion.

Council has been asked whether they wish to participate in securing a Part III designation for DO Andrews, and agreed, sharing the costs equally with all members of the Cypress Planning District.

### **Finance and Accounts:**

Council accepted the report of ACAO McConnell and approved the Financial Statements for April 2024. Payments and direct withdrawals totaling \$420,129.34 were approved for payment.

### **By-laws:**

By-law 03/2024, which establishes a reserve fund for Emergency Measures, was given second and third readings, passed unanimously, and became law.

By-law 05/2024, which establishes a reserve fund for Child Care Development, was given its first reading and passed.

By-law 04/2024, which sets the rates of taxation for 2024, was given its second and third readings, and passed unanimously into law.

### **Unfinished Business:**

The Health Action Committee can take credit for the announcement made by the premier and the minister of health that Carberry's Emergency Room has reopened as of the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. As it now stands, a rota of three physicians will staff the ER for 12 hours a day — a good start. The premier hinted that there was more good news to come. Loretta Oliver and Councilor Sudak both spoke at the event and did credit to the community. The mayor is scheduled to meet with PMH CAO Treena Slate soon to discuss the next phases of the project. Muirhead reported that he had had coffee with Dr. Iliriani, who is taking the shifts for two weeks before returning to his family in Ottawa, and assured him of his warm welcome to the town. He also felt that there was some very positive news in the making. He thought that it would be fitting and important to recognize the efforts of Dr. Maharaj, without whom this solution would not have been possible.

The June District Resolutions for AMM are upcoming. Carberry has not presented any of their own but will endorse the efforts of the Municipality of Souris-Glenwood.

The Mental Wellness Day has received positive responses. The presentation at the school in the afternoon was well attended and made students aware of a number of mental health issues and services. In the evening, the attendance was well over last year's at nearly 100 participants. Chris Beaudry's presentation was unexpected and thoughtful, and the breakouts wide-ranging and effective. Council thanked CAO Stephenson,

who has already started planning for next year's event with the organizers from the school.

### **General Business:**

The mayor and Councilor Rea absented themselves for a motion to refund certain Blue Cross premium overpayments. On their return the parade route for the Class of 2024's graduation parade was approved, and a street closure on August 23 (the Friday of Homecoming) from 6:00 p.m. until the 3:00 a.m. following was approved to allow the Fire Department to host a 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, which was supported as a community event. Council also agreed to support the Plainsmen Cup golf tournament by fielding a team of four staff members.

In response to a request from the SWRRT, it was agreed to provide a letter of support for their efforts to advocate for a more inclusive and regionally sensitive approach to housing allocation.

Carberry Minor Ball, who have been awarded the 13U Provincial Baseball Championships for 2024, sent a 'shopping list' of repairs, upgrades and maintenance to the ball diamonds, which they would like to see completed before the tournament. They point out the importance of beautiful parks to community pride and promotion. Council looked at the detailed list and considered how best they could deploy their resources to get as much of it done as practical. A meeting of the Buildings Committee is coming up shortly and they will bring some suggestions to the discussion. Between Buildings and Parks, both joint committees, there should be budget enough to get most of it decided, and NCL's meeting is shortly after, so there need be no delay in getting started.

Council will continue their support for Carberry Collegiate grads with a scholarship of \$500 for the class of 2024.

Council passed two resolutions as drafted by the municipality of Souris-Glenwood to be presented to the June Regional Meeting of AMM. One asks AMM to lobby for the provision of funds to provide infrastructure support to provincial roadways (such as Main Street) where the province only maintains the central nine metres, and leaves parking, curbs, and drainage to the municipality. The second asks AMM to lobby for municipalities' rights to vary speed limits on provincial roads within their boundaries.

At the moment, there is no Carberry citizen representative to the board of the Western Manitoba Regional Library, and councilors and the public are encouraged to find someone to fill this need.

Council approved councilors and staff members to attend the EDAM awards ceremony on May 30, 2024. Tickets and mileage will be paid. Carberry's EDO is nominated for one of the awards being presented.

