

Joint Councils, 25-03-17

The Joint Councils of the Town of Carberry and the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford met in the municipality's council chambers at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2025, with Reeve Drayson in the chair, and all members of both councils except Councilor Tolton present (Councilor VanKommer by phone link). Also present were CAOs Parker and Stephenson.

The board of directors of the Carberry Plains Museum were present as a delegation: Co-chairs Gloria Mott and Marion Whitmore, with members Brad Wells, Randy MacDonald, and Melanie Lavich. Their concern was over a report published by the Town suggesting that the Museum Board had been irresponsible and foolish enough to cause the failure of their furnace and would be held responsible for the \$8,700 repair bill. They were particularly insulted because the problem arose in January, and in November this was published and during the whole time there had been no contact between the municipalities and the board, to debrief or to discuss the failure, its causes, or what measures might be taken to prevent a recurrence. No one had called the museum's security system, and no one had shared information about the repairs and their cost.

If the furnace's failure is covered by insurance, how is the bill so high? What is the deductible? The museum is covered by the municipalities' general insurance, for which the deductible is \$5,000, large for a single building's policy, but understandable in a municipality's general coverage.

It is evidently time to discuss and clarify the relationship between the Joint Councils and the Museum Board. If the building belongs to the two municipalities, what is the responsibility of the Museum Board for repairs, upkeep, taxes and insurance? If there is to be an insurance claim, to whom should the Board report?

The delegation was asked what it was they wished to happen. The first requisite is for a public apology, which was quickly agreed and apology given to the board by members of council for the assumption of "unqualified meddling" and subsequent posting of the same. The second was to be spared the \$8,700 cost of the repair, and the third was to make this a teachable moment and learn to avoid such miscommunication and to

develop a clearer understanding of the relationship between the Board and the joint municipalities.

The Buildings Committee has already decided to replace the repaired furnace, which has continued to give trouble. Three quotes have been received, and the costs in the \$3K range have been budgeted. The CAOs undertook to draw up a policy that would cover in detail the relationship between the Board and the two municipalities, and who is obliged to speak to whom.

Several matters have been contentious over the history of the museum's relationship with the municipalities: The raised garden boxes on the museum grounds were installed without informing the Board; the Board had to pay for work done on one of the property's trees; the Board's requests for grant money were downgraded because the money from the Criddle bequest was counted as available to the Board for work other than the bequest stipulated; and users of the raised beds have left their garden waste for the museum to deal with. Though there are supposed to be members of each council present at board meetings to liaise with the councils, the attendance of these members has been intermittent.

The Board was thanked for their gracious acceptance of the councils' offers of conciliation and assured of the hope for an improved relationship in future. The Carberry Plains Museum is a treasured asset to both municipalities.

Unfinished Business:

CAO Stephenson reported that he had received from the lawyers a detailed opinion about the methods by which contracts may be drawn up to enforce prompt completion. Penalty clauses have become virtually ineffective, but it is possible to require a performance bond in situations where a failure of the contractor would cause demonstrable harm to the municipality. Policy should set a threshold above which a performance bond will be required of a contractor. The approach of refusing to contract businesses who are thought likely to default is only permitted if the RFP stipulates that a choice will be made weighing contenders on the basis of (provable) performance history.

It was agreed that the municipalities would pay the bill for the museum's furnace.

General Business:

The committee agreed to present the budget they had spent the afternoon discussing to their respective councils.

The Fire Department sent its latest quarterly statistics, which showed no decrease in the number of events to which they have been called.

A selection of possible logos and decals for the joint Parks and Recreation vehicles was presented, and a choice made.

In order to offer the land to the daycare cooperative, it must be serviced and subdivided. There will be little problem to provide water and hydro which are already nearby, but the severance will require a survey and the opening of the road by which it will be accessed. Hydro will also be required.

