

Town Council, 25-05-13

The Council of the Town of Carberry met on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, with all members present and Mayor Muirhead in the chair. Also present were CAO Stephenson and Youth Councilor Boganes.

Delegation:

The meeting began by hearing a delegation from Cheryl Christian of GovFox, who has been selected to facilitate the updating of the Town's Strategic Plan. This was the opening meeting, or "Kickoff" of what is planned as a carefully staged series of meetings with a whole range of stakeholders and affected parties. There will be detailed interviews with each councilor and with staff, questionnaires for the public, a selected focus group with no councilors present, and an examination of the StatsCan demographics of the town. Ms. Christian is an experienced councilor and mayor, with extensive education in sociology, dispute resolution and leadership coaching, approved to work with municipalities by the provincial government. She wants the Strategic Plan she facilitates to be a "living document," one that will come up in all deliberations, asking "How will this align with our Strategic Plan?" It should promote the strategic use of resources and enshrine best practises. Christian congratulates the council on having a plan already in place to be updated; it's better than starting from scratch and establishes an appreciation for the process and the document. As to the timeline, the questionnaire should be ready to go out with the tax notices, the focus group will meet in June and July, and the final document should be ready by August or early September. This will be the last meeting together for a while; councilors will now be contacted for individual interviews.

Finance and Accounts:

The ACAO's report mentions that the Municipal Board has not yet approved the special service, and the passing of the financial plan by-law is still on hold. The 2024 audit is under way with all documents submitted, and awaiting the audits of Evergreen and Cypress Planning. She was congratulated on her list of capital projects, almost all under or close to budget. The report was accepted, along with the Financial Statement for April 2025, and accounts, electronic payments, and direct withdrawals totaling \$351,685.61 were approved for payment.

By-laws:

By-law 10/2025, to set the taxation rates for 2025 (the financial plan) was given its second reading, and its third reading was tabled until approval by the Municipal Board is received for the Garbage Special Service.

By-law 08/2025, which establishes a reserve for Community Safety Officer expenses was given its third reading and passed unanimously into law.

By-law 09/2025, which establishes a reserve for Joint Entity Expenses, was given its third reading, and passed unanimously into law.

Unfinished Business:

A rally is being planned about the apparent front runner in the intersection design at 1 & 5. It will be held on Thursday May 22nd at 7:00 pm.

Plans to further the utilization of a Community Safety Officer are continuing, with meetings scheduled bringing together the municipalities involved, the RCMP, and members of the Justice ministry. Councilor Sudak, who has been working at the wildfires now plaguing the province, noted that in the communities that have them, CSOs have been available to police evacuated areas and to make water deliveries. He cautioned that the negotiations should attempt to get funding help for the deployment of CSOs, so as not to be left with the situation found when firefighters are permitted to act as medical first responders, but none of their training, supplies, or wages are covered by the government — a clear case of responsibility downloading.

The June District meeting of the AMM will be held this year in Brookdale. It is a valuable opportunity to add concerns to the list that AMM lobbies government for in the name of all Manitoba municipalities. Deadline for adding a resolution to the agenda is June 1. Council agreed to be on the lookout for policy changes that would benefit all municipalities. Mentioned were the funding of CSOs and fire first responders.

James Cracknell has asked that two parking spots on Third Avenue opposite his car/truck wash be reserved for vehicles waiting to use the wash. Council discussed this already last month and brought the discussion back to the table. There is some question whether it would be fair, and whether such a precedent would set off a wave of special requests. While wishing to equip a business for success, there are only so many changes which can be made to the Traffic By-law, particularly when there is so little by-law

enforcement. The RCMP, for example, will be unlikely to enforce a measure unless it is for safety reasons. A CSO can be asked to be more specific. In this case, long-term or all-day parking can be prohibited, or a time limit may be specified without naming approved uses of the space. The CAO was asked to come up with a proposed amendment to the by-law.

A joint procurement policy was agreed to at the latest meeting of the Joint Councils' Committee, and it was passed as presented.

With Councilor Sudak recusing himself, Council passed the list of Designated Officers of the Carberry North Cypress-Langford Fire Department agreed by the joint councils:

Chief Clyde McCallum

Deputy Chief Grady Stephenson

Captains Bart Witherspoon, Mike Sudak, and Dell Carritt, and
Inspector Steve Denton.

General Business:

So far, if a homeowner wishes to place, replace or extend a culvert across the Town's drainage system, they purchase the specified size of culvert and the Town's Public Works does the installation. It has been left up to the owner and Public Works to do the specifying and sourcing. It would be best if the process were specified in a policy that can stipulate who may have input into the process and ensure consistency and fairness, and who is responsible for the costs. Such a policy will be brought to the next meeting.

On June 5, at the instigation of the mayor of Portage la Prairie, Youth Councilors from across the province will meet at 1:00 p.m. for a tour of the Legislature and a meeting with the Premier. Youth Councilor Boganes will attend, chauffeured in the Town's SUV by the mayor and CAO.

Jocelyn Barnstable was appointed the citizen rep for the Town of Carberry to the board of the Western Manitoba Regional Library.

Several unsightly properties have been pointed out to members of Council. The Vacant and Derelict Buildings By-law may not necessarily apply, so its provisions are moot, but it may be appropriate to offer the owner some (perhaps conditional) assistance to improve their property. To invoke the By-law is costly in time and money and is always in danger of inappropriately telling an owner what they may do with their property.

Councilors may discuss individual cases with the administration to seek a satisfactory solution.

Council agreed to approve a parental leave for an employee until the beginning of 2026 and hired a replacement on a term contract.

The request to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for a speed limit reduction on PTH 351 at the western end of town is still pending.

Council approved a subdivision application to allow for the development of a childcare facility.

