

Town 25.06.10

The council of the Town of Carberry met in their council chambers on Tuesday June 10 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Muirhead in the chair, and all members present. Also present were Youth Councilor Boganes and ACAO McConnell.

Planning Matters:

The first matter was to adjourn the meeting to hold a public hearing on an application to vary some setbacks to subdivide a duplex on Wheatland Drive into its two components for separate sale. No interventions had been received at the town office or at the Planning District, and no one was present for the hearing, so at the suggestion of Planner Penner, the hearing was adjourned, and the variation order was passed.

Delegation:

A delegation was received from Tiny Taters Child Care Co-op. Their project is advancing at impressive speed, and they have reached a point where they must examine their finances carefully, because of the number of things that will have to be purchased unsubsidized — The 60/40 grant that the two levels of government provide covers only some of the needs. The more they ask, the more they will have to provide additionally to make the space usable. The costs cannot be gradually phased in; they include providing the necessary staff. Staff costs have risen radically in the wake of recent legislation of payment for ECEs. Decisions cannot be delayed, either, because no grant can be provided during the run-up to an election (provincial or federal) so TTDC would like to apply before the end of June and commit to complete. Which brings them to the point of their delegation: They ask for exemption from taxes, preferably for the duration of their mortgage. This is a considerable amount of money. Even though they are exempt from the general municipal taxes, the fire, police, streetlights, sewer and garbage levies can add up, which would mount up over 25 years.

The schedule that TTDC has drawn up is impressive. If the application is filed on time, the builder of the component RTM buildings is primed to deliver within 5 to 8 months of the go-ahead, by which time the site can be ready, and according to their advisors they could be open by the end of the year. More realistically, they expect to open in spring of '26. They will be taking waiting list names on the Town-wide Yard Sale Day (June 14) at a booth in the CP Park.

Council was enthusiastic about the amazing speed with which the TTDC has come together and agreed that daycare is one of the highest priority needs

in the town and the surrounding area. They recommended that the delegation repeat their report to NCL at the next joint meeting, which will be on the 23rd. Though the taxes are paid to the Town, the concern for daycare is shared with the RM. Perhaps an operating grant can be negotiated from NCL to match what the Town will offer. In the meantime, other grants will be sought. Without examining the Tax Incentive By-law, it is unclear just what the Town will be able to offer, but they feel that the expense is easily justified by the increase in interest that will be shown for town real estate and commercial development because of the presence of the Daycare.

The delegation was thanked and assured that Council will do whatever it can to support their project.

Finance & Accounts:

Council accepted the report of the ACAO, and the Financial Statements for May 2025. Accounts, electronic payments, and direct withdrawals totaling \$ 416,553.55 were approved for payment

By-laws:

It is time to adjust the Traffic By-law, changing some of the parking regulations. The amendment, By-law #12/2025, was given a first reading and circulated among the councilors.

Unfinished Business:

Council adopted a policy, TS 02-2025, which specifies who pays and who does the work installing culverts.

The intersection of Highways 1 & 5 has been a matter of some contention. In response to the evident need for an improvement of the intersection, Landmark design has been researching and explaining a range of alternative layouts that are being considered. After three public presentations, they are close to the recommendation they will propose to Manitoba Transport and Infrastructure. It seems likely that they will suggest a "Reduced Conflict U-Turn" or RCUT layout, as has been successfully used in Europe, is finding favour in the States, and has been tried once in Canada, at Dalmeny SK, on Highway 16.

Two meetings are scheduled. A virtual meeting of stakeholders will take place on June 17 to which the Town Council is invited, and all council members will probably attend. On June 25, at 6:00 p.m. in the Carberry Collegiate gymnasium, there will be a public meeting to present the choices made.

