

Joint Councils Oct. 27, 2025

The Committee of Joint Councils met in the council chambers of the rural municipality at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2025, with Mayor Muirhead in the chair and Councilors Rea, VanDamme, and Kalinowich for the Town and with Reeve Drayson and Councilors Davidson, Van Kommer, and Olmstead for NCL. Also present were CAOs McConnell and Parker.

Delegations:

Kelly Marnoch of Guild Insurance appeared before the committee to report on research done for the previous CAO to determine if there were savings available by finding insurance from a local broker instead of from the Association of Manitoba Municipalities. They had picked the Community Centre as an example; prices on buildings that accommodate various user groups and the public seem unexpectedly high from AMM. Marnoch had found coverage for the CPCC at a similar level of general liability for nearly half what the AMM charged — \$53,775 instead of \$106,500. The differences in features between the two were small, but AMM's excess liability over the \$10 million per occurrence was greater. The committee agreed that an excess liability figure of \$25 million was preferable. They were impressed by Marnoch's findings and discussed how they could change their insurance over to him within their procurement policies. Three quotes would be required, and they already had two of them; Marnoch warned that they might have trouble finding another one. In that case, Councils would be justified in choosing the lesser quote of the two. AMM will be asked to present Councils with their justification and rationale, and Marnoch was thanked for his efforts and asked to prepare quotes for the whole package that AMM/Western Financial Group offer to municipalities.

The next delegation was from the Chamber of Commerce 'Christmas in Carberry' Committee, represented by Tyson Boychuk. He brought with him a mock-up of their Holiday Calendar and asked for Councils' support in the form of a \$50 ad in the publication. Both councils agreed to take out one of the business card size advertisements. Boychuk went on to talk about his plans for the "Parade of Lights" planned for November 29. Start time will be at 7 p.m. and the parade will follow the usual route around the care home and up Main Street. At the end, floats will line up in order in the parking lot at the head of Main Street, with larger ones parked on the roadside, and the public will be asked to vote on the best one. The area will have bonfire barrels and hot chocolate and hot dogs. He was hoping that the two municipalities would go together on decorating the pavilion in the CP park

for the occasion. They agreed to work something out. NCL supports both the Carberry and the Neepawa parades and they coincide this year. They do expect to be able to be present at both. Rather than distribute candy from the moving floats, it will be handed out at the party like the other food items. Volunteers will be needed to man the booths and direct traffic. Boychuk formally asked for the parking lot to be closed to its usual purposes for the evening, and the Town agreed to do so. He has enlisted the Westman ATV Association's help with the event. They organize derbies for their membership and offer search and rescue services for the bush areas they oversee. They will supplement the Fire Department's oversight of the event. Boychuk's hope is that what has been created will be a family affair, bringing people together in the true holiday spirit. He is also hoping to work with the WATVA to establish Carberry as a stop along their nearby trails. Boychuk was thanked for his efforts and those of the Chamber of Commerce Christmas committee and congratulated on keeping his presentation short and full of information.

The third delegation was from the Prairie Harvest Festival Committee, represented by Lisa Dobbin-Waters, Joni Smyth, and Amanda Dane. They have debriefed after their event on October 18, and after surveying the community they find all agreed that the summer event was more desirable. They have committed to August 22, 2026, as the date for the next festival. Along the way they will be fundraising. They ask permission to take over the organizing of the Carberry Farmers' Market, assuming that the use of the park is in the Town and Municipality's gift. They undertake to ensure that proper food service licenses cover the event, and that there is liability insurance in place. They have already begun to publish their financial statements online, and all cheques require two signatures. They will share part of the funds raised with the Town and NCL. They want to run a transparently upright operation with a view to registering as a non-profit corporation. They were advised to take care to find and follow the CRA's guidelines for such registration. They were asked if they had any objection to reporting their finances to the municipalities on a quarterly basis, and they replied that they are already publishing their finances and would have no problem presenting them to the municipalities. It was suggested that a contract be drawn up, specifying the details of the Market operation and the oversight expected. They were congratulated on their efforts and given best wishes on their new venture.

Joint Financials:

CAO McConnell had prepared an Excel spreadsheet of the Joint Financials at the nine-month or third quarter mark. The budget's revenue

and expenses were compared to the actual figures at the end of September and the next three months' known or estimated values in many categories, which she explained one by one. Overall, the indication is that actual is close to budget, and that a profit of nearly \$10,000 will be there to share. McConnell was thanked for the rigorous presentation.

Unfinished Business:

At the campground site, the pump and generator are being winterized, and the grounds maintained. It may be prudent to strike a committee to discuss the way forward. There is a couple recently arrived in the community who developed a campground in their home community of Flin Flon and boosted its use and revenue several times over. They will be asked to come as a delegation to the next joint meeting.

