

## Joint Councils' Committee, August 26, 2024

The Joint Councils' Committee of the Town of Carberry and the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford met in the council chambers of NCL at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 26, 2024 with Mayor Muirhead in the chair and councilors Kalinowich and Rea, and Reeve Drayson with Councilor Olmstead. Councilor van Kommer sent regrets. Also present were CAO Parker and ACAO McConnell.

Two old fire trucks have been kept around the Town's shop unrepaired. Plans to re-engine one of them have been put on hold. Town representatives wanted to ask the meeting for permission to dispose of them, as they are joint property. The meeting agreed that there was no further use for them and authorized that they be offered for sale as is, where is, and the proceeds to go to the joint fire truck reserve.

At the AMM conference, the association's insurers held sessions to suggest that for the safety of all concerned, people renting municipal facilities should take out insurance of their own. They outlined cost-effective ways that this could be accomplished and suggested that insurance cover be mandatory for all renters — part of the rental contract. The committee agreed with the suggestion and asked the CAOs to draw up policies to that effect, to be presented to the next meetings of each council.

While the scale is out of service, there has been a rush of contractors taking advantage of the situation to get rid of material. As soon as Scale Solutions replaces the load cells, which will raise the scale's height by nine inches, Terry Dickson will install the required 10' approaches to each side. After that, things should be returned to normal. It was suggested that contractors be obliged to arrange for their own bins. In any case, because Evergreen will refuse materials that don't originate within their catchment area, a form should be devised to tie a contractor's load to a location within the boundaries of NCL, perhaps involving the cooperation of Cypress Planning to cite the permit number. This year's building season is drawing to a close, but the regulations and forms should be prepared for next year and put on the agendas of both municipalities.

Issues occasionally arise when users of municipal lands and facilities wish to name something in honour of a member or benefactor. It is important to remind tenants that they are not independent boards, but rather advisory committees, and that the naming rights remain with the councils. They can be exploited to create sponsorship opportunities. The committee agreed that a policy should be drafted to that effect, and that it be incorporated into the lease of any users of joint property. The CAOs were left with the details to bring to the next council meetings.

The invoices from TAC at present charge NCL for tipping the 33 bins that are kept at the Transfer Station. This is probably a historical legacy, but not representative of the uses of those bins. CAO Parker asked that the Waste Management Committee examine these charges and determine something fairer.

Fire protection services — the inspection of alarms and sprinklers, the inspection and refilling of fire extinguishers — are often done on a contract that is needlessly expensive. Many municipalities are discovering savings by contracting with a local service provider. The CAOs were asked to examine what is being paid and to whom and get the best value.

Work on the campground has apparently come to a standstill for lack of contracts for the next steps. Whether this is a problem with the Rec Board who haven't met for a while or with the CAOs failing to tender the work is unclear, but a shakeup is necessary.

### **Reports:**

The Manager of Joint Services reports that new signage has been applied to the west side of the rink, and she is researching solar uplighting to keep it visible into the dark hours of winter. Staff have been improving the bowling alley and preparing the rink and booth for the fall and winter season. Rink heating tenders are in, and a decision between radiant and unit heaters is needed. The committee favours unit heaters. A tender has been prepared for the paving of the remainder of the CPCC parking lot. It will be forwarded to the CAOs for review and approval. In the new lands, a well has been installed and the soccer pitch has been sprayed and mowed. At the Community Hall, the commissioning date for the generator passed without happening and without explanation. A new date is to be set, after which the fence can be completed. Bollards will also be installed for its protection. The new sign has been installed. Exterminators have been scheduled to spray the exterior for maple bugs and remove the interior traps. The painting of the Drop-In has been delayed; it will likely start in early September. A boil water advisory for the Drop-In from its last quarterly sample has been lifted after two clean tests. There will, however, be a recommendation for an iron filter. The buildings committee will be advised. At the CP park, the picnic shelter's soffit, fascia and eavestrough are completed. The memorial site at the Daylily Park took a lot of hard work but looked excellent. A fence has been installed to keep cars from driving onto the park to visit the monument or go to the dog park. At the Transfer Station some wildlife problems have been addressed, and the building is almost complete. Scale Solutions have been asked to go ahead with the replacement of the load cells. One of the joint employees has resigned and his position is advertised. A pool employee had to be terminated for cause. The two trucks which were put up for bids drew no bidders; they can go to the fire department for training, or straight to salvage.

The Director of Leisure Services has inaugurated a Glow Swim at the pool which she hopes will continue and is anticipating a fun turnout for the Cardboard Boat Race. Quarterly meetings have been started between Arts, Library and Rec boards and more stakeholders will be invited. The aim is to encourage collaboration and improve programming. For the fall she will start a weekly drop-in tots' program, and for seniors is working on a Craft & Coffee and a video fitness program.

The Arts Council held a free bracelet making workshop with the Seton Centre on July 31 and 27 kids enrolled. Upcoming are piano, guitar and ukelele lessons, a mitt-making workshop, another Glitter & Bits workshop on November 30, and two workshops with

Kathleen Lagasse. The after-school arts program will restart in September. On November 16 they will host the Handmade Market in the hall and on November 24, they will hold a talent show. A date for the Children's Business Fair has been set — May 10, 2025, in the Carberry Hall. They would welcome anyone willing to teach art or craft classes.

Evergreen Environmental's new cell is ready for use.

The Fire Department was pleased with the unveiling of the memorial. They had three calls for deer vs vehicle accidents in addition to a fairly light month. They will be acquiring a compressor for filling BA bottles and have a new porta-tank.

The library's summer reading program has been a huge success. The library has seen lots of use by kids taking advantage of their digital and physical facilities. The fall programming newsletter will soon be available.

The Museum's new outdoor display is finished but for some text. They have a fourth casual staff member to take up any absences, who has had enough work that the position will be advertised next year. Their season closes on September 1.

Seniors/Handivan have had lots of successful activities and trips this summer. They are working with Arts and with Rec to offer programming throughout the fall. The new small handivan will have to go for a recall to Brandon on August 30. The new large handivan is due to arrive in early 2025.

The cemetery is in excellent condition. The windmill restoration is in hand, and a donor has asked to cover much of the cost. They need a citizen representative from NCL to comply with their by-law.

#### **Around the Table:**

Councilor Rea asked about the process and details of the recycling program. She was told that the town's weekly Thursday pickup goes directly to Evergreen, but that NCL's bins have been plagued by contamination, which is severely docked at Evergreen. All credit for recycling seems to be credited to the Town. This too will have to be examined by the Waste Management committee.

Councilor Kalinowich noted that a lot of material is sourced from Home Hardware, and wondered if provincial procurement could negotiate a discount. He also put a word in for the choice of unit heaters over radiant for use at the rink.

Councilor Olmstead reminded the meeting that it was not too early to start planning the staff Christmas party; the days reserved in December quickly run out. Discussion centred around whether a Friday like the sixth or thirteenth would be preferred to a Saturday like the seventh or fourteenth. As for the site, once again it will have to be in town, because of the need to keep firefighters on call near to the station. As a separate thought, she was impressed by the extent and the level of organization of the recent homecoming event.

Mayor Muirhead wanted to see more police presence. The problem is not with the local detachments, who are under constraints of staffing and costs they cannot work around. It will soon be time to present resolutions to the AMM convention and find support for more resources for the police to protect the rural areas more effectively. Perhaps a realignment of catchments would help, too. At the moment, a lot of harm can be done before a call is answered from Souris.

With that, the committee went *in camera* to discuss personnel and preliminary matters.