

Carberry Town Council, 25-03-11

The Council of the Town of Carberry met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in their council chambers with Mayor Muirhead in the chair and Councilors Rea, Kalinowich and Sudak in attendance along with Youth Councilor Boganes and CAO Stephenson.

Delegations:

Everett Olson and Travis Roberts of Golden West Broadcasting came to present a marketing plan that they developed for EDO Burney. Golden West is a network of radio stations and local news portals that offers a coordinated service to plan, brand and market products and services in their coverage area centred on Portage la Prairie and stretching from Headingley to the edge of Brandon. Their stations are CFRY 920 AM, Mix 96.5, and Country 93.1 with website PortageOnline. They understand that Carberry is seeking to grow their community and its businesses, and to maintain a momentum towards growth, hoping to attract a younger demographic. They presented some impressive statistics for their coverage that would combine radio spots and ad space on the news portal which in turn could link to the town website or Facebook page. The material can be changed to keep fresh and to advertise local events or services. At their special rate for non-profit organizations, they suggest a purchase of six 30 second radio spots per day and 1,500,000 website ad impressions per year with five sponsored news stories for an investment of \$66,522 (plus GST). Of course, the actual amount of coverage bought will be the matter of some discussion at budget time. Olson and Roberts assured council that they were not seeking exclusivity and would work with any other media that might also be called upon to promote the town and its events and were thanked for their well-prepared presentation.

The next delegation was Joel Penner, who has just stepped into the development officer's job at Cypress Planning District. He reported that he is already doing inspections and has signed on to become certified for Part IX inspections as Andrews had been. He lives in the Sidney area, is a red seal craftsman, and has been involved in the building trades with his father "since I could put on a tool belt." He appears to be finding his feet quickly. Council welcomed him and wished him well.

Finance and Accounts:

Council read and accepted the report of the ACAO as presented and received the Financial Statement for February 2025. Accounts and direct withdrawals totaling \$ 181,957.43 were approved for payment. Just over \$100,000 of surplus money at year's end was transferred to reserve accounts, a testimony to good fiscal management. The audit process for 2024 is under way; all documents should be to the auditor before the end of the month. A 5-year GIC for \$42,195 from the General Reserve was placed with Stride Credit Union who offered the best available rate. Council approved the Draft Financial Statements for 2024.

By-laws:

By-law 05/2025, which regulates the proceedings and conduct of Council, was given its second and third readings, passed unanimously and became law.

A first reading was given to By-law 07/2025, which regulates the use of drones by the Carberry North Cypress-Langford Fire Department.

Unfinished Business:

A meeting (#2B in the order of operations published) was held to advise Council of the work of the committee deciding among the possible designs for the re-engineering of the intersection of Highways 1 & 5. A short list of three design approaches has been chosen, and the final choice will be revealed at Meeting #3 this spring. The choice will then be forwarded to MTI. This was an information meeting only; we will have to wait and see what will finally be chosen. The public open house will be held at the Collegiate gymnasium on March 24th at 6:00 pm.

A reminder that the election to fill the vacancy in council will be held on March 18, 2025, at the Drop-In from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Advance polls have already taken place.

In the preparation to employ a Community Safety Officer, the group that was gathered at AMM are being asked if any have decided not to participate. A presentation has been prepared estimating the costs of a CSO both totally and per capita for a single Blue Hills officer and for a pair, each deployed to a half of the region of coverage. The annual cost of an officer and their phone and vehicle maintenance is estimated at just under \$70,000, with initial set up expenses of just over \$40,000.

To establish a CSO, there are many practical details to be sorted out and undertaken by contract with the Minister of Justice. Initially, a Business Case Submission must be made, outlining the community's needs for such an officer; the duties they would be required to perform; and where, geographically, they would need to perform them. An Operating Agreement is then signed between the community, the police, and the province. Only then does the recruitment and supply of the officer take place. Among the larger duties at this time would be to harmonize among the various municipalities involved, the by-laws and powers a CSO would work with. It won't do to have different ground rules in each community.

There has been great news from the engineer for the lagoon expansion. The possibility of changing the lining material from clay to sand has reduced the cost from almost \$16M to more like \$8M. 75,000 yards of material are involved in the lining. The cost and the distance it must be transported are both eased.

General Business:

Council was reminded that the deadline for submission of resolutions to the June Western District Meeting of AMM is June 1, so they should be prepared for passing at the April Council meeting. Nominations for the district executive should also be considered.

Council resolved to support the Carberry and Area Future Childcare Development Committee with a grant of \$3,000 to assist with legal fees.

All councilors and the CAO were approved to attend the AMM spring convention in Winnipeg April 13-16, 2025.

The date for the Board of Revision was set for October 14, 2025, during the regular council meeting.

The final bill for the installation of the Hall's generator has arrived and council approved paying their half of the cost.

Reports:

Youth Councilor Boganes reported that a team from CC had competed in a provincial fishing derby on Lake Winnipeg.

Aurora Elmhirst has been selected for the provincial honour band in Winnipeg, a first for Carberry Collegiate.

