

Town Council, June 11, 2024

The Council of the Town of Carberry met in their council chambers at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday June 11, 2024, with Mayor Muirhead in the chair and all members of council present. Also present were CAO Stephenson and Youth Councilor Downey. Additionally present was Downey's successor as Youth Councilor, Krister Boganes who was introduced, welcomed and congratulated. He is presently a grade 10 student at Carberry Collegiate.

Finance and Accounts:

On the recommendation of the finance committee, the ACAO's report on the Town's financial position and the financial statements for May 2024 were approved, and cheques and direct withdrawals totaling \$ 222,394.00 were approved for payment.

By-laws:

By-law 05/2024, which establishes a reserve fund for Child Care Development, was given its second and third readings, and was passed into law with a unanimous vote. Council commented that the work of increasing the amount of childcare support in town is very necessary and has wide popular support. As well, the committee formed to expedite it has shown itself to be enthusiastic and effective.

Unfinished Business:

The search for a citizen representative to the WMRL board has been successful; Chris Martens has agreed to accept the nomination.

The Joint Committee was presented with a petition signed by 30 residents that asked that steps be taken to ban the use of engine retarder brakes and reduce the speed limit to 80 Kph on Highway 5 around the town. In response, Council approved a joint letter to Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure with NCL requesting that in concern for safety and noise pollution, a review of the speed limit and a local ban on the use of such brakes be established.

This summer's staff appreciation day will take place on Friday, June 14. Members of the Councils will be present to serve the staff, and the Transfer Station will remain closed until 3:00 p.m. to allow the staff to attend.

At Councilor Sudak's instigation, a price of \$500 plus posts and installation (about \$750 total) has been established for a fire risk index sign to be posted at the town limits. Council discussed the idea and agreed that

it would be a benefit. Further discussion considered the placing of the sign, and who would reliably keep it updated. The CAO will determine if there is room for it in the budget, and whether it can be approved by the MIT for posting on Wellwood Road at the entrance to town.

From the Joint Committee meeting, resolutions were passed to refund insurance premiums of joint employees, and to hire a Joint Utility Worker and four Green Team students. With Councilor Sudak absenting himself, they moved to hire Callie Sudak as the Manager of Joint Services. The cost of all these hires will be shared 50/50 with North Cypress-Langford.

General Business:

Krister Boganes was formally recognized and welcomed as the Youth Councilor effective with the September meeting of Council. Boganes and Downey both intend to attend the July and August meetings of Council.

A memorial to the casualties of the tragic crash on June 15, 2023, will be unveiled in Dauphin on June 15, 2024. Many of Carberry's first responders will attend, as will Mayor Muirhead. At that time, the design of the Carberry memorial will be revealed, and an announcement that it will be unveiled in Carberry on August 11. Seventeen trees have been donated to the memorial, one for each mortality. The intention is to provide a sheltered spot for reflection on the Wellwood road in the grounds of the Daylily Park.

A resident of the Wellwood Road has noticed that people are unlikely to slow down much south along the road to the stop sign at First Avenue, and accelerate to highway speed early when northbound. He points out that with the development of the Rec Lands, there will be more local use of the street, especially among the young. He suggests that the speed limit be kept to 50 Kph right out to Wheatland Drive. Council agreed, and passed a motion to request such a change to the speed limit from MIT. On another subject, the resident noted that in his work outside town, he has been proud of the town's snow clearing, which is clearly more effective than other jurisdictions. He has been able to boast about it to his coworkers.

At a meeting with S/Sgt. Wikander of the RCMP, the force's staffing concerns were detailed. Though stretched thin, they manage to maintain a visible presence all through their large catchment area. Wikander knows that complaints about service are frequently posted to Facebook, and points out that that is not an effective way to get service. Instead, call 911 for emergency concerns, and for less emergent matters you can call (204) 834-

2131 which will put you through to the Winnipeg dispatch centre, and get a service request into the stream. For routine matters, the Carberry office can be contacted during business hours at (204) 834-2905.

