

Joint Councils 25.06.23

The Joint Councils Committee of Carberry and North Cypress-Langford met in the NCL council chambers on Monday, June 23, 2025, with Mayor Muirhead in the chair (Reeve Drayson had sent regrets). Present were Councilors Van Kommer, Murray, and Olmstead and Councilors Sudak, Rea, and Kalinowich, with Councilor VanDamme as observer. Also present were CAOs Stephenson and Parker.

Delegation:

The first agenda item was a delegation from the “Tiny Taters Daycare Co-op,” represented by their chairperson, Krista Strain. The Daycare Co-op has been impressively quick to line up their ducks and get ready to build their facility on Stickle Avenue West. When previewing their plans to the granting authority, they were encouraged to build and outfit both the floors of their planned building when they were initially asking for one floor and intending to expand into the floor below grade when they were ready for the expansion. The provincial authority pointed out that the pool of 60/40 funds was limited, and that it would be better to go for as much as would be needed now, rather than wait. The hitch, of course, is that they must first secure the other 40%, and then go on to provide all the material that is not covered by the grant. And then there are the costs of running the program and finding and paying trained staff. The recent provincial mandate to sharply increase the wages of childcare staff makes for some financial difficulty, even though it increases the pool of potential workers by making the job more desirable. For example, it is leading educational assistants to find attractive a job with more hours and no summer layoff.

This leads the Co-operative to look seriously at their budget. The added expense in building, start-up, and operation must be borne at least initially by their mortgage, and the bank must be persuaded that the plan is viable. The Co-op has asked the Town for exemption from the taxes they face (just under \$8 thousand per year) for the duration of the mortgage, twenty-five years. That amounts to nearly \$200,000, and it could be more if levies rise. The Town has agreed and has drafted a by-law to exempt the Daycare from the Municipal levies they face for twenty-five years. What the TTDC was asking this meeting was whether NCL would consider helping the Town with the ongoing expense.

There is no question whether the Daycare is a desirable asset to the area. In any surveys done, the need for daycare is always at the top of the list of the community's needs. TTDC advertised a sign-up session on Firemen's Breakfast/Townwide Yard Sale Day, and people were lined up from 6:00 a.m. The waiting list at the end of the day was 24 infants, 32 nursery age, and 14 school-age. Which is to say that they are already oversubscribed. They intend to start with a capacity of fifty-five and will be able to double that when they open the lower floor. The limiting factor will be the availability of the necessary additional staff. Once at capacity, they expect to be financially self-sufficient.

The members of NCL's council were clear that the Daycare was a top-priority project deserving of support. They will, however, have to hammer out just how to provide that support. They are hesitant to saddle the next five or six councils with a committed debt. They also have to consider how fairly to serve both their north and south constituents, as there are many who look to Neepawa for their amenities the way that those in the south look to Carberry. They will have to discuss the matter with their whole council and perhaps offer a support grant over a shorter period of time.

The delegation was thanked for their successful and energetic efforts to provide a much-needed service for the community.

Unfinished Business:

The committee passed two motions to acquire material required by the Joint Services. They will purchase 22 rolls of geotextile (in two batches) and an irrigator to water the new grass in the Rec Lands. The money will be taken from the CPCC Capital account.

General Business:

The Canada Day Barbecue is coming up, and volunteers from among the councils will be serving the lunch. Free swimming at the pool will start at 11, and the barbecue likewise.

The committee discussed the state of the Cemetery Road. It is potholed and breaking up. To do a proper job of repaving could cost about half a million dollars, which is dear. To fill the holes, apply gravel, and dust seal it would be more cost effective, but would seem to be a step backward in quality. A compromise might be to pave a walking path for people to use walking to the cemetery and gravel the remainder of the width. The Public

Works Foremen of both municipalities will be given the job of working something out.

Reports:

The Manager of Joint Services has been held up for the approval to open the pool because she needs an analysing photometer to assess the water quality, and there are none available. She has an order placed with the only supplier who will deliver on time but is anxiously waiting. Water treatment is also an issue at the campground; she hopes to install a UV treatment system but is awaiting chemistry results to determine if this option is feasible. Other work at the rec lands includes another try to plant grass on the soccer pitch rather than bear the expense of sod. The zip line will be put out of use when heavy equipment is in use at the campground.

The Director of Leisure Services is starting up Roller Skating as school ends. Excellent registration for the summer camp means that it can be run for eight weeks with a wide range of events and trips. Some of the camp's special events will be open to children not enrolled for the week of camp, to broaden the availability of fun programs for the community. Special events will also be run at the pool — a Glow Swim, a Cardboard Boat Race, and a Movie Night in the Pool. CC's Youth in Philanthropy have allocated this year's funds to the Rec Department. They will be used for various recreation programs and to acquire a movie screen.

The Arts Council received the donation of a piano, which was taken to the basement of the Old Town Hall by a crew from the Fire Department.

At the Care Home, the HAC's renovation of the courtyard is underway, with a construction crew called in to remove the soil of the raised beds. The material had to be lifted out over the roof of the building with a crane.

The Fire Department's Texas Breakfast fundraiser was a tremendous success; 750 breakfasts were served.

The Museum has opened for the season and has invited both councils to a tour on July 11 to see the latest displays. They hope to erect a pole shed of 56' x 38' on the northwest corner of their property to house a display of early potato equipment.

Around the Table:

Councilor Omstead thanked those who attended the recent Staff Appreciation Day at the golf course. She was thanked and congratulated on

the event but asked not to hold it on a Friday again because the absence of attendants from the Transfer Station until 3:00 pm caused quite a lot of upset that had to be handled by the skeleton staff left at the Town Office. Olmstead reminded the meeting that this year's Fair & Races start on July 4.

Councilor Van Kommer stated that a letter to the Editor or op-ed had been placed in the Brandon Sun and the Neepawa Banner to express the community's reservations about the RCUT layout to be used at the intersection of Highways 1 & 5. Van Kommer and other reps held a meeting with people from MTI that the minister didn't appear at. They accept that the RCUT is indeed the safest way to lay out the intersection but is not in favour of its use here. Traffic from the surrounding RM and other points north heading for Carberry and the plant is seriously inconvenienced, and there is a lot of such traffic. In particular, during potato harvest season, the number of triaxles, semis and super Bs that need to pass through the intersection on 5 is enough to cause bottlenecks and many accidents — even if they are of a less critical nature. The situation at Dalmeny SK on Highway 16 is in no way comparable to the volume of cross traffic at Carberry. He has been speaking with the highway transport drivers' representatives and found that Landmark's assurance that transport drivers have no objections is not really the case. There are problems with taking a heavy truck up to speed, merge, and back down to perform a tight U-turn and get back up to speed, merge, and back down to exit. It is not ideal; it is not simple, even though it is inherently safe from the kinds of 90-degree conflicts that are so lethal. For an intersection that has a lot of heavy through traffic, it is a poor choice.

On that note, the meeting adjourned.