A tender has been proposed for the cleaning of 122 Main Street, and the Committee approved the tender to be issued. They also adopted a policy (JS 02-2025) to cover the Contract Cleaning of Joint Facilities. In the discussion, it was mentioned that to avoid the condition of the building deteriorating, the tender should specify two days per week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, to do the work, since the After-School Arts program is likely to generate the week's greatest mess. There should be mention of the need for a provision for preparing for and cleaning up after special occasions, for which notice must be given. The cleaners should have access to the bookings, to know when to work. Regular users should be encouraged to use the provided cleaning supplies to keep their areas clean.

A further policy (JS 03-2025) was adopted to cover Grants, Community Supports and Grant Applications.

General Business:

The Joint Committee hired Bill Syrik to be Manager of Joint Services, effective October 27, 2025.

For the period that there was no Manager of Joint Services, the responsibilities of the manager were taken on by Shane McCulloch. In gratitude the Committee authorized a bonus of \$2.00 per hour to be paid to him as compensation.

A Seasonal Utility Employee was hired, effective October 10, 2025.

The TOC CAO had prepared a spreadsheet of the quarter's Fire Department callouts broken down by type and municipality. 50 events took them to the RM; 20 to the Town. Four events were shared. Chief McCallum reports that in October they acquired a 2015 3500HD truck to be the new 107 bush/traffic vehicle. They also received the "Hometown Heros" grant from Ram Air Gear Dryers giving them a new PPE gear dryer. They have

been recognized by the province for the work done during the wildfires. They are preparing for the Firefighters' Ball on December 6. The new wildland ppe they purchased with their fundraising money has been successfully put to the test a couple of times. They had 3 members attend a Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) course and are setting up more training courses and seminars for the winter.

Apparently, the suite at the Lyons Estates is getting little use. The EMTs have their own rented accommodation and visiting nurses and locums have been using the 'white house' for preference; it is nearer and well appointed. If the contract is to be cancelled, it will involve the Community Foundation who contribute to the cost.

Material taken to and removed from the Transfer Station is covered by different contracts for the Town and the RM. There is confusion enough that NCL would like to remove mention of the transfer station on their new tender. A separate 3rd contract is proposed for joint garbage and recycling services at the Transfer Station. The Town already has a contract in place with TAC Ventures that may require editing.

The Arts/Rec Director has asked that some form of volunteer Rec Board be reconstituted to give her some direction and act as a "sounding board" and to be, or be a route to, a cadre of badly needed volunteers. To avoid the stresses that destroyed the previous board it should not have any fiscal responsibility but should try and represent the interests of the user groups that depend on recreation facilities. To invite all user groups to give input would risk chaos, which makes the selection of members a difficult but vital task. The hope was expressed that the new Manager of Joint Services will develop some sort of expertise, and work with the Arts/Rec Director to find a solution. The two will be asked to present ideas to the January Joint Councils' meeting.

Councilor Olmstead has been organizing a Christmas Party for the NCL and the joint staff at the Legion on December 5. It will take place at the Legion and be catered by them, with entertainment laid on by Banquets and Bashes. When she discovered that the Town is offering gift baskets instead of a party, she wasn't sure what to do. Town councilors will be having a special meeting shortly and will try and get Olmstead the numbers who would prefer to attend the party.

Reports:

The Joint Utility Foreman reports that the hockey ice is installed, the curling will be ready October 27. The bleacher heaters are installed, and the dressing room lighting has been upgraded. The pool is drained and winterized, and the outdoor rink is waiting for colder weather to be flooded.

The furnace filters of joint buildings have been changed for the heating season. At the Ball Park, the canteen and washrooms are winterized, and the diamonds' pump is being winterized by Sandhills. A letter of intent was submitted for the generator; clarification was needed on whether this was a backup generator or an emergency backup generator; the latter requiring a valve switch to be installed at extra cost. Once this is settled what remains is to hold a test with an inspector present and the unit should be operational. The overhead door at the Handivan shop should be installed this week and there will remain the electrical hookup.

The Director of Arts and Recreation reports that she is organizing a Halloween Dance and a Halloween Skate — in costume, to spooky music. Hall walking will restart in November at R.J. Waugh. She hopes to run a Women's Boxing program in the new year. The Kids' Corner at the rink is in steady use, and Tots' Time will start up a bit late. She has been working with Willow Resource Centre and the Chamber's 'Christmas in Carberry' to extend the recreation opportunities available to the community. The Manitoba Theatre for Young People's October PD day was cancelled for lack of support, so the November one will combine the age groups to get more participants. The After School Arts is ongoing, and a Watercolour Workshop and the Handmade Market are coming up soon. There will be two Christmas Wreath Workshops, one in November and one in December. She is in serious need of volunteers to help achieve the programs she has in mind. She would like to see a volunteer Recreation Board to help with ideas, planning and volunteer support. Another help would be scheduling/registration/billing software to streamline the various operations.

The Archivist keeps busy preparing interpretive materials for the cemetery and the History of the Mayors walking tour. She works with the librarian on historical displays and oral histories. The two plaques from the Manitoba Historical Society have arrived. The airport one is placed at McCains' and the one for WWI ace and bush pilot Wop May is awaiting a "call before you dig" answer before final placement. Once in place, a dedication ceremony will be in order.

