

## Town Council, Tuesday, October 8, 2024

The Council of the Town of Carberry met in the council chambers of the Town Office on Tuesday, October 8, at 7:00 p.m., with Mayor Muirhead in the chair, and all members present. Also present were Youth Councilor Boganes and CAO Stephenson.

There was to have been a delegation from Staff Sergeant Wikander of the Blue Hills Detachment of the RCMP, but at the last minute he was called away to attend an accident.

### **Finance and Accounts:**

Council approved the Financial Statement for September 2024, and approved payments of \$3,989,549.45 and direct withdrawals of \$97,586.74 for payment. The unusually high figure for payments included the moving of some investments, and the payment of School Taxes.

### **By-laws:**

By-law 06/2024, the revised Town of Carberry Traffic By-law, received its third and final reading, was passed unanimously, and became law.

By-law 07/2024, which amends the Town of Carberry Off-Road Vehicles By-law, received its first and second readings. Chief addition was that ORVs are forbidden from using pedestrian thoroughfares.

By-law 08/2024, which upgrades and amends the Town of Carberry's Noise By-law to include banning the use of engine retarder brakes within the town, was given its first and second readings.

There has been a request from the HAC to amend the Health Action Committee By-law to allow more positions on the board. Council discussed the merits of the existing composition of the board and the concerns there might be about introducing changes. The board is already composed of nine members, which is near the upper limit of practicality. Large boards are harder to schedule meetings for, and slower to come to decisions. The danger of members having to act without board approval is thus far greater. The proposal will be presented to the Joint Councils' Committee.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Work on specifying the intersection of Highways 1 & 5 is continuing, and the Council's preferences have been received. If the work is on schedule,

there should soon be another public presentation of the options being considered.

In consultation with the insurers, regulations and new lease contracts are being drawn up to ensure that all users of town or joint property will be insured. The process should be a short visit to a website that advises the user of the cost (ranging from \$25 for a single use (without a liquor permit) to \$150 for a whole season), accepts the payment and forwards a copy of the lease to the Town (and NCL if applicable).

Concerns about the strained policing levels in Blue Hills Detachment that were objected to in a resolution of the September meeting have been circulated to all municipalities in the affected region, who will work as a group to meet with the Minister of Justice and the head of the RCMP D Division during the upcoming AMM Convention.

Attending the AMM Convention this fall will be Mayor Muirhead, Councilor Anderson, and CAO Stephenson.

The estimated costs for the signage along highways 1& 5 have been adjusted upwards. Three permits will have to be secured, one of the landowners will be charging a rent, and with the costs of the physical sign and its installation the total will be around \$13,000. If NCL remains interested, that cost will be split 50/50.

### **General Business:**

The Tax Sale that was to have been held last week was cancelled when all properties involved settled their tax bill.

A new agreement will cover the Canada Community Building Fund [CCBF] which supersedes the Gas Tax Credit. The funding that comes from the Government of Canada is administered by the province and has been modified to include and encourage work to increase the housing supply. Carberry's portion will be \$101,096 for 2024-25.

The requirements for a municipality to hire a Community Safety Officer have been eased to the point that the council and administration have been researching and costing the matter. The advantages of such a position are that traffic, liquor and many other minor offences can be handled without requiring the presence of the RCMP, and safety concerns and by-law offences can be covered by a member of the town staff. The cost, however, would be considerable. Though the training is covered by the province, a

full-time employee would cost about \$75 thousand a year, and the first year would also see the start-up costs of his/her car, equipment, office and supplies which might reach almost \$100,000. Against this might be set the already budgeted cost of by-law enforcement, and the revenue from fines assessed. Another concern is that an applicant might take the job for long enough to complete their training and gain some experience before moving on to a higher paying post with a larger police force. The interview would be difficult.

One option to consider is to share the CSO and their expense with other municipalities. This would mean that there would be less control of what the officer was doing, and no assurance that they would be available just when needed. The nearest municipality to whom an approach might be made is North Cypress-Langford, and it was agreed to bring the matter to the next meeting of the joint councils.

As required by MTI's regulations, a motion was passed requesting signage prohibiting the use of engine retarder brakes within the limits of the Town of Carberry. These would be placed on First Avenue and the Wellwood Road, which are provincially controlled within the town. They will cost \$450 each. All other signs within the area of the Noise By-law will be the Town's sole responsibility.

The purchase of 337 Toronto Street is complete; what remains is to provide some household supplies and equipment to make the place more useful and welcoming. The CAO asked and received permission to spend about \$1,500 on them.

The EDO has had summer students fettle up the old pole-mounted Christmas lights. They will be offered as a lot, by tender.

A policy has been drafted to cover when and under what circumstances the Town will reimburse a resident for work performed on infrastructure owned by the Town. It was passed by resolution. Also passed was a resolution affirming a Public Facilities Naming Policy. Users with leases on public property will be informed of the policy now that it has been adopted.

The land for what has become known as the Daylily Park was donated *gratis* by the late Murdo MacDonald and his wife. The plaque commemorating this is showing signs of decay, and Murdo's son Randy and his wife Grace have approached the Town to see if it can be replaced with something more permanent and dignified. Randy was hoping for a granite

marker and would be prepared to assist in the cost. The mayor suggested that in response to a gift of that size and importance, a proper marker of thanks is a small ask. It was suggested that perhaps the sign could read “the MacDonald Daylily Park.”

Council passed a motion to declare November 3-9, 2024, as “Medical Radiation Technologist Week.”

