

Town 25.04.08

The Council of the Town of Carberry met in their council chambers on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 7:00 pm. All members were present, including Councilor Van Damme, the winner of the recent by-election. Also present were CAO Stephenson, ACAO McConnell, and Youth Councilor Boganes.

Mayor Muirhead made a point of congratulating and welcoming Councilor Van Damme to her first meeting of Council.

Planning Matters:

The meeting was temporarily adjourned to conduct a public hearing on a Variation Order. Development Officer Penner of the Cypress Planning District was on hand to present a request from James Cracknell to reduce the front and west side setbacks of his business on Fourth Avenue to accommodate an expansion. Penner had received one call from a neighbor and the CAO had not received any response from the public. No one was present, so Council resumed their meeting and passed a Variation Order [V04-25-C] to allow the reduced setbacks in the MG Industrial General zone.

Public Hearing:

As required by the *Municipal Act*, council again adjourned their meeting in order to hold a public hearing to present their Financial Plan for 2025. A video presentation has been prepared by the ACAO to introduce the plan, and it is posted with the detailed plan on the Carberry website. Some highlights: The increase in assessment this year has meant that the mill rate can be lowered, both by the town and the school division. Recent changes in legislation mean that all school taxes will be covered by the province up to \$1,500, which would exempt any residential property assessed under \$300,000. The ACAO was thanked for her preparation and presentation of the plan, and the meeting of Council resumed. A motion was passed adopting the Financial Plan for 2025 as presented.

Finance and Accounts:

Council moved to accept the ACAO's Report as presented, received the Financial Statements for March 2025, and approved accounts and direct withdrawals totaling \$479,676.36 for payment.

By-laws:

With the public hearing completed, Council read By-law 10/2025, the Rates of Taxation, for the first time.

By-laws already on the books have been reviewed, and Council confirmed five of them:

- #6/2020 Tax Incentive By-law,
- #3/2018 False Alarm By-law,
- #4/2016 Burning,
- #3/2010 Campaign Expenses, and
- #3/2002 Visible Display of Property Addresses.

By-law 07/2025, to regulate the use of drones [UAVs] by the Carberry North Cypress-Langford Fire Department, was given second and third readings, passed unanimously, and became law.

By-law 08/2025, which establishes a reserve for Community Safety Officer expenses was read for a first and second time.

By-law 09/2025, which establishes a reserve for Joint Entity expenses was read for a first and second time.

By-law 06/2025, which amends Zoning By-law 13/2022 to allow Daycares as a permitted use in the OS (Open Space) Zone, was read for the first time.

Unfinished Business:

The intersection of Highways 1 & 5 has been an ongoing concern, and the group preparing recommendations for MTI held an open house in Carberry recently to update stakeholders on their deliberations thus far. Their final recommendations should be announced soon.

Discussions with neighboring communities about going together on the costs of a Community Safety Officer are continuing. The CAO reports that two communities have expressed interest and more may be coming. Several communities have declined; one intends to join with another group, and some do not feel the need justifies the cost. Recent events in MacGregor may raise more interest.

The project to extend the Town's lagoon is under renewed consideration. A project manager will have to be contracted, and the CAO hopes to get recommendations at the upcoming meeting of the AMM. The license for the project will have to be revised to cover the change in lining materials, and the details hardened up in time for putting it to tender in Fall 2025, when major contractors will be choosing their projects for 2026's construction season.

Any resolutions to be presented to the June District Meeting of AMM, to be held this year in Brookdale, will have to be presented before the June 1 deadline. By the May meeting, any resolutions should be drafted for passing. Many of the Western Caucus will be looking for support for the concerns raised at their last meeting.

General Business:

Council approved a list of committee appointments for 2025, now that they have a full compliment of councilors.

As specified in by-law 01/2009, TAXervice Inc was appointed to manage property tax arrears recovery for the Town of Carberry, and Donna Zinkiew and Tyler Burnside of TAXervice Inc. were appointed Tax Sale Managers.

In order to move a house onto a lot on Ottawa Street, it will be necessary to remove two boulevard trees. Council approved the removal.

The route to Evergreen Environmental Technologies, the Class 1 waste management facility for Carberry, Neepawa, Minnedosa, Minto-Odanah, Elton and North Cypress-Langford, is over PR466 south from Highway 16. The infrastructure of PR466 is inadequate for the amount of heavy vehicle traffic it receives and is becoming a safety hazard. Council passed a resolution requesting the Province of Manitoba to repair and upgrade the road to a standard that will be safe for all users.

