

Carberry Town Council, November 12, 2024

Carberry Town Council met on Tuesday night, November 12, 2024, in their council chambers with Mayor Muirhead in the chair and all members present. Youth Councilor Boganes joined a bit later. Also present was CAO Stephenson.

Planning Matters:

Planner Andrews was on hand to discuss the state of planning for the municipality. The 22nd of the month will be her last day with Cypress Planning District, and she will be much missed as she goes on to further her career in Brandon. She expressed her thanks to the council for an interesting and sometimes challenging four years. She felt that the town was definitely on a continually growing path. She gave her last updates on several ongoing or incipient projects around the town. The position has already been advertised, and arrangements made to keep the office open, and services provided until her successor is in place. Council thanked her for her service and wished her well in her future endeavours.

Finance and Accounts:

Council accepted the ACAO's report for October and the Financial Statement for October 2024, and approved cheques and direct withdrawals totaling \$ 467,547.91 for payment.

By-laws:

By-law 07/2024, which amends the Town of Carberry ORV By-law to add a prohibition for ORVs from using pedestrian thoroughfares, received its third reading and was unanimously approved and will become law.

By-law 09/2024, which establishes fees and charges for the Town, was given its first reading. This sets the rates for such things as equipment rentals, services like the preparation of tax certificates, and materials — which because of their variable costs are to be billed on a 'cost plus' basis so as not to require frequent revision of the by-law.

By-law 10/2024, which amends the Town of Carberry Health Action Committee By-law, was given a first reading. This arises from changes requested by the Committee to add voting members to their board. After some discussion, what has been suggested is that the number of council members be reduced from two for each municipality to a single voting member with an alternate. This would free up two positions on the nine-

member board for them to fill with their nominees. As the committee raises its own funds, the extra oversight of the councils is unnecessary.

Unfinished Business:

The concerns with the policing levels in the Blue Hills detachment have been raised with Minister Wiebe, and a meeting with him of all the affected municipalities has been arranged during the AMM convention. Because policing is both federally and provincially regulated, there may be complications in getting relief.

General Business:

Council appointed the Exchange Group as their auditor for the 2024 budget year.

A policy that sets out procurement and tendering practises for joint staff and facilities, JS 01-2024, was passed after adjusting the range of purchase costs that require board or committee approval.

After considerable wrangling over the details, the Joint Services Agreement is nearly ready to be passed by the two councils. The latest draft was discussed and will be presented unchanged to the Joint Councils' Committee.

Council approved the sale of the 2-yard truck-mounted sander and deck to the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford for \$2,000.

The terms of reference for the Drop-In Centre Board have recently been examined and fine-tuned and were accepted by resolution of Council.

In consideration of the work performed by Dr. Dave Maharajh and Barry Banek, Council moved to pay them \$12,000 for their part in securing four physicians (two locums and two permanent) to enable the reopening of the Carberry Health Centre ER. The fee, much lower than would have been charged by a recruiting agency, was to have been paid by the government for each physician.

Council resolved to support a joint application with the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford to the Manitoba Growth, Renewal and Opportunities for Municipalities (Manitoba GRO) program for a replacement fire apparatus for the CNCL Fire Department. The GRO program pays 50% of an approved purchase, and a fire engine now costs over \$700,000.

Council moved to place a range of capital reserves in GICs from Stride Credit Union, who are presently offering the highest return on 1-year GICs.

Raymond Muirhead's bank mistakenly overpaid the taxes on a property mortgaged to them. He absented himself as Council agreed to refund the overpayment.

As agreed at the latest Joint Councils' Committee, Council provided a one-time grant of \$1,000 to the Carberry Daycare Committee rather than reduce facility rental fees for events.

The 2023 audit is complete, and Council accepted the audited financial statements prepared by the Exchange Group. They show a year-end surplus of \$258,000 and few procedural recommendations; asset retirement procedures need to be improved, and leases must be approved in the same way that purchases are.