The CAO's report details many advocacy initiatives; with CEO Slate of PMH a very positive meeting to discuss facilities, staff, recruitment and

ongoing needs; with Minister Glen Simard of Municipal and Northern Relations to discuss the Code of Conduct, the effects of amalgamation and elections; with the Westman Cabinet representative Jason Gobeil, who will be an asset in communications with government. In response to several concerning social media posts from the Manitoba Nurses' Union he reached out and offered support for their efforts on behalf of staff and patients. With MTI, he and members of council discussed concerns about the intersection of highways 1 & 5, and about the paving of Main Street. With Staff Sergeant Wikander they discussed traffic, crime prevention, visibility and the details of the CSO program. Work continues on the subdivision of the Daycare's land. Stickle Avenue from Wellwood past Dufferin was never officially opened and will need to be. A survey was to be done March 7. Subdivision, sewer and hydro should cost each municipality about \$7,500. Cypress Planning will be increasing their levy by \$2.50 per capita. Repairs to the Town Office should start soon if the adjuster approves, as the weather has eased. The facilitator for the strategic planning discussions has been chosen; a timeline for the sessions will be set up.

The highway billboards await their last landlord's signature. The EDO did a From the Ground Up grant proposal for them and their lights; \$7436.00 would cover 50% the cost. We will hear back by the end of March. With the MLA she met with 'Total Freedom' at their acreage and discussed their hopes of becoming more involved in the community along with their charges. They may be able to provide gardening help at the Day Lily Park. With the Neepawa EDO she is discussing training in health care and ECE fields, drawing from both communities to keep each other's training programs full. Neepawa has opened a chapter of Habitat for Humanity that would cover this area. The Chamber will be asked if they can gather up enough support for a build here. The EDO will be attending the EDAM annual forum in June. They are developing new educational programs for rural and indigenous communication. She will be graduating from their Community Edge program this year. She is still looking for the right trailer for a parade float. She attends the winter fair at the end of the month and will need some help to wrap up the week. An 'after 5' event will be held March 25 to present council members (including the newest) to the public at a casual open house. The Chamber is working to update their sign at the entrance to the CPCC. The new daycare committee meets monthly, with a sub-committee meeting weekly with Cooperatives First. A survey of 111 people helped determine the

size of the need which will affect staffing. The closure of the BMO branch has set up a stir among competing financial institutions, two of which held meetings in Carberry on March 5.

Public Works spent most of February scraping streets, hauling snow, and ditching, opening culverts. They have managed some of their own repairs at a considerable cost saving compared to calling in the dealers. They propose a renovation of the Public Works office and bathroom costing \$10-11K, hoping it will be approved at the budget discussions. The active speed sign has returned from repair only to fail again. Two members are taking distance courses to renew their wastewater tickets soon to expire.

The Arts Council has been offering a stained-glass course taught by Pat Graham which is intensive and only can take three per intake. Costs of materials are high. They will be asking for a \$10,000 grant for the year. They plan a Youth Business Fair in May, the Handmade Market in November, a cookie sale in December, piano recitals for their students twice a year, and they will assist at the wellness fair on April 24. Their AGM will be held on March 17.

The cemetery has chosen the flowers for the year and has put to tender a washroom for the site.

The library will be staging a dinner theatre mystery as a fundraiser. Despite concerns around the province, there have been no efforts to get any books banned or withdrawn. Plans are being laid for work on the library garden this summer.

The Health Action Committee has been working with Neepawa's clinic to share training opportunities. Neepawa will not get another LPN course this fall, but there are many health care jobs to train for in the area. The committee is still looking for two new members, both members at large, one of which will serve as the fundraising chair. A clarification from the last council meeting regarding the health action committee;

The Cypress Planning District has a new development officer, and preparation for the building season will start soon.

The Drop-In has received responses to the tender for painting their interior. The price to replace the commercial dishwasher came in at a shocking \$8-10K, but Mayor Muirhead was able to source a reconditioned unit for \$4K.

Communications:

Manitoba Government Assessment Services sent details of the cost of the recent assessments.

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

Westman Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention Association sent thanks for the support offered to their Rural Counselling Program by providing counselling space.

Around the Table:

Councilor Sudak reminded everyone to be careful to shop Canadian where possible. He also drew attention to the signage at the CCCC pickup area. There should be no long-term parking, and no use of the bus lane.

Councilor Rea reported that the Splash Park committee has been very busy, taking catering and security jobs to raise funds. They had many meat orders taken, and they are selling flowers for presentation to dance recital participants. The recital itself is a sell-out, with 300 tickets taken up.

Councilor Kalinowich praised the Public Works for the work to open the culverts and ditches in anticipation of the spring thaw.

Mayor Muirhead went to Riverbend School to read to the students and added that the CAO was there with a fire truck to show them as well. He also reported that the “White House” across from the hospital is in regular and heavy use. A problem with the washing machine was addressed by Orv’s Appliances who diagnosed a plumbing problem that was then repaired by Ronan Waters of Carberry Plumbing Services. The house has been a worthwhile purchase. He reminded everyone to be very careful on the icy streets as the weather warms.

The CAO advised that budget deliberations will soon be starting. He has been in touch with the owner and has been assured that there will be a clean-up of the mobile home park along Market Street this spring.

Councilor Rea warned that there has been a resurgence of COVID and an uptick of other very unpleasant virus diseases; remember to take all the sensible precautions and wash hands frequently.

With that, Council went *in camera* to discuss personnel matters and adjourned at 10:14 pm.