Council appointed Alyssa Hall and Anya Parry to the Carberry North Cypress-Langford Health Action Committee.

Council approved a group of policies that have been prepared:

- - COU 01-2025 Council Conflict of Interest
- - COU 02-2025 Council Code of Conduct
- - GG 02-2025 Access to information
- - GG 03-2025 Open Government
- - GG 04-2025 Public Engagement
- - GG 05-2025 Policy & Bylaw Review
- - GG 06-2025 Accountability & Transparency
- - GG 07-2025 Street Naming
- - GG 08-2025 Convention Attendance
- - HR 01-2025 Employee Conflict of Interest
- - IT 01-2025 Artificial Intelligence

The details are available on the Town website. It was suggested that GG 08-2025 be modified to include the caution that convention attendance will not be paid if the attendee opts to miss a meeting in favour of private business.

The owner of the car/truck wash at Third Avenue and Main Street has asked the Town if it would be possible to specify parking spots alongside the park on third avenue for a queue for the car wash. Council discussed the difficulties of specifying the usage of public parking spots for a particular purpose, and the precedent it might create. The problem was tabled for further consideration.

Council approved percentage increases to the annual wage of members of the administration. Councilor Rea absented herself from discussion of the EDO's salary where she feels a conflict of interest.

After a long negotiation, the Joint Services Agreement between the Town of Carberry and the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford is ready for signatures. Council ratified the (sixteen page) agreement as presented.

Reports:

Youth Councilor Boganes reported that the 9-12 band is away on its trip to Edmonton, and that some students will be taking drone training as part of a program to examine crops and urban forestry for diseases. Students will be going to CFB Shilo for fitness classes, and the junior bands will have trips either to Brandon or Winnipeg for workshops. Principal McCallum will be stepping down at the end of the year, and his place will be taken by Vice-Principal Robson. Robson's replacement has not yet been announced. Next year's timetable will have changes: A one-hour lunch will require an earlier start to the day at 8:45, and all classes will last 65 minutes with a 3-minute break between. The recent grade wars were won for the first time by grade ten. The provincial senior honour band, in which Aurora Elmhirst is the first Carberry student to win a place, will play on April 26, and will hold rehearsals on May 1-3.

The CAO reports that Cheryl Christian, of GovFox, will lead the renewal of the Strategic Plan, and hopes to set a date to get acquainted. She will be at the AMM convention April 13-16 and be introduced. The CAO has been going over the by-laws and policies to ensure that they are up to date and sufficient. Several are in the agenda today. The Western Caucus meeting on the 14th generated some good discussion. Carberry will host the May 30

meeting in the Hall. There will probably be resolutions to present to the June AMM meeting to support. Watch for details of the next Wellness Fair coming up on April 24.

The EDO reports that the three applications for highway signs are submitted, and work will start as soon as they are granted. Though BMO's departure seems inevitable, interest has been shown by Stride CU and CIBC in filling the gap. At EDAM in June, she will graduate from her Community Edge course and has been nominated for a provincial award. She books medical staff into the "white house" across from the health centre and reports that it is in regular heavy use. RMED has asked her to present a webinar on the steps taken in our Daycare project. The Chamber of Commerce is working on updating their sign at the CPCC. Four medical students have been assigned to Carberry for UM's week of rural placements. A chiropractor from Brandon intends to open a weekly clinic in town. Other exciting details are in preparation.

Public Works has been clearing roads and preparing for spring runoff. Two members have received their water and wastewater permits through an online course from Sacramento. They are looking for quotes on a renovation of their office space. They are also seeking quotes for their gravel needs and for jet/vac sewer maintenance contractors.

The Buildings Committee will be looking at the ramp at the Brandon hospital to see if it is an improvement that can be used at the library. The work of painting the Drop-In interior starts soon.

The Cemetery has completed their budget, and flowers are ordered. They are concerned about the road to the site, which crosses the town and rural boundaries. They have purchased the Job-Jon and will have it as a permanent fixture.

The Museum is hoping to rearrange their accounts to isolate the funds from the Criddle bequest from their annual operating budget. The ACAO has the work in hand.