Reports:

Youth Councilor Boganes reported that Parent-Teacher interviews are under way at the Collegiate. Middle school student-led conferences will take place on November 28. The band played an extended program at the recent Remembrance Day service. The Chamber of Commerce will be presenting a trade show on November 20. In sport, the JV girls Volleyball team will be going to the provincials. Basketball is starting up, and a tournament will be hosted here on December 10. The band's winter concert will be held on December 10. Two band members were invited to join with the Brandon University band for a performance. A "Rock your Mocs" celebration of indigenous culture is to be held, and the timetable changes for next year have been released.

The CAO prepared and elaborated on most of the material so far discussed in this meeting. Among other details, the administration is engaging OptionPay for the office, a program that without charging the Town, allows users to pay by credit card and shows them how much it will cost to do so. Meetings have been requested at the AMM Convention with ministers of Health, Transportation, and Justice. Also with the RCMP. With the mayor and EDO, the CAO met with people from Fort Erie, Ontario to discuss challenges and successes with health care. He also attended his first board meeting of the MMA executive and is excited about the connections and resources this will unlock for him and the Town. The accounting program has been updated and looks much improved. The new IT company is going to introduce some changes to the system that will improve security, and will have to call in council members' tablets to implement the improvements.

The Public Works completed 200' of concrete sidewalk along Second Avenue. Both cells of the Lagoon are down to minimum level and the pump and lines are out for the winter. Fall cleanup has been completed; a few trees have been taken down. Gravel work is done around the scale and the new building at the Transfer Station.

The EDO reports that NCL has declined to share in the highway billboards. To replace the two existing signs would be about \$7.5K, and with the third about \$11.2K, which includes the \$500 fee per sign for approval from Highways.

The film crew has been working in town in preparation for their scheduled shooting days — November 25-27. During shooting the south block of Main Street will sometimes have to be blocked off, and the lot at the end of Main Street will be in use by the company; the public should be advised to avoid it. Christmas lights will be going up soon, but not on the two blocks of Main Street until shooting is over. "Flip the Switch" is scheduled for the 29th.

The EDO met with the Development Corporation board, who were receptive to her joining forces with them. They would be open to giving Council a seat at the table to direct such funds as they can attract. Projects under consideration include grants for store front upgrades, a project for the end of Main Street, and housing.

The CPKC Christmas Train will stop in Carberry on December 5. She has a plan to make a community gathering of that evening.

She is consulting with Robertson College on providing instruction here for ECE and Health Care Aides. She hopes to have something to offer in the fall of 2025, if a survey reveals sufficient interest. To host the classes, she suggests the use of the space above the administration offices, if a bathroom were installed.

She has been talking with Brandon's Immigration Project and their Economic Director about attracting newcomers, and feels we are privileged to have been recognized as a community to promote. Our recent time in the spotlight has been helpful.

She is registered to attend Advocacy Day at the Legislature on December 4. It will involve meetings with ministers to speak and to listen.

With the Chamber of Commerce, she is holding a trade show on November 20, with 36 vendors and services attending and students from the Collegiate will be encouraged to interact with the presenters. The Chamber is looking to replace the sign at the CPCC. They will again hold an awards night in conjunction with their AGM in January. In December they will hold a 'Christmas in Carberry' campaign involving the CACF Memory Tree, a caroling bus (handivan), Moonlight Madness and decorating events. A parade of lights will be held on December 20.

She continues to match investors and promoters for possible housing and commercial developments in the town and works with Otter Home Inc. to extend their possibilities. She has met with the newly revamped Communities in Bloom committee who will continue with volunteer work on the town's flower beds and baskets.

The Fire Department will be holding its annual Firemen's Ball on the first Saturday in December — the seventh. Tickets are available from any member.

The elevator in the Old Town Hall has been fixed. Exit Stage Left has agreed to submit an inventory of the material they have purchased and left for the Hall's use. They will be compensated, and the material will be the Hall's from now on, clearing up ownership and accountability. The Drop-In has asked for a roll-up door to be installed to separate the kitchen from the main hall. Their request for a dumpster in their lane cannot be accommodated. The Museum's security system, that failed to warn of the loss of heat last winter has been checked and passed.

