

Joint Councils, 25.07.28

The Joint Councils of the Town of Carberry and the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford met in NCL's council chamber at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 28, 2025 with Mayor Muirhead in the chair and Carberry councilors Sudak, Kalinowich, Rea and VanDamme present, and Reeve Drayson with councilors Olmstead, Murray, Van Kommer and Jardine. Also present were CAO Parker and interim CAO McConnell, and Manager of Joint Services Sudak.

Muirhead noted as the meeting started that some of the Town's undertakings may be delayed by the recent coincident resignations of their EDO and CAO. He asked for the patience of the meeting while the administration, led by interim Acting CAO McConnell, sorts itself out on its new footing.

Unfinished Business:

Manager Sudak was there to provide updates on several of her ongoing projects. The campground has been affected by problems with the aggregate supplier's scale that led to a shortfall in delivery of the necessary material to complete the surfacing of the area. The needed material will be delivered very soon, and the work completed in time for Whitemud Watershed to plant trees at the beginning of next week. The power can then be turned on, which will enable the new irrigator to be deployed at the soccer pitch.

There was discussion about the best way to proceed with the grass on the soccer pitch. Councilor Jardine warned that for a dense enough turf to build up, the field should not be used this fall. If it is used this year, it will be too weak to overpower the weeds in spring and will have to be redone. If this is the case, it would be courteous to call the school division and let them know. Jardine offered to mow the tall weeds on the pitch with his haybine which will be less likely to spread the weed seeds. A regular mower can take the stubble down to prepare for reseeding. The failure of the previous seeding can be traced back to the power for the irrigator, which was provided by a generator loaned by the Town that had to be returned at a critical time for the seed. If the hydro is in place, that will not be a problem this time, but the installation hasn't happened yet, so Councilor van Kommer offered the loan of a generator as needed.

If the soccer pitch is unavailable, there was a question whether there was any part of the ball diamonds that could be offered. Lacrosse is being played between the fields at the present; perhaps lacrosse and soccer can share the space.

If the planned reseeding doesn't take, the options are all costly. Hydro-seeding would cost over \$20 thousand, and sod laying depends on the sod being of a type suitable for the planned use. Getting it properly laid in a timely manner might involve calling out a large number of volunteers.

The Manager of Joint Services was advised to accept Jardine's offer to mow the tall weeds and then spray the site and work it up for reseeding, accepting that the field will not be available to play on this fall.

The remainder of the work on the campsite hangs on the results of the water test that will determine what kind of treatment the water will require and what infrastructure will be needed.

The two Public Works foremen conferred about the state of the cemetery road. They agreed to start by patching the potholes with cold mix asphalt, accepting that it may have to be reapplied once or twice a year. The situation can be reassessed in a few months. If it proves necessary to first remove the compacted gravel from the potholes with specialized equipment that may be a choice. In a year or two, the situation can again be assessed, and a choice made between repaving at about \$300 thousand, or removing the asphalt, graveling and sealing with calcium for about \$30 thousand.

General Business:

The difficulty filling the position of Arts Director has been tentatively solved by offering the Director of Leisure Services the joint position of Recreation and Arts Director. This suits the present manager well; she has been a champion of cooperation between the two services already. The challenge is to find out how to add a 24hr./wk. set of duties to a full 40hr/wk. position. Part of the answer is in the proposal to create a position of Joint Utility Working Foreman for one of the joint staff who has the knowledge and experience to take up the challenge. He would be taking duties from both the Director of Leisure Services and the Manager of Joint Services such as scheduling the use of rinks and diamonds, stocking the concession, liaison with the Town Public Works and so forth. The meeting was concerned that any contract for the newly created joint rec/arts position be given a clause enabling a return to the original single job without penalty or having to reapply. There should be no pressure to face burnout. After some discussion, it was considered that since she already has a contract, the added responsibilities did not amount to a reason to re-post the job. In the case of the proposed Joint Utility Working Foreman, where there is a new position created, and one with supervising powers, the job may be offered on a trial basis, and if it works out, the position may be posted internally and only one applicant would have the necessary experience. Wages for the

increase to one position and the creation of the other will almost be covered by the withdrawal of the arts job.

The Manager of Joint Services was encouraged to get contracts for the two positions drawn up with a provision to be renegotiated at the beginning of the new year.

Wages at the pool have come up for discussion. For a position that is vital in preservation of life, one that requires qualifications that are expensive to acquire, the pay is low. If it isn't raised, the inevitable consequence will be that young people don't bother to take the necessary training, and it will be harder to open and staff the pool and offer training. It is usual for the pool staff to be young and to require them to work at times unsupervised, so it isn't surprising to find that there have been lapses in discipline. The security videos tell some disappointing stories. The Director of Leisure Services will work with the Head Lifeguard to ensure staff understand and are confident in the training they have received and will work towards ensuring proper follow up with discipline when needed. A new pay matrix will be in place before next year's pool season. Any changes to the present pay levels will be discussed at the same time.

There have been problems with the collection of the fees for putting material in the roll-off bins at the transfer station. It has been decided that only electronic transactions will be accepted, and there has been pushback from users who wish to pay by cash or cheque. Councils discussed the matter and remain convinced that no good can come of involving the staff in cash or cheque transactions. The added complexity of storing, accounting and keeping them secure is not justified. They concede that it may be possible to write an invoice to a taxpayer in special circumstances but never to accept cash or cheques.

