

Town of Carberry 2025.07.08

The Council of the Town of Carberry met on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, in their council chambers with Mayor Muirhead in the chair and only Councilors Kalinowich and VanDamme, as regrets had been sent by Councilors Sudak and Rea. In addition, the ACAO, CAO, and Youth Councilor Boganes were present.

Finance and Accounts:

Council received the June 2025 Financial Statement, and approved accounts and direct withdrawals totaling \$ 391,804.28 for payment.

By-laws:

Because there wasn't a complete council to approve them, the planned two readings of By-law 12/2025, to amend the Town of Carberry Traffic By-law, were tabled until the next meeting. The two initial readings of By-law 13/2025 which would exempt the Tiny Taters Child Care Cooperative from municipal taxes, were passed on the understanding that the third reading would be before the full council.

Unfinished Business:

The reduction of the speed limit on PTH 351 within the Town limits has been in the works for years. At a recent meeting between MTI's Director of Traffic Engineering and CAO Stephenson, an agreement was reached to extend the 50 Kph limit out to the Town Limits. The necessary change in the Regulation requires several time-consuming steps, but the process is now underway.

The controversial changes to the intersection of Highways 1 & 5 are in the final stages of recommendation. The government's decision has yet to be announced.

Following the decision of the Joint Councils' Committee, Council resolved to purchase 22 rolls of geotextile for use on the Rec Lands. They also resolved to purchase a mini-irrigator for the site. Funds for both purchases will be taken from the CPCC Capital Account.

General Business:

A letter was received from a concerned citizen that suggested a proper pedestrian crosswalk be placed across the Wellwood Road to protect people, especially children, who wish to cross to use the zip-line and other amenities of the Rec lands. As Wellwood Road is under provincial control, the necessary permits will take time, but that it is a concern of the Council as well. Council agreed with the CAO that the best location would be at Stickle Avenue by the CPCC, and that from the west end of the proposed crosswalk

a path would be mowed to serve the zip-line and the campground area. A crosswalk must be seen to serve a path or amenity to be used.

Council passed resolutions in support of two resolutions to be presented to the AMM. One is from Elton, requesting that AMM lobby the hotel industry to establish a standardized municipal government hotel rate, similar to the rates given to the federal and provincial governments. The other is from Wallace-Woodworth, asking AMM to lobby for the launch of the combined Laboratory and X-ray Technology course program mandated by the provincial government to be expedited, and that existing diagnostic training programs be expanded. The need for lab and x-ray technologists is chronic among rural and northern health regions. The AMM is also to ask that the government develop partnerships with out-of-province institutions to allow rural students access to immediate training opportunities.

Council approved a contract for the cleaning of the Town of Carberry Administration Office.

Dates for meeting with the facilitator of the Strategic Plan were discussed, and for touring the museum's new displays. The days to meet for the Strategic Plan will be easiest to agree on in fall.

The adoption of some new policies was tabled until the full Council is present.

With considerable regret, Council accepted the resignation of CAO Grady Stephenson effective July 18, 2025. As a replacement, Council appointed Teresa McConnell to be Interim Chief Administrative Officer effective July 18, 2025.

Council resolved to accept the CCBF (gas tax) audit prepared by the Exchange Group.

A resolution to approve the closure of Main Street from First Avenue to Fourth Avenue from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m on August 23 for the Homecoming festivities was tabled until it can be discussed by the whole Council.

Reports:

Youth Councilor Boganis reminded that schools are closed for the summer and not expected to reopen until August 18 when the office will open. Classes restart on September 3. Principal McCallum has retired and will be succeeded by his vice-principal Ryan Robson.

The CAO's report includes advice about several of the resolutions presented to the meeting and adds that in light of his impending departure, steps have been taken to ensure that ACAO McConnell will be prepared, and that whatever projects he has been working on have been taken as far as

possible and documented. This includes requesting a date for the province to give their presentation on the hiring and utilization of a CSO; and preparing an RFP for a project manager for the lagoon project. He also offers to be available by phone for any help he can provide after July 18.