The Transfer Station's new building and repaired scale are up and looking good, though the slope of the scale's off-ramp may need to be eased to avoid winter ice problems. Because of the need to reweigh split loads, the area ahead of the scale must be kept clear for trailers to complete a turnaround.

The Arts Council has signed their new lease. They will hold their Handmade Market on the sixteenth but have had to cancel their planned talent show for lack of sufficient participants. They will hold their Youth Business Fair on May 10/25. Over the next months they offer a wreath making class, and other Christmas events. They are looking for grants for a projector and for funds to bring performances to the Hall.

The Museum will be holding a fundraising presentation of the Strathclair Theatre Chorus on November 17.

The new Handivan has arrived and the old one has been listed for sale.

The Library has made a calendar of events for the month which can be picked up at the desk. They intend to participate in the Moonlight Madness and the tree decorating project of the Chamber. With the Archivist they have embarked on an oral history project, and research on the events of the two world wars on the town.

The Health Action Committee will be attending a lunch on November 22 with people from the Neepawa Clinic to share information and consider partnerships.

The Planning District will soon be without the services of Rachel Andrews who has been their planner and inspector for the past four years. The opportunity to reorganize the workings of the office will be considered. An office administrator may help to reduce the pressure on the inspector and planner that succeeds Andrews.

On the Recreation lands, the new zip-line is installed and inaugurated, and may even be extended. The Splash Park committee continues to raise funds for their project. New lockers have been acquired for the pool change rooms with the help of the CACF. The campground is approaching readiness. The work of leveling the soccer pitch is done and excellent.

The new Daycare Committee continues to raise funds and will be starting to put out tenders for designs.

The Drop-In board has cleared up their terms of reference and is taking on several housekeeping measures.

Communications:

Manitoba Transport and Infrastructure sent their snow clearing agreement with the Town for Main Street.

Carberry Men's Curling Club sent their concerns about the state and maintenance of the curling rink.

Manitoba Property Assessment Service Branch sent their annual report and year-end review, showing that Carberry's total assessment rose by \$1,631,497 in 2023 to \$183,407,800.

Western Manitoba Regional Library sent the draft minutes of the October 16, 2024, meeting of their Board of Trustees.

The RCMP sent their third quarter report.

The ACAO sent the third quarter fire call report.

Around the Table:

Mayor Muirhead reported that he had laid a wreath in the Town's name at the Legion's Remembrance Day Service. He has been invited to speak at the stop of the CPKS Christmas Train on December 5. He has been asked, with others in the area, to be interviewed by a magazine dedicated to physicians about their success in strengthening medicine in a rural area. He apologized for having to miss the staff's Christmas party.

Deputy Mayor Kalinowich was concerned about the number of RVs he sees still parked on the street as the snow ploughing season approaches. There are also several basketball nets that should be moved out of the way of the ploughs.

Councilor Anderson reported that he had heard a CBC report that mentioned that the Town Council had expressed a preference for an overpass (grade separated junction) at the intersection of Hwys 1 & 5.

Councilor Sudak asked how it was that he had recently seen the old handivan out now that the new one is delivered. He was advised that the new one is awaiting its decals and should shortly be in service. He also noted that the trees along the stretch of Stickle by the new Rec lands are soon going to be interfering with the hydro lines. They are fast-growing poplars; he hoped there wouldn't be the same costly problem there were with the trees at the North End.

CAO Stephenson reported that the office has signed up with OptionPay, a firm which processes charge card payments, enabling the Town to receive the whole amount of the invoice being paid by charge card, while users are advised of the amount they will in fact be charged to cover the invoice and the premium being charged by the financial institution for the transaction.

With that the Council went *in camera* to discuss personnel matters and adjourned at 9:30 pm.