A firm in Alberta is offering to perform in-depth detailed energy auditing that would provide ongoing real-time monitoring of equipment and energy use. They receive the bulk of their funding from the government energy-saving grants they apply for to improve your energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions. Obligations on building staff and management are minimal; the grant applications are performed by the company. The Manager of Joint Services was encouraged to look further into this offer.

A detailed comparison among the costs charged by contractors for Electrical, HVAC, and plumbing work has been done, and for the most part the comparison favours Sandhills Electric, who have been doing most of the work on joint properties already. The only caveat was that in some cases more men might be dispatched than were warranted, and the contract

should advise that if that is the case, the job will be canceled and reassigned.

There have been problems with people parking their cars blocking access to the EV charging station for legitimate users. Signs will be put up, and the curb painted green (the universal symbol for EV use).

The Zamboni is facing some expensive repairs, but the serviceman is confident that it remains a good machine with a long life expectancy. It should get a general service and overhaul annually. Nevertheless, replacement will be costly. The suggestion is to add to the fee charged to ice users for use of the machine. It can also be sponsored; an advertising or branding logo can be offered for help with its maintenance. It is well worth maintaining and hanging onto.

Reports:

The Manager of Joint Services had covered a lot of her report during the meeting, but other details include the work at the CPCC to prepare for the video streaming service LiveBarn; the loss of the analysing photometer which nearly prevented the pool opening — a loan from Shilo saved the day; and the work to comply with the Public Health inspector's recommendations. There are painting projects and bathroom upgrades. MB Hydro has completed the meter upgrade that was required for the rink heating.

At the Community Hall, the new coffee machine's plugs are installed and it is ready for use. MB Hydro completed a final inspection on the natural gas equipment that had deficiencies highlighted during a previous visit. Some last painting and floor covering for the office complete work at the Drop-In. The library is receiving its new coat of stucco, its steps and ramp are tendered for construction in the spring. Three dumpsters at the Transfer Station are being removed for repairs. An arbour, posts and chains were purchased to be placed at the Carberry Bus Crash Memorial site. We will be bringing in additional limestone to extend the path towards the memorial.

The Director of Leisure Services reports that the summer camp program is successful with positive responses and new campers joining with returning faces. The pool has some events planned including a return of the Cardboard Boat Race on August 30. Planning for fall recreation is starting, and a meeting is planned with the Arts Council to discuss the same.

The Archivist has several projects on the go, using brochures and QR links for details of school cairns, vanished towns and hamlets, and expanding the interpretive details of the cemetery and its occupants. A walking tour of the cemetery is planned for October. She would like to hold a "picture day"

to get people to help identify the people and times depicted in some of her photographs.

Dr. Maharaj, who was instrumental in reopening the ER, enjoyed working with Carberry enough that he would like to site clinic here to provide the latest technology in prostate biopsy to the province of Manitoba. He would require a space of at least 12' x 14', and an initial investment of \$200,000. With the departure of our EDO, the search for space and investors has fallen to the HAC and their new fundraising board member.

Evergreen Environmental has finally accepted that the gasifier is not going to be a viable project. Their concerns are now to acquire a new back hoe, a shredder, and a compactor.

The Fire Department have been servicing, upgrading and repairing their equipment. The ATV and rescue toboggan have been taken off their light trailer and put in the reorganized enclosed rescue/hazmat trailer. They hope to upgrade truck #107 to a 1-ton crew cab which will be strong and safe enough to haul the snuffer unit to bush fire, vehicle, and dumpster fires. One of the members is to receive a 25-year long service medal at the emergency services conference in Brandon in early September. Councilor Sudak, who has been involved in the wildfire fighting, mentioned that he hears many compliments about the members who offered their help at the height of the season.

The Museum has been open for the summer and displays are being revamped. There is a new section featuring Fox Memorial Hospital artifacts; a donation of arrowheads and other finds from the area updates the Indigenous display, and donations from local participants add material from Afghanistan to the military display. They hosted (and impressed) a tour of NCL councilors, and hope to do the same for the Town.

The windmill is up and in operation at the Cemetery and the donors who helped restore it would like a photo taken with the cemetery committee.

The daycare committee have chosen a logo for their 'Tiny Taters Daycare' and have secured a tax holiday from the Town for the duration of their mortgage, and anticipate a 5-year grant from NCL. Work carries on at a pace that should see them open early in '26.

Around the Table:

Councilor Sudak applauded the Fair and Races for a great show. The Canada Day barbecue at the pool was well attended and lots of fun. The food was all gone by 1:00. Wellwood's fair was outstanding, with hundreds of attendees and excellent turnout of collector cars, a fire truck, and a fine display of fireworks on the eve of Canada Day.

Councilor Kalinowich was impressed by the progress made on the campground, and the work of the pool staff to provide both training and amusement. He asked what progress had been made on the crosswalk at Stickle to access the rec lands. Applications to Manitoba Highways are the first step.

Mayor Muirhead wanted to determine whose responsibility was the Daylily Park. It is a Town property, not jointly owned. He feels it needs some attention. He also wished to hear whether NCL had any interest in employing a Community Safety Officer, and was advised that NCL does not feel such a service would be helpful to them.

With that, the Committee went *in camera* to discuss preliminary matters.