“Rural Week” for U of M medical students is coming up this month, when first year medical students are billeted out in rural areas and shadow physicians in general practice, learning the constraints and advantages of rural living. Carberry will receive four of them, and the EDO has found them accommodations (two in the “white house” and two in the physicians’ suite at the Lyons) and planned a busy week for them finding out about the town and its amenities while they watch rural medical practice up close and personal.

Council hired two Green Team employees effective immediately.

Reports:

Youth Councilor Boganes reported that the grade ten students have just taken part in the PISA — the Programme for International Student Assessment — tests which compare students’ abilities across 81 countries, administered by the OECD. Historically, Canada has placed well in these exams, standing 6th in 2022, above the OECD average. Track and Field is starting up, and the Grad Barbecue will be shortly, and a dance on the 22nd. The Career Development class has been involved in doing a spring cleanup around town. The grades 5&6 will do a Fun Run in Sprucewoods Park on the 16th. Provincial exams will start soon, with ELA on the 26th. Hiring for next year’s staff requirements has started.

The EDO reports that the highway billboards are still awaiting approval from MTI. The RMWF display was a great success. The long hours were worth it for the many contacts made. She has been asked to give a presentation to RMED on the steps taken to promote the Daycare Development project. She also got good exposure at the MMA leadership summit. The U of M’s Rural Medical Student Week is on May 20. Billeting has been arranged, and a program of events to show them the town,

including a visit to Spruce Woods Park, a tour of the Barons' potato farm, Acadia Colony and Otter Home. The fire department will demonstrate the use of their extrication tools to the students to explain what is done before a MVA casualty is brought to the ER. She is to graduate from her course at the EDAM conference in June, and has been nominated for a provincial award. She is looking for an appropriate parade float trailer and hopes to source one from a builder in Wellwood. The "White House" that she books for is getting extensively used; a contract cleaner has been hired. On June 11, the Westman Tourism awards will be presented. Among the nominees are the Splash Park Committee for their 'Hoedown with Hicktown' event; for Marketing Excellence the Town of Carberry's rebranding project; a partnership tribute to the Carberry Chamber of Commerce for "Christmas in Carberry"; and as volunteer of the year, Shealee Smith. The EDO has several businesses seeking space in town, and a chiropractor hoping to work here one day per week. With Debra Steen she is researching establishing an assisted living facility and hotel comparable to that in Souris. Builders and investors looking to create commercial and residential space are leery of becoming landlords, so property management companies may be the answer.

The Fire Department will hold their Texas Breakfast on June 14.

Public Works shop renovations are progressing well and looking good. A term contract has been given a worker to replace a parental leave. Town Cleanup week is coming up, May 20-22.

At the Transfer Station, the old scale shack is gone. Guardrails for the scale were 'tested' almost as soon as they were installed.

At the cemetery, the windmill is now erected and working. Thanks to Gabler Welding for their expertise and craftsmanship.

Interest has been showed in the old handivan presently posted for sale on the internet.

The Health Action Committee has found the two members it wanted, one of whom will take over as fundraising chair.

The Planning District has been working well under Joel Penner, the new Development Officer/Inspector.

The Daycare Committee has been keeping busy moving ahead with specifications, design, and seeking builders.

The Splash Park committee will be participating in ‘Kalena’s Walk’ on May 24. Their Fundraiser “Hoedown with Hicktown” will take place on June 7.

Communications:

Western Manitoba Regional Library sent the minutes of their recent meeting and their audited financial statements for 2024.

The Moose Hide Campaign, which targets Intimate Partner Violence, asks for support and the recognition of May 15 as Moose Hide Campaign Day.

Community Planning sent a report to Council of the requirements to secure a subdivision suitable for the proposed Daycare from the existing Rec Lands OS (open space) zoning.

U of M’s Aggies request permission to pass through town with their charity Bed Push, which this year will benefit STARS and Manitoba Farmers’ Wellness. It is scheduled to pass through on Friday September 26.

Prairie Mountain Health advises that it will be unable to meet the requirements of the newest Manitoba Fire Code which requires all hospitals and care homes to have automatic sprinkler systems in place by January 1, 2026. They anticipate that the work will be done in 2027.

The Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators sent congratulations to CAO Grady Stephenson on ten years as municipal management staff — six as CAO.

Around the Table:

Councilor Kalinowich noted that the province has patched the cracks and holes in Main Street. He congratulated Public Works on the looks of the town’s back lanes.

Councilor Van Damme found that the women’s change rooms at the CPCC are overheated to the point of discomfort. She also asked why the bowling alley spends so much time closed during the summer.

Mayor Muirhead lamented the lack of by-law enforcement that leads to aggravating recurrences of provocative behaviour – Quads and ORV’s using roads they are forbidden; a disregard for stop signs, noise from undisciplined dogs and from aggressive driving. Even without a CSO, there must be things that can be done such as removable speed bumps, inviting a Traffic Act blitz by the RCMP, and getting the speed-reading sign back up and running.

Councilor Sudak added that if a complaint goes to the police, it should have the plate number, a description of the vehicle and of the driver. Properly filed complaints are kept indefinitely.

The mayor had been asked to ask the meeting if there was any way that provision could be made to cover Transfer station costs by cash. He was assured that the complexities of keeping cash and transaction records at the Station were too great to be overcome. This will be discussed at the next joint meeting.

Youth Councilor Boganis reminded that the Collegiate's spring band concert will be held on June 4.

Councilor Sudak reminded that when the buses leave the bus lane in the afternoon, they should not consider that just because one has entered Main Street, they shouldn't all do so without waiting for other traffic. He has also noted that the Garbage pickup is again starting before 7:00 am., inconveniencing residents they skip that way.

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