The new Handivan has had some teething troubles; the old one is already listed for sale.

The Health Action Committee has made up its numbers with two new members. They were recently visited by Minister Asagwara and their staff along with representatives from Prairie Mountain Health. It was a positive meeting, where the possibility of specialized services to be held at the

Carberry Health Centre was discussed and the prospect of assisted living in the area.

The Daycare committee is talking with builders and learning the regulations and best practices from Cooperatives First. They were hoping a geotechnical survey had been conducted of the area already. If needed, it would cost about \$7-8 thousand to perform. They have been looking at other facilities and have seen some excellent RTMs. Their subdivision process is well underway.

The 'white house' is in regular heavy use; a good purchase. It may be wise to redo its siding, which would also enable spraying for maple bugs. The question has been raised about how the site will be mowed through summer. Will it be by contract or another job for Public Works?

Communications:

Western Manitoba Regional Library sent the draft minutes of its latest meeting.

Grand Chief Kyra Wilson of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs sent thanks for the letter of congratulations sent by the mayor on the occasion of her appointment as grand chief.

CN Rail sent notice of their program of vegetation control along their right of way.

Manitoba Municipal and Northern Affairs sent word of the details of the 2025 provincial budget, including a 2% rise in the Municipal Operating Grant and the introduction of the One Manitoba Growth Revenue Fund. Other grants for which municipalities may qualify are also listed.

MNR also sent an update on the mandated review of Planning legislation being undertaken.

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning sent details of the Education Support Levy to be collected.

Canoe, a procurement organisation, sent details of their response to the changes in tariffs that may affect municipalities and other government agencies in the near future.

Around the Table:

Councilor Sudak asked everyone to be patient with Public Works who will be busy with water issues as the weather changes. He also pointed out a tripping hazard at the entrance to the Day Care.

Councilor Rea thanked Council for their support and gift basket that marked the passing of her father-in-law. She has been asked by a citizen about what can be done about unsightly and ill-maintained buildings, and a discussion of the possibilities ensued. Incentives are favoured over repair orders. She also asked where we are in negotiations with Golden West Broadcasting.

Councillor Van Damme thanked everyone for the help and welcome she has received.

Councilor Kalinowich noted that with the warmer weather, there has been an increase in the noisy misuse of ATVs and motorbikes. He hoped that the RCMP might be induced to have an enforcement event.

Mayor Muirhead agreed and added the speeding trucks that leave the pumps at East End aggressively. He is also concerned about the noise of barking dogs that threatens to spoil outdoor activities in the warmer weather. He has been discussing means of stirring the owners of vacant properties to action. Tax surcharges on properties left idle over a long period of time are to be considered. Insurance premiums on vacant properties are already subject to a hefty surcharge.

Youth Councilor Boganes asked for details of the Green Team program which youth between 15 and 29 can use to work in their local municipality through the summer.

CAO Stephenson reported a few corrections to the reporting in past minutes: the funds collected for the tub and shower at the Health Centre by the Health Action Committee were not all needed, and the surplus of just over \$20,000 has been earmarked for the courtyard project. It was reported earlier that this was included in their account balance, which is not the case. The HAC stated that we would hope to support future health related training opportunities, initiated by the Town of Neepawa at their training facility. This might involve encouraging, possibly supporting local citizens to take part, not that we were cooperating on training with the Neepawa clinic.

Another correction was the description of the library's recent murder mystery dinner theatre, which was described as a fundraiser, but was simply a new program opportunity. The library held the event, not as a fundraiser but to gauge interest, offering something a bit different to the community, perhaps targeting another demographic.

The paving to be completed this year will be Calvert Avenue from Main to Wellwood Road, and Main Street beginning at 1st Avenue and going North to Stickle, if budget allows. A new sidewalk will be installed along Toronto from First to Stickle, to allow a walkway off the street for the many school aged children that use it regularly. A task force will be created to bring Assisted Living to Carberry. He also reminded everyone that the present tariff situation has been having an effect on our area, particularly in the ag sector, and we need to check on each other and provide support to each other where we can.

Mayor Muirhead added that he has acquired six new planters for placement in town, and that with the agency of Principal Galatiuk of R.J. Waugh, they are being decorated by school kids.

With that, the Council went *in camera* to discuss personnel matters and adjourned at 9:27 pm.