Minor Ball wishes to install sprinklers for the infield of the diamonds at the ballpark. They are asking permission to use their own funds for the installation and agree to perform the maintenance and annual winterizing themselves. The committee agreed on that basis. While discussing the diamonds, it was reported that Minor Ball would like to borrow the Sand Pro to use at the other diamond they will maintain at the school grounds.

Committee Reports:

The Manager of Joint Services reports that the ice will come out and the refrigeration unit will be shut down on April 3. The Zamboni has been giving trouble but will be transported to a mechanic who is confident of returning it to good condition. They are reviewing their practises to ensure the facility is maintained to departmental standards. For the summer they will look for areas that haven't been improved for a while.

At the hall, a Hydro inspection is coming, and an inspection from the health department required changes in the use of the kitchen. There is to be no frying of vegetables, and no frying of meat on the stove tops, though these can be cooked in the oven. If food is to be prepared for the public, there will have to be a permit taken out.

The Drop-In Centre's interior will be painted this spring. The new softener and RO system is installed and tested, lowering the iron and manganese levels. The dishwasher needs replacement; a 50/50 is going on to fund the replacement.

A new furnace has been installed at the library.

At 122 Main, a paper dispenser was relocated to keep it away from the heater. The heavy wood chairs in the basement are up for replacement with lighter folding ones.

The campground aggregate supply and delivery are awarded, and trees ordered from Whitemud Watershed.

There is an ad for a joint utility position for the transfer station and parks. There are new cameras monitoring the transfer station.

Mass registration has taken place, and plans are being drawn up for the summer. Director of Leisure Services has been working on grant applications, assisting in the splash park design, and collaborating with the Library, Service for Seniors and the Rec. Health inspections have been done for the rink and the hall, and with the new restrictions on the hall kitchen's use everything meets regulations.

The Archivist has been working with the Manitoba Historical Society to place plaques at the Wop May House and at the McCain plant, the site of the Commonwealth Training Plan air base. She is working on a brochure about pioneering communities around Carberry, which should be ready for Homecoming, along with a piece about the naming of the town's streets, and a walking tour of the cemetery. Oral history interviews continue.

The Arts Council continues its after-school arts program through until May with volunteer help. A new session of piano lessons is starting up. Advanced workshops in stained glass and resin casting and decorating continue, and there will be children's Easter crafts on April 12.

The HAC had a positive meeting with the Acute Care Team Manager and the director of PMH. The Health Centre is still relying on a portable X-ray machine; the original one has neither been repaired nor replaced, but replacement is possible. There was a burst pipe in a hot water line that caused considerable damage before it could be contained and cleaned up.

Evergreen has acquired a new backhoe.

The Fire Department has had a busy quarter, including three calls to the hospital and a call to find snowmobilers that employed Austin's drone, which they will be using from now on. It has heat sensors which fit it for searches and for seeking hot spots in brush fires.

The library will be holding a Murder Mystery Dinner on March 29. Tickets will be \$20. Their usual club meetings and events carry on, with a

pre-school Easter Egg Hunt on April 9 and a Canadian Film Day showing of the animated family film *Ballerina* on April 16. Their furnace has been replaced, and they have been doing long-term planning with their advisory committee, looking at upgrading their accessibility ramp, steps and windows. Their water could use demineralization, and the carpet will need replacement in the next few years. The eavestroughs leak and allow water through the wall, and damage to the stucco.

The Planning District has found and hired an inspector, Joel Penner from Sidney.

Teething problems with the new Handivan have kept the old one in service as a backup, but it is still up for sale. It will need to be safetied, which may have to be done out of town.

The Drop-In is looking for a new commercial dishwasher. A reconditioned one has been sourced for a figure well below the cost of a new unit.

The Splash Park committee had a successful sale of flowers for the dance recital and has attracted lots of buyers for their sale of pork.

The only contribution to the 'Around the Table' offering was that of Councilor Murray, who gave thanks and praise that the meeting was so respectful and collaborative.

With that, the meeting went *in camera* to discuss preliminary matters and adjourned at 8:48 pm.