The Collegiate's Youth in Philanthropy program is considering a project of murals, to be placed in public locations in the way they have been used in the CP Park. Council agreed to send word that they would consider and likely approve any such project.

With the damage to the town's trees caused by the latest heavy snowfall, Council resolved to support an application to the Green Municipal Fund for tree planting projects to be completed within the next three years. The Green Municipal Fund provides matching funds to whatever is put up by the municipality, effectively providing 50¢ dollars.

Council hired two Green Team students of their own for Public Works.

Reports:

Youth Councilor Downey's last report mentioned the upcoming exams and the end of classes, along with outdoor opportunities such as the Run in the Sun, and the annual grade eight camping trip. Phys Ed classes are able to use the pool, and the Youth in Philanthropy are hosting a barbecue on the 14th. The last teen clinic offered by the health region is past. In sports, the Lacrosse team has been undefeated and won the provincial championship. Eight CC students went to the provincial track meet. The SEAR drone project had to be postponed for the weather. Graduation Day is Wednesday June 26, and the Awards Day for the other grades is June 27, the last day of classes.

The CAO reports that a lot of his time has been spent on Health Care concerns. In addition, the work of the joint labourers has been being restructured as its leadership was handed over to Callie Sudak. Interviews for applicants for Leisure Services manager will be held this week. He has had opportunities to talk about the mental health ramifications of the crash on June 15. His presentation of these complexities has been well received, and he has been asked to present his talk to other venues.

Public Works reported on their work during May, which included building a planter for Main and Fourth, and other work in the area, and setting up fencing for the Transfer Station. Work was done on the Ball Diamonds, and other joint projects were done with Parks & Rec. The old town shop has been cleared out ready for demolition. Because of the contours, grass

cutting on First Avenue takes extra time because of the hand trimming needed. A cheap zero-turn would do the job quicker and reduce wear on the John Deere. Another trimmer is requested.

The EDO reports that she is waiting for locates from Hydro for the next sign installations in the branding/wayfinding project. She is also seeking quotes on a further four lampposts along Main Street for decorative lighting. At her request, Council resolved to support her application for quotes from Manitoba Hydro. Her bus bench ad has been ordered, to be installed at the south entrance to the Keystone Centre. The magnetic car signs were in use for the Traveler's Day Parade in Brandon and seemed to excite recognition. Next use will be for the parade to the fairgrounds on July 6, and it is hoped to see council members on board. A shared usage proposal with youth is presently before the Drop-In board. The Westman Tourism Gala is coming up, with several award nominations for Carberry people and enterprises. The EDAM conference in late May provided a variety of learning opportunities, particularly a level 6 course of Community Edge training, and learning from indigenous leaders about ongoing cooperation (and the horrors of the past). The Chamber of Commerce is running the Town-Wide Yard Sale, and plans an upgrade to the Home Hardware welcome sign. Carberry was recognized and honoured for their advances at the May 15 regional meeting of the Chambers. The Health Action Committee is encouraged by the successful reopening of the E.R. in the Health Centre, and continues to push for expanded times, reliable services, and a local physician. The New Daycare Committee is picking up speed and planning oncoming events, consulting building professionals, and building a social media presence. She has reached out to Swan Lake, our nearest indigenous community, about partnering on future developments. She is also researching the possibility of a shuttle service between Carberry and Brandon to support shift workers. There are two highway billboards on the approaches to town, and they are in need of upgrade to the new branding style. She has secured two quotes for supplying them, and presented them to Council.

The Fire Department is all prepared for their annual Texas Breakfast, which will be closed down just a bit early (at noon) this year to allow the first responders who will be attending the memorial unveiling in Dauphin to get away in time.

The old town shop is cleared out; the demolition is set to start very soon. The change in management of the joint services has put joint buildings under much better care.

Work has started on the building at the Transfer Station. There have been reports that TAC Ventures are once again starting their pickup run before 7:00 a.m., inconveniencing homeowners who don't deserve to have to transport their own garbage, and causing extra work and cost for the Transfer Station.

The Arts Council has set up a kids' craft at the Firehall to keep them occupied during the Texas Breakfast.

