

Carberry Town Council, January 13, 2026

The Council of the Town of Carberry met at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, in their council chambers with Mayor Muirhead in the chair and only Councilors Rea and Kalinowich present. Also present were Youth Councilor Boganes and CAO McConnell.

Planning Matters:

The meeting was adjourned in order to hold a public hearing. Planner Penner presented Variation Order V 02-26-C, which seeks to reduce the required setback for a front yard in the RG (Residential General) zone from 25' to 15' to accommodate a covered deck on the front of a property on Fourth Avenue which had been built without a permit on the advice of the previous planner. The actual deck is more like 20' back from the property edge; the VO is for 15' for comfort. Penner had received one submission which was in favour of the change, and no submissions had been received at the town office or at this public hearing. The hearing was adjourned, and Council approved the requested order.

Delegations:

Paige Bailey appeared before Council to inform them of her intention to establish a mobile coffee shop, tentatively called *Good Morning Coffee Co.*, which will take the form of a small trailer with a self-contained quiet generator (<70db) from which she would sell coffees and pastries. She is presently working on securing the necessary health permits and insurance and ensuring that her trailer complies with all the requirements. As it is uninsulated, it will not be able to be used in temperatures below 0°C. She hopes to be ready to roll out in May. Her hope is to work wholly in Carberry, but since it is fully portable, she could take it elsewhere for special events or alternative locations. She had prepared a list of locations she would like to site the trailer if allowed, led by setting it by the cenotaph park, which would give patrons a place to enjoy their coffee nearby. A second choice would be on Third Avenue at Main Street, by the 125 park. She would take whatever suggestions the Council might have. Council enthusiastically agreed that the enterprise was a welcome idea, and that she would find customers among them. There is a policy on the books about food trucks, but it was aimed at opportunists from out of town who would take their profits and return home leaving nothing for the Town. It will be examined to make sure it could not be applied to a local resident's business. She was asked whether there was any need to secure washroom facilities for her clientèle, but it was thought that for a simple take-away service it shouldn't be necessary.

The next delegation was from Shana Zoghaib office manager of the Carberry Small Animal Veterinary Clinic. She was proposing a subsidized Spay-Neuter Assistance Program [SNAP] modeled after a successful one run in Dauphin. The clinic would contribute to the neutering of animals for those who wouldn't otherwise be able to have it done. Vouchers with a value of about a third of the cost of the operation would be made available by the Town to the owner of a pet license. The program should reduce the number of unwanted litters, thereby decreasing the burden on local shelters and animal control services. It would also increase the licensing compliance. Neutered pets are less likely to roam, exhibit aggressive behaviour, or cause the annoyance of spraying or howling. A complimentary rabies vaccination will be administered, further adding to public safety and that of the animal. Council agreed that there were good reasons to establish such a program, but since 30% of the year's spay/neutering costs might amount to tens of thousands of dollars, it would have to be discussed among the budget decisions. A suggestion that a fixed maximum number of vouchers might be established, and distributed on a 'first come, first served' basis, was suggested as a cost control measure. Shana was thanked for her proposal and assured of Council's intention to take the request seriously.

Final delegation was from Fire Chief Clyde McCallum. He had a number of matters to bring before Council. First among them was a proposal to revamp the pay structure for firefighters. It is based on the amounts paid by the OFC when firefighters are on deployment and corresponds to the amounts paid by other departments such as Austin, who are similarly close to the Trans-Canada and have the increased number of callouts it generates. All work would be paid at the standard rates that distinguish only between firefighter and officer. There would be no special rate for the inspector, who would be paid simply as an officer when on duty. There would be a two-hour pay for meeting/training nights that are presently paid at a flat rate of \$25, which amounts to less than minimum wage for a two- or three-hour period and could cause serious problems with a WCB claim if a member was injured in training. McCallum had calculated the additional cost for the training and the increased hourly rate based on the actual hours worked in six months from the CFO's figures. Of course, actual hours worked in future will change with the number of calls received. Overall, it is likely that the wage costs to the two municipalities would rise from \$40 thousand to \$54 thousand. With the simplification, processing costs would be eased a bit. McCallum assured Council and the administration that his phone was always on, and he would be available to answer questions at any time.

His next concern was the acquisition of a further 500' of Hi-Volume 4" hose which provides lossless connection to a hydrant for a pumper sited beyond the nearest hydrant. The department has enough hose to reach homes and businesses farthest away from the last hydrant, but it would be prudent to be prepared for a hose being damaged or failing a test. He would also like to propose that the second overhead door in the older firehall be replaced as was the one used by the handivan.