The EDO reports that two of the three highway signs have been approved by the province, but that the sign to the east has been considered to be too close to a neighboring property. Any significant move would involve forfeiting the present application and cost an additional \$500 (and time) for another application. In the meantime, a decision is needed whether to go ahead with the signs on our own cost or wait and see if our application to 'From the Ground Up' is awarded. No work done before the grant is awarded can be paid by the grant.

She has been active in the Economic Development community and was elected to the board of EDAM as one of two voices from the west of the province. The new daycare committee is working well and quickly with Cooperatives First to get their daycare open in spring of 2026. Communities in Bloom are short of volunteers and considering closure. Flowers for next spring will be ordered, including the hanging baskets, but she is concerned that the planting will need to be done, and she doesn't feel it is her strength, nor does she have the time to plan, prepare and plant the volume of flowers involved. At the Westman Tourism Awards, Carberry's rebranding received an award for Marketing Excellence, and the Splashpark Committee's 'Hoedown with Hicktown' promotion won the Event of the Year (under 10K). The Chamber of Commerce is active and has upgraded their directory sign at the Community Centre. She is planning Business Retention and Expansion surveys to gauge the health of the Town's businesses and hopes to hold a 'Biz Breakfast' in fall to present ideas from ED partners and start up helpful networking among businesses. For Homecoming this year, she would like to do a 'Paint the Bench' contest to beautify the Town's concrete benches. She has an idea for a 'selfie station' at the CP park to act as a tourism magnet.

The Fire Department reports that its 'Texas Breakfast' served 750 meals and cleared somewhere between \$13 thousand and \$15 thousand. The RCMP has sent its quarterly occurrence report.

Public Works can now irrigate from the lagoon.

The sidewalk along Second Avenue in front of the Hall has been remarked.

The cost of putting material into the roll-off bins at the Transfer Station continues to surprise and annoy patrons.

It has been suggested to take the opportunity in fall to top up the sinking flower plots at the cemetery.

The Health Action Committee reports that work on the care home courtyard continues, and work is being done to enlarge the extra doctor's office at the clinic. New fundraising projects are being considered.

The new daycare committee is working with Cooperatives First to have their facilities open in the spring of 2026.

Communications:

Several emails have been received on the subject of the intersection of the two highways. Larry Hamende pointed out that in the stretch of #1 from where he enters it in Alberta to Winnipeg, there are more than 20 places where there are traffic lights protected by a reduced speed area, and they give no trouble and cost far less than the alternatives presented. Darryl Love pointed out that the tragic crash was purely a matter of driver error, and not the fault of the infrastructure — the study and the resulting infrastructure changes are a waste of millions of dollars. Ray Christie has regularly traveled the stretch of Highway 16 where the first RCUT was installed and finds it to be no problem; it's safe, easy to use even for large twin rigs, and cost effective.

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

Around the Table:

Councilor Kalinowich noted that despite the line painted, people park on the walking path along Market Street. They also park on the path at the Community Hall. He hopes some way of policing the disregard of stop signs will soon be developed. There have been spray planes flying very close to the town. He congratulated the Town workers and the landlord for the improved appearance of Market Street.

Mayor Muirhead reported that he had conveyed the Council's greetings to the CC Grad, to the visitors to the Royals' tournament and to the Fair & Races. He passed on the kudos given by a community member to Callie and Nishelle, the Manager of Joint Services and the Manager of Leisure Services. They had responded quickly and effectively to a problem presented. He asked if there was any way at all that by-laws could be enforced before approval comes for a CSO. The CAO held out little hope but would try one further security company of which he has heard.

The mayor made a particular point of expressing his regrets at the resignation of Grady Stephenson, thanked him for his service, and wished

him the best in his new position. He also welcomed and thanked Teresa McConnell for stepping in.

Councilor VanDamme mentioned that the Canada Day Barbecue had been a great success and thanked the participants.

CAO Stephenson expressed his thanks to the council for their support and encouragement and felt that together many things had been accomplished that all could be proud of. It has been great to work with Council and his team.

The reporter reminded all that the Newsletter will now be in preparation, so could each member pass on to their boards and contacts that it would be helpful to get their notices and submissions to him as soon as possible.

With that, Council went *in camera* to discuss personnel matters, and adjourned at 8:26 pm.