Mayor Muirhead mentioned that he had received several calls from people who had attended the protest of the RCUT held at the intersection, reprimanding him for not attending. He pointed out that the intersection is in the RM, not the town, and that it was probably inappropriate for him to attend

a protest, particularly if it did not necessarily express his or the Town's concerns. He and the whole council have formally advised Landmark that their preference remains to have an overpass. They will do so again at the upcoming stakeholder meeting.

As due diligence, Muirhead has called out to Dalmeny and spoken to the CAO and the Fire Chief there. They had experienced the same level of protest at the suggestion of the RCUT as we have here, but now that it has been in place for two years, most people have adjusted to the layout. The Fire Chief admitted he had been one of the outspoken critics initially, but has come to accept the slight added delay, and has not been called out for any accidents there either, for what it's worth.

If anyone has feelings about the matter, they should be sure to attend the public information session and speak directly to the people who are making the decisions.

There have been overpayments of Blue Cross premiums by the staff, and Council passed a motion to refund the overage.

The resignation of the Transfer Station attendant was accepted with regrets, and two people were hired to cover the position.

There will be a free Canada Day barbecue at the pool, and Council discussed who would serve it and what would be served.

Reports:

Youth Councilor Boganis reported that provincial math exams are coming up at once, and the regular High school exams are coming right after. The Jazz Band will play through their whole repertoire at the Air Museum on June 14. There is a Track and Field regional meet for grades 7-8 in Neepawa. Grad will be held at 4:30 on Tuesday June 24, and the Grad Barbecue and the Awards Day will take place the day after. That concludes the year's events; the school office will reopen August 18, and classes resume on September 3. Councilors who had attended congratulated him on the very impressive final band concert that had just been held.

The Manager of Joint Services reports that the CPCC successfully hosted the Junior Rifle Club Provincials recently. The epoxy flooring in the dressing room showers is complete, and the drains will be cleaned out before hockey season returns. The red chairs from the bleachers have gone to the transfer station as scrap. The Zamboni has gone to Headingly to be repaired and overhauled for a few more years of service while we save for a new one. The pool is being filled, and a visit from the health inspector will be needed before we get our operating permit. The pigeon netting has been installed. At the

Ball Park, the diamonds are being maintained for baseball, and excess red sand is to be placed as soon as possible.

The EDO reports that the billboard applications have been reviewed and two of them are approved. Details of the third one are being studied. Work will start as soon as word is received of the status of our grant application. If it is accepted, it would be forfeited if work started too early. The EDO hosted a webinar about the development of the new childcare centre. She has also been asked to be a participant in BU's Rural Development Institute podcast series called "Small Town, Big Stories." She will also be a panelist when CRDI holds its annual conference in Brandon in September. The four students who came here for Rural Medical Student Week were appreciative of their accommodations and evening events and said they wanted to return in the future. A benefit barbecue was held by Stride Credit Union for the new childcare centre, which is working on final details for their application to the government. Several local events, projects and people are nominated for Westman Tourism awards. Lisa Dobbin-Waters was elected vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Public Works keep busy with routine maintenance and installation of new pumps at the lagoon. A student has been taken on for the summer and grass cutting is under way. A visit from Health and Safety has passed, recommendations accomplished, equipment certified. Cracks are being filled on Ottawa Street and on the walking path. A hundred yards of base were applied to the Ball Park's road, and fifty yards to the Transfer Station's new building ramp.

The Fire Department's Texas Breakfast takes place on June 14. Six of their members in two groups volunteered to go and fight wildfires in Flin Flon, taking a pumper apparatus with them. It was a grueling set of fourteen-hour days offering their time, training and experience to protect the people of the area. At home, the kindergarten classes will be given tours of the firehall and its contents this week.

New stucco is to be applied to the Library. The ramp and steps need to be replaced, and an RFP will ask for a redesign and execution.

The Arts Council received a donated piano, which members of the fire department were able to transport to the basement of the Old Town Hall.