Council advised McCallum that the site of the old shop which has been fenced remains Town property only; NCL did not agree to purchase half and devote it to the Department's needs for storage and for training facilities. This may make for "interesting" rental charges if the Department, a jointly owned entity, wants to use a space owned by just the Town.

McCallum asked if there had been any further discussion of the acquisition of the pumper that will be required before the end of the year, and an annual subscription to a fund to cover the next mandated purchase in ten years. It was admitted that there had not been any such discussion.

He also mentioned that the animal control officer has been using the Handivan garage at the end of the firehall as a storage location for captured animals. He does not think that the firehall is an appropriate place for this. The smell is unpleasant, and the hall's doors are often left open during fire calls, which can let an animal that has escaped its cage back out into circulation. The Public Works shop once served the same purpose, but that was stopped. He asked why the animal can't be transported to its final destination at the expense of the owner. Fines should cover the costs of capture and isolation. Council agreed that this would be a better plan but were not sure if they could assess that big a fine.

With encouragement to bear down on the problems of acquiring the new pumper, McCallum thanked Council for their time and attention and was thanked by the Council for his input.

Finance and Accounts:

Council accepted the Finance Report as presented and received the December 2025 Financial Statement. Accounts, electronic payments, and direct withdrawals totaling \$ 410,979.05 were approved for payment.

By-laws:

By-law 18/2025, a general borrowing by-law approved by Municipal Board Order E-26-001, to pay for the construction of a primary lagoon cell was read a second time. It was then read a third time, passed unanimously, and will become law.

Unfinished Business:

The by-election date has been set for March 17, 2026, with advanced polls on March 8. They will be held at the Drop-In Centre from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Registrations are already open since January 5, and the nomination period is from January 5 to February 9.

General Business:

Many resolutions were passed as appropriate to the first meeting of the calendar year.

Council approved the following memberships for 2026:

- Association of Manitoba Municipalities
- Manitoba Municipal Administrators
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Grand Valley Mutual Aid District
- Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs
- Tourism Westman
- Rec Connections Manitoba
- Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators
- Carberry and District Chamber of Commerce

As mandated by the Municipal Assessment Act, a board of revision consisting of the whole of Council plus a citizen representative was appointed, with the mayor as chair of the board and the CAO as secretary. It will meet on October 13, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Under the authority of the Municipal Act, Council by resolution borrowed \$500,000 as a line of credit from the Credit Union, and pledged all taxes collected as security.

Council, acting under the authority of the Municipal Act, set the designated year for properties in arrears as 2025, meaning that all properties with outstanding taxes from 2024 or earlier may be offered for sale by auction. The tax sale date was set for October 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Town of Carberry council chambers.

Taxervice Inc. was retained to manage tax arrears recovery for a period of three years.

Council resolved to provide notice that they intend to participate in the Canoe Procurement Group of Canada for 2026.

Council passed a revision of the Town of Carberry Confidentiality Policy HR 01-2026, and a revision of the Snow Removal Policy TS 01-2026.

The Committees of Council were adjusted to allow for the absence of Councilor Sudak and approved by motion.

Council approved the installation of a crosswalk at the location of Stickle Avenue and Wellwood Road, with installation and costs to be covered by the Town of Carberry.

Council accepted the offer of Jeff Sutherland for the jointly owned Suzuki 230 Shaft quad, sold as is and without warranty. Proceeds will be shared 50/50 with North Cypress-Langford.

A service contract had been prepared between the Town and the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, Manitoba Division, to cover a period from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, to provide bylaw enforcement services. Because of questions arising from the Commissionaires latest report, it was decided to table the contract until the next meeting to get clarification of the duties being offered.

Reports:

Youth Councilor Boganes reported that the provincial Pre-Calc exam will be held on January 22, and that the grades 5 & 6 will be going tobogganing in MacGregor on the 15th. Exam week is January 26-30, after which the new term will start on February 2. The Westman Honour Band will meet in Brandon on February 6 & 7. The sports calendar has been full, with basketball and volleyball teams participating.

The CAO's report dealt primarily with details of the meeting. She mentions that as this is an assessment year, a tax impact meeting will be held in conjunction with the May meeting. The Assessment Branch will hold an open house to discuss assessments with ratepayers. It has been scheduled for June 23, between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

The ACAO reports that the trailer is ready but hasn't been picked up because of holidays and weather concerns. It is now insured, and a location to store it is being sought. She is starting on her CMMA certification course. She continues to support the joint staff until they have a new member to handle bookings, accounts payable, etc. A local business has been asked for a quote on several cellular cameras for siting around the town. She will graduate from her Emergency Management course on January 28 and attend a Disaster Management Conference in Winnipeg January 28-30. She met with Paige Bailey and prepared her for her delegation to this meeting. She continues to research the setting up of a Habitat for Humanity committee and build in Carberry. She has put our name in with the U of M for inclusion in the Rural Week for medical students again. Rural Week will be May 25-29, 2026. As SEO, she has organized the by-election to be held on March 17, 2026, and is accepting nominations until February 9. She has sent notices to the Banner, and regularly on social media.