### **Reports:**

Youth Councilor Downey reported that a group of 22 students were on a tour of Quebec and Montreal. Eight students, of which he is one, have been selected for the SEAR (*Science Experiential Aerial Research*) program, which uses drones to spot diseases in agricultural crops and urban forestry. He will earn a drone pilot's license and perform hands-on research flights. There will be a spring concert of all the Collegiate's bands on June 5. A "Run in the Sun" will be held on May 24, with competitors from Neepawa, Brookdale, and Eden. Further physical education will be available as the pool reopens for the season. The school held a tornado drill to learn safety measures in the face of the sort of weather crises that are becoming more frequent. A mixed double badminton team is going to the provincial competition and several other sports are under way now that the weather allows. The Mental Wellness Day that took place recently sparked interest among the student body; the breakouts brought several concerns and therapies to their attention. It was considered a valuable experience.

The CAO has been much involved in Health Care, what with the Mental Wellness Day and the provincial announcement of the reopening of the Emergency Room at the Carberry Health Centre. On April 26 the office was closed to allow the administration to attend the MMA Leadership Summit, at which the Lieutenant-Governor announced an award to be presented for Municipal Administration Leadership. He has taken advantage of a 90% reduction in the cost of a course in Asset Management Planning, which will be taking two afternoons per week out of his time until complete.

Public Works report that they brought in ten tons of cold-mix asphalt, most of which is already placed. Spring work has been done at the lagoon including rebuilding the spray gun. Boulevards and culverts have been given spring cleaning; the ice is out of the rink. Problems with the fire pump have led to replacing the jockey pump with a stronger one.

The EDO has been proceeding with the branding project with a makeover of the south end of Main Street, and two more signs to be placed pending Hydro's locates. She is working with RMED to attract investors from further afield. A plan to add student participants to the Drop-In is in the works following a successful questionnaire at CC. The new logo will appear on the Chamber's highway sign, on bus benches in Brandon, and on magnetic signs for vehicles to be entered in parades. Last year's contest to decorate steel drums as refuse containers got handsome results, but the drums were too large for a standard lid. She asks to purchase a set of lids at \$145+taxes & shipping. This year she hopes to set up a "Welcome Home" sign competition, challenging businesses and community members to make signs to be judged on Homecoming Day and prizes to be awarded. She has nominated Carberry residents or businesses in six categories for the Tourism Westman awards on June 12, and hopes to lead a contingent to the gala. For Employee of the Year — Callie Sudak; Volunteer of the Year — Deanna Letkeman; Event under \$5,000 — Homecoming; Event over \$5,000 — Ag Society's Fair & Races; Partnership — Jolene Balciunas and Alyssa Hall (Main Street Market & Studio); and Small Business of the Year — Callaghan's Lounge. At the Chamber of Commerce, Carberry will be featured at the regional meeting in Souris on May 15; the Town-Wide Yard Sale will take place on June 15, and the next project will be updating the welcome sign by Home Hardware. At the Health Action Committee recruitment and retention have been highlighted, fundraising continues, and in addition to the recent ER announcement, we have been promised two EMS by July to complete our crew. The new Daycare Committee is up and running, with a dozen individuals and three municipal appointments. Fundraising has started and research into design and building has begun. A questionnaire about possible use of a facilitation space upstairs at 44 Main Street drew a dozen possible users.

Council approved the purchases requested in the EDO's report: the signage, vehicle magnets, garbage can lids, prizes for the "Welcome Home" competition, and attendance at the Tourism Westman Gala.

The Fire Department wants to thank the teams from Shilo, Neepawa and Austin who turned out recently to help with extinguishing a grass fire and a simultaneous structure fire at a separate location, and to Callaghan's for refuelling tired firefighters. The annual Firefighters' Texas Breakfast will be cut a little short at noon this year because members of the department will

be headed off to Dauphin for a memorial observance of the tragedy of June 15, 2023.

Mayor Muirhead and Rev. Emma Seamone judged the recent Children's Business Fair, an impressive show of energy and creativity. In a difficult choice, the winner was declared to be Enrico Prudnikov with a display of woodworking and engraving.

The Cemetery Committee was shocked at the cost of the repairs to their windmill.

The Rec Board have been working to distinguish between "needs" and "wants" among the upgrades and repairs asked by Carberry Minor Ball in connection with their upcoming hosting of the 13U Provincial Championships. A new sign is to be placed at the CPCC.