At the cemetery, the windmill is installed and in operation. The chance to fill the sunken flower beds among the graves has been missed this spring; the flowers are almost below ground level on many of them. In response to a question, each year some gravestones are cleaned by the staff, but it is possible to have them done for a fee by Councilor Van Damme.

The museum has hired its staff for the season, which will open on June 14. They have been pricing an implement shed. Councilor Sudak has donated the uniform he wore when deployed to Afghanistan. With other loaned items it may become part of a display of modern soldiery.

The old Handivan has sold. At the Drop-In, the recently acquired dishwasher has entered service. The painting of the interior is completed.

The Health Action Committee is offering PMH to pay for the removal of the wall between two undersize rooms in the clinic to make a suitable office space for a physician. With that encouragement, PMH will undertake the work.

The Splash Park's "Hoedown with Hick Town" fundraiser was a great success, with around 250 attendees.

The White House is in steady use, including putting up two of the medical students for the week. The grass is being cut by the previous owner in exchange for the storage of some of his material.

Councilor Kalinowich reported on the Western Caucus meeting in Baldur, and the AMM spring convention in Winnipeg. At AMM, they heard from both Municipal Affairs and Justice ministers on CSOs and public safety. They also heard from the Minister of Health about allowing firefighters to administer Medical First Response (though without offering any funds for training or supplies). A presentation by Andrew Coyne gave some clarity to the issues and problems caused by President Trump's trade war. There were other sessions on health care recruitment and improving municipal administration.

Communications:

The RCMP sent their quarterly report.

The Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association sent a letter differentiating themselves from both Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and stressing the importance of local postal service in rural areas, where thousands of post offices have now been closed. They ask for support in their struggle to keep rural post offices open. Council agreed to offer them a letter of support.

RFNow sent plans and specifications for their intention to tunnel a fibre drop from Highway 5 to the Carberry Small Animal Clinic on Third Avenue.

Western Manitoba Rural Library sent draft minutes of their last meeting.

The Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations sent notice of Carberry's Municipal Operating Grant and the One Manitoba Growth Revenue Fund.

From CFB Shilo, a letter requesting a letter from the Town recognizing the service of Captain Matthew Hall, whose informal retirement ceremony will

be held on August 1. The letter will be prepared on Town stationery for signature by Mayor Muirhead.

Around the Table:

Councilor Sudak reminded that there are some evacuees in town and asked everyone to make them welcome. He also reminded that the Firemen's Breakfast is to be held on Saturday, and that in-town delivery is available.

Councilor Rea asked what was becoming of the old Bank of Montreal building now that its ownership has changed and was assured that steps have been taken already to begin to clean up the site.

Councilor Van Damme praised the Youth in Philanthropy group for directing the proceeds of their fundraising barbecue to the Rec Board.

Councilor Kalinowich admired the paving job recently done in the north part of Main Street and the tree trimming. He noted that most of the travel trailers that were parked on the boulevard have now been moved. There are however people who park on the sidewalk in front of the Community Hall, and suggested that a line be painted to indicate the curb. The paving along Fanny Street both north and south of the town is in poor shape. He hopes that the RM will not leave them to revert to gravel, it would be a blow to the many who walk to the cemetery, especially those with wheelchairs or strollers.

Mayor Muirhead reported that he has been interviewed by both the CBC and the Brandon Sun, particularly about Community Safety Officers. He wondered how best to proceed to get more municipalities on board and to work through the necessary steps to get permission to hire one. He offered to take the point on lobbying and pressing for answers and finally permission. The need for by-law enforcement is critical. CSOs also proved themselves valuable in the fire zone. A course of training is available at ACC, but it is important to induce candidates to take it. He asked permission to start off by calling Minister Simard and was encouraged to do so. He also reported that the Western Caucus meeting held at the Hall had gone well, and that Carberry will probably be asked to host another. He also suggested that the siding on the White House be replaced. He will ask the Town Foreman to tender the work, perhaps coupled with siding the shed on the old town shop site.

With that, Council went *in camera* to discuss personnel matters.