Public Works' most significant concern has been the failure of one of the pumps of the Jardine lift station. The problem was traced to a stretch of underground pipe which was successfully excavated and repaired. With a further changeout of a corroded fitting the pump returned to service. They are considering installing dialers to alert staff of problems. The John Deere is in Brandon for repairs. The machine is good, but the attachments break down often. Perhaps a small skid-steer would serve better. Snow clearing on Main Street has been hampered by people parking overnight. Quotes have been sought for the lagoon pump station and the east lift, but responses from local suppliers have been slow. After some replacements, all the string lights on Main Street are lit. The north and west highway signs are installed, but the west will have to be redone in spring.

The lagoon expansion project manager sends a report on the state of the project. Burns Maendel were retained to design it in early November of 2025, and they have examined the previous studies, notably a feasibility study from 2016. Updated growth analysis suggests that a larger facility will be needed to accommodate growth through the next 20 years. New design and cost estimates are to be prepared by mid-February for presentation to Council for review. Total approved ICIP funding, federal, provincial, and municipal, amounts to \$7.7 million, pending approval of the Town's borrowing. An additional borrowing of \$1.1 million will likely also be required and require approval. Construction costs were estimated at \$6.6 million ten years ago but will have to be revised in the light of the cost estimates under preparation. Construction of the new lagoon cell remains on target to begin in late Spring 2026, subject to completion of the design phase, regulatory approvals, and financing approvals.

The Commissionaire's report details a number of offences being studied, but stops short of reporting any tickets, orders, or actions to abate them. He asks for a ticket book and authorization to issue them.

The wall of the CAO's office has finally been replaced.

There is only one staff member for the Transfer Station until another is hired.

The Manitoba Historical Society's plaque for the SFTS airbase has been placed at McCain's. Mayor Muirhead gave a speech at the dedication ceremony.

Arts and Recreation haven't yet found a director.

The HAC has been informed that Dr. Aligallie will be leaving Carberry in March, and a replacement has not been found yet. Aligallie may be available to do occasional locum work in the future. There will be a meeting with the

EDO and medical staff in Neepawa to discuss common concerns. A meeting with PMH is planned for Friday January 16 for which any questions to be raised have been asked to be submitted ahead of the meeting to make the best use of the time. The doctor shortage we face is widespread; even Brandon is now down to a single ER physician. Dr. Maharajh's clinic opening is still on hold pending specialized accreditation.

The Daycare is nearly ready to go, and the committee wants to be sure to have a representative of Council at their meetings now that Councilor Sudak is unavailable.

The Splash Park fundraising continues with a commission to tend the bar at the social held New Year's Eve.

The White House washing machine is apparently not large enough to do the heavy washing of bedding. Rather than replace it, the attendant will be given a cash draw for the laundromat.

Correspondence:

A letter from Fred de Wind describes the difficulties experienced by a wheelchair user when snow clearance leaves windrows over the curb of a sidewalk. He asks for more care to be taken with sidewalk clearing, and Council agreed and will pass his concerns to Public Works.

Brandon Community Planning sent a certificate of Approval for the subdivision of the land owned by Lyons Estates at the corner of Wheatland and Wellwood Road.

S.T.A.R.S. sent their publication STARS 40 Horizons outlining their forty-year history, achievements and plans.

Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba has awarded Carberry \$59,123.96 for recycling 123 tonnes of material at nearly \$500/tonne.

The Public Utilities Board sent notice of their decision 156/25 which deals with the application of MPI for a rate increase.

The PUB also sent word of their decision 161/25 which grants a 4% rate increase to Manitoba Hydro.

MTI's EMO advised that Carberry's 2026 Emergency Plan has been approved as submitted.

Safesidewalks Canada sent a proposal to perform sawcut trip hazard repairs to sidewalks in town. They performed \$5,000 worth of such work for us in 2020 and in 2021 and suggest further \$6,000 be done this year. The suggestion will be presented to the budget committee.

The Christmas Kickoff Committee sent notice that the 2026 Parade of Lights will take place on Friday, November 27, 2026. They congratulated Carberry Signs as their 'Float of the Year' winner for 2025.

James Cracknell sent a letter of concern about the parking situation near his place of business at Third Avenue and Main Street. After discussion, it was agreed that there was no justification for making any particular limits on public parking in the business district.

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