The reports presented were approved by council.

### **Communications:**

The Manitoba government sent news releases about their commitment to hire 100 new doctors in 2024; a list of Child Care Sustainability Trust funding grants (did not include Carberry); and the Homeowner Tax Credit.

AMM sent details of MPI's Speed Sign Program, and of MMSM's Extended Producer Responsibility plan.

MB Municipal and Northern Relations sent their proposal for a Medical First Response program, which would enable municipalities to fund and field first responders who are not members of the College of Paramedics.

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure sent approval for the Emergency Plan.

A Manitoba press release announces the commitment of \$3.8 million for the reconstruction and improvement of Highway 5A — Main Street, Dauphin.

The Exchange Group sent the audit of the Handivan.

Manitoba sent details of the Mental Health Worker resources available to first responders.

Accessibility for Manitobans sent information and a Communication Standard.

Southwest Regional Round Table sent a letter asking for support in their petition to the government to spread the Manitoba Public Housing grant money outside the perimeter.

The grade two class in BC that reached out for information about our town sent thanks for our compliance (including a picture of Flat Stanley).

WMRL sent the draft minutes of their latest meeting.

Blue Hills RCMP sent an invitation to their golf tournament on June 27 at Shilo Country Club.

A letter from Shirly described difficulties she is having with her neighbour over fencing. The problem becomes critical as the snow melts and the temporary fix applied over winter must be dismantled. The administration will mediate with her and the Cypress Planning District.

### **Around the Table:**

Mayor Muirhead reported that the Lieutenant-Governor had stopped in town to deliver food supplies to the Food Cupboard, and gone on to the Drop-In where she presented birthday greetings to some of the seniors. He had attended the Mental Wellness Fair and presented keynote speaker Chris Beaudry with an honorary citizenship of the Town. He was also in place as Master of Ceremonies for the provincial announcement at the hospital. He hoped that with the return of suitable weather he would be able to persuade the owner of 33 Main Street to get on with the promised task of demolition. A problem he has noticed is the persistent show-off speeding from the pumps at East End. He encouraged anyone spotting this sort of activity to get out the phone and take a picture, particularly if the driver can be recognized. The comparable problem with bikes is that the drivers are invariably in fully shielded helmets, but the plate should still be visible. The problem is not addressable by posting speed limits; the offenders are unlikely to obey even a stop sign.

Deputy Mayor Kalinowich was also present for the announcement, and congratulated those who were able to make it happen. Road crews have been repaving parts of First Avenue, but though the surface is better, there is a sharp drop-off at the edge, which has caused some problems. He asked what activity Sirius has given us; there are few signs of their presence. He was advised that a meeting with Sirius to discuss ongoing projects and concerns is to happen soon. He also asked what the situation was in relation to the demolition of the Old Town Shop. Here too, a meeting has been called to get restarted.

Councilor Rea wondered whose responsibility it was to pave railway crossings and was informed that it was that of the railroads. She also asked



what regulations were in place to keep properties clean and presentable. She was advised that there are by-laws dealing with unsightly and derelict properties, and that enforcement is in the hands of Sirius By-Law Enforcement.

Councilor Sudak also had questions about enforcement. He is concerned about vehicles being parked across pedestrian walkways, and heavy trucks being parked on boulevards. He hoped Sirius would actively pursue the problem. He would also like to see a wildfire hazard warning signboard placed where it will be seen by residents and visitors.

Youth Councilor Downey advised that he has been scheduled to have a field experience with the SEAR project on the day of the next council meeting; he is not sure to be able to make it back in time.

CAO Stephenson reported that he has received a request similar to last year's from Westman Aerial Spraying to perform crop spraying near the town. There are assurances that the town is never overflowed, and noise concerns will be observed. He also reminded council that the AMM Western District convention will be held on June 12 in Virden. Councilor Sudak is to receive his 5-year recognition. He suggested that Carberry could offer to host next year's Western District conference and received a go-ahead.

As the meeting prepared to go *in camera*, Councilor Anderson reminded all to slow down and watch for kids now that the weather has brought them out onto the streets.

Following an in-camera session to discuss preliminary matters, the meeting adjourned at 10:36 pm.