At the Cemetery, the planting has been done with the aid of the Youth in Philanthropy and community volunteers. The result is good looking, though some of the flower plots could well use the addition of some soil to bring them up to the level of the turf.

The Museum has been advised that because of the horseshoe pit near their proposed external display, the insurance premium will be \$200 higher.

The specification for the new handivan is being refined. The supplier's offer for the old one is low; something better can be found. At the Drop-In, the heating/air conditioning has been installed.

The Town has found a citizen representative to the board of directors of the WMRL.

The Health Action Committee is still seeking a primary care physician. A recent Brandon Sun article considers that the limited availability of the E.R. is somehow a failure, but a letter or release will point out that the reopening was never a 24/7 service, just a large positive improvement over complete closure. In addition to working with PMH to get a physician to the clinic, efforts are under way to attract a private fee-for-service doctor to work out of the space in the Super Thrifty store. The committee is trying to bring service in Carberry to the benchmark of 2000, when there were two doctors, a fully staffed EMS, and a 24/7 emergency room.

The Rec Board has been involved in the upgrades to the Ball Diamonds, improved signage at the CPCC, and investigating the possibility of an animated LED sign facing the Wellwood Road.

Communications:

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

Added to the Agenda:

Council formally appointed Chris Martens as the citizen representative of the Town of Carberry to the board of the Western Manitoba Regional Library.

Around the Table:

Mayor Muirhead reported that he will be bringing the Town's greetings to the graduates of 2024 at their ceremonies on June 26, while CAO Stephenson will present the Fire Department's bursary. He recently had the experience of a question/answer session at the Collegiate with the Grade 10 class. He was impressed by the range and depth of the students' questions, and the organizer, Ms. Dyck, was pleased and suggested a regular repeat of the session. Muirhead went on to note that while he is perfectly willing to accept calls about citizens' concerns, there is a proper way of presenting a complaint or a compliment, one which actually gets the concern into action. The complaint form, signed, starts up a response. You can get one from the Town Office, but it can be printed off from the website or even filled out digitally. Lastly, Muirhead wanted to express his thanks to the volunteers who helped to plant the flowers at the cemetery and in the Town's planters.

Deputy Mayor Kalinowich mentioned that he had attended the CC Band's Spring concert and was proud of the kids and their teacher for the excellent concert they gave. He also offered kudos to the Public Works for the speed and efficiency of the cleanup following the sudden heavy snowfall that damaged so many of the town's trees. He complimented the volunteers who have planted at the cemetery and around town, and assisted in sprucing up the Ball Diamonds which are now looking ready for the Provincials.

Councilor Anderson spoke enthusiastically about the "Hicktown Hoedown" fundraising social for the splash park, and hoped they would reach their goals soon.

Councilor Rea thanked Youth Councilor Downey for his service and skills, and welcomed his appointed replacement, Krister Boganes. She spoke of the many ways in which volunteers improve the life of the town, and remarked that the fears that volunteerism was dying with the departing

generation have been proved groundless. The new faces are bringing passion and energy to their tasks.

Councilor Sudak gave kudos to the Fire Department's volunteers who staffed and transported the Fire Safety trailer to all the schools and colonies in the area to bring the safety message to all students. He wished to speak to the behaviour of user groups who rent the Community Hall, some of whom have been responsible for reckless driving and endangering the nearby streets. At his suggestion, a stern letter will be sent to the organizers. Another concern is with the derelict bank building at 33 Main Street. He asked what inducements were available to get action on its demolition. The by-laws are in place, the by-law enforcement officers have done what they can, and still the eyesore remains with little done. The owner will be called in for another interview, but if it appears that he is simply waiting for the place to go to tax sale in the fall, would it not be better to take it over at once so as to get more effective demolition under way during the upcoming building season?

Youth Councilor Downey thanked Council for their support over the years of his tenure, and welcomed Boganes, who has been nominated as his replacement. The two intend to attend the July and August meetings, though there will be no Collegiate news to report on.

With that, Council went *in camera* to discuss personnel matters and adjourned at 9:00 pm.