The Health Action Committee would like to thank the CACF for their support in many ways, and the community and the 'Friends of the HAC' that are so supportive. They meet monthly, report regularly on social media, and fund a suite for EMS personnel posted to us. They advocate for optimum health care services, which has involved interactions with Neepawa's Town administration and their clinic to optimize cooperation between the municipalities. They have publicized and promoted the prostate biopsy clinic proposed by Dr. Maharajh. In the interest of recruitment and retention of

staff they present grants to students entering the health care field; they send gifts of appreciation to various categories of health workers at the Health Centre; they interact with Prairie Mountain Health and Shared Health; and they fund and promote improvements to the Clinic. To fund all this, they brought back the Rummage Sale that for years was a fixture on the area's calendar. They feel their strongest challenge is to stir the RHA to action; it seems to require constant pushing to get anything done, and even to keep on with work once started.

The library continues to present events and gatherings for all ages from pre-school to seniors. For Halloween they will be open late to welcome and entertain young trick-or-treaters in costume. There will be a Casino Mystery Night on November 21. Tickets may be purchased at the library. They will participate in "Midnight Madness" on November 28, and Santa will read to the children the afternoon before the parade on November 29. The Branch Supervisor collaborates with the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Programming Coordinators and the Community Foundation. To prepare for winter, the mats will go onto a twice weekly exchange program in November, and the branch supervisor hopes to meet with the new Joint Services Manager to discuss the snow clearing routines. She would also like to get an outdoor faucet to keep gardens and planters watered in summer. She is consulting the CAO on grant applications to cover the necessary changes to the steps and ramp.

The planner at Cypress Planning District is well on the way to receiving his BCQ [Building Code Qualified] certification within the year and has initiated the mentorship requirement for his CBCO [Certified Building Code Official] certification for Part 3 permits. He reports that he has been very busy, with 150 permits issued and more coming. He will attend the Manitoba Building Officials' Association fall seminar at the end of the month.

The small Handivan at 55,000 km has needed a repair to its lift and will need a new set of tires. Service for Seniors continues to provide services and gatherings for seniors, and is planning some outings to take place before the weather sets in. Sessions on Mature driving and brain health with Alzheimer society coming up.

The Cemetery has received a very generous grant from the Hardie family. Their gift has established the *Mabel, Alex, and Perry Hardie Memorial Cemetery Fund*, which will provide an annual grant to the Carberry Plains Cemetery, to be used for whatever needs are decided by the Cemetery Board. They ask that they receive regular updates on the use to which their generosity is put. A report for 2024 will be submitted shortly, followed by a 2025 update. A letter of gratitude has been drafted and sent to the family.

They were happy to hear the many compliments received about the cemetery's flowers and grounds this year and have encouraged us to continue maintaining the space to this standard. The Committee is considering how best to honour them at the cemetery. The windmill has been successfully restored with a grant from the Harburn family to whom a granite plaque of recognition has been ordered. The tender for the 2026 flowers has been let. It closes on October 31. The North gate bricks are beginning to lean and will require securing. This project has been added to the Spring/Summer 2026 maintenance plan.

The Tiny Taters Daycare Cooperative has run into delays caused by "red tape" delaying the application for their funding. Cooperatives First has spoken on their behalf with both federal and provincial governments, but the delays persist. They have had to put their opening date back to late spring or early summer. They are negotiating with Assiniboine Credit Union and Stride Credit Union to secure a mortgage. With that and the last of the questions answered by the Province their application can be submitted.

The Splash Park Fundraising Committee had a very successful Hoedown this summer. With that and the fair breakfast, the committee needed to take a break, but will start again in the coming weeks. They will take over the very successful Hat Auction from the Future Rec committee. They are working with the Rec Director to get quotes on structures and hope to be able to apply for large grants this upcoming grant season.

Around the Table:

Reeve Drayson mentioned that Evergreen is considering a large chipper which is advertised to reduce waste volume by 60-70%, but fears that it will only manage a 25-30% reduction.

Councilor Rea advised that the library needed a full upgrade to its HVAC system, which should be considered when the budgets are being drawn up.

Councilor Van Kommer felt that working with the new CAO has been much different, a great improvement in communication. There was general agreement around the table. Councilor Kalinowich added that it was valuable to have a CAO whose interests weren't divided.

Councilor Olmstead requested a sign be put in the lift at 122 Main with contact information in case of emergency and wondered if the new padded chairs the church has provided for 122 Main Street might be a liability issue; if they are damaged by other users of the space (e.g. the After School Arts children) will there be repercussions? She also asked that an outside tap be provided at the library to keep the flower beds and planters watered. During the Rummage Sale, the volunteers suggested that the Hall's kitchen be

reorganized, inventoried, and deep cleaned. The volunteers would help with the work, but some funds might be required. It was also noted that the steps to the Hall are uneven, creating a serious trip hazard. The Buildings Committee should consider having them redone.

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