### **Reports:**

Youth Councilor Boganes reported that the Student Council’s sale of potatoes had sold 120 fifty-pound bags of potatoes. The population of the school as of September 30 stood at 319 students. A dance is planned for October 23. The Varsity Boys’ Volleyball team will host a tournament, and two students will be competing in the provincial cross-country run. A Student Perspective Panel has been formed to present a student viewpoint to the administration of the School Division. Provincial examinations for the grade twelves have been announced: ELA on January 10 and Pre-Calc on January 26. The band students have received recognition as one of the ten top student bands in Canada, and several members will be invited to play with the Brandon University band. The Indigenous Culture Day held on September 27 in Neepawa was well attended and enlightening. Grade five students will go to Neepawa to try playing soccer. The band has started fundraising for their trip to Edmonton. The nutrition program, which received a boost of government money this year, is providing most students with healthy morning choices.

The CAO was busy preparing the four by-laws that were discussed this meeting, the meeting about outside user insurance coverage, and the exploration of the use of a CSO. He also prepared the two policies that were presented. He required from the meeting some input on supplies for the medical house, and permission to sell off the old Christmas lights. After attending the Western Caucus, he warned that the budget for EMO would have to be reexamined.

The EDO keeps busy spreading the new brand to Portage’s Stride Place and preparing a pamphlet for distribution at trade fairs and tourist information booths. She is working with the archivist to place QR codes on heritage buildings along Main Street that take the visitor to a page of historical information about the building. She is also considering placing historical plaques at selected locations such as the Museum — James White’s Sash

and Door Factory. A film company have been scouting the town as a location and will be shooting a movie over five days in late November. Main Street will be the centre of the action. The Christmas lights will only be put up after shooting is complete. “Flip the Switch” is planned for November 29. Community volunteers were asked to adopt particular flower beds — plant (flowers provided by the Town), weed and clear them. She has volunteers already for most of them. With the Chamber of Commerce, she is planning events to keep businesses busy during the Christmas season, including a Parade of Lights on December 20. The Chamber AGM and Awards Night will return in the early part of 2025. Manitoba Starch has been acquired by a Canadian company. Several investors and contractors are scouting Carberry for ambitious building projects. Two new businesses have located in the Bailey Building.

The Fire Department will hold their Firemen’s Ball on December 7.

All 200’ of sidewalk planned by Public Works have been completed, and signage will be going up on First Avenue and Market Street banning parking as per the new Traffic By-law. Their new trucks are working out well. At the Transfer Station the scale is back up, and the new building just finished. The disposition of the Job-Jon remains to be decided.

At the cemetery, the new windmill is getting assembled and will be impressive and good looking. Work is being done to raise up the level of soil in any plots or planters that have subsided.

The new Handivan is now expected to arrive in mid-October, well ahead of earlier predictions.

The Health Action Committee is working to get the partition between two tiny examination rooms removed to make a more suitable office for one of the new doctors. If the region can’t manage it, the work may be contracted by the committee. Karly McKinnon has been chosen as the newest town member of the committee. Beth Proven is taking up chairing the fundraising committee.

The Rec Board is getting the facilities at the CPCC up for the winter season. Some bleachers were acquired from the Keystone Centre and will be tried out. A key component of the zip-line turned out to be missing, so it won’t be ready until spring. Council considered a site visit to the Rec lands to get a better understanding of its needs and capacity. There has been discussion of the placing of the entrance to the campground on a stretch of

Wellwood Road posted for 90 Kph. The alternative of coming off at Stickle and making the way back north to the top of the site isn't very practical for a path to be traveled by large RVs. There is a possibility that the board hasn't been able to meet often enough to make the best reasoned decisions or delegate to a committee matters that were then decided on the spur of the moment.

The Daycare Committee is considering RFPs and collecting information on the required infrastructure for a daycare. Most is already available at the site being considered. They may need some bridge funding to carry them through the initial fundraising needed to get going.

The Drop-In Centre held a board meeting with several members also in attendance and discussed a range of topics. The building is almost completely painted on the outside, but for the portico which may receive the paint that the rest of the building has, or be covered in tin. Discussion of painting the interior is taking place. The Terms of Reference in their by-law need to be examined and refined.

#### **Communications:**

Taxservice reported that all properties in arrears had been redeemed and the tax auction had been canceled.

WMRL sent the draft minutes of their most recent board meeting.

Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations announced the final payment of the Town's operating grant — \$61,240.53.

MNR also reported an interim operating grant under the Mobility Disadvantaged Transportation Program.

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

Mayor Muirhead reported that he had been talking with a contractor acquaintance who is considering a speculative multi-family building in Carberry. He has forwarded the details to the EDO. He discussed the tax incentives in place for such a building.

Deputy Mayor Kalinowich asked whether the new 'No Parking' signs had been installed in accordance with the latest update of the Traffic By-law. They are on order and couldn't be installed until the by-law passed.

Councilor Anderson wished to compliment the Public Works staff for the prompt removal of some very large trees brought down by the recent high winds.

Councilor Rea thanked whomever it was that has cleaned up the entrance to town on PTH351/First Avenue, and was told it was the Town Public Works.

Councilor Sudak noted that recent events in St. Andrews raised the issue of whether individual council members were covered against personal suits filed in connection with a decision reached as members of council.

CAO Stephenson announced that he had just received word that the CPKC Holiday Train will pass by Carberry this year, stopping for a concert at 5:00 p.m. on December 5. He hopes to plan a range of activities in conjunction with this, and make a must-see community event.