

Town Council, February 10, 2026

The council of the Town of Carberry met in their council chambers at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday 10, 2026, with Mayor Muirhead in the chair, and Councilors VanDamme, and Kalinowich in the room and Rea attending virtually. Also present were Youth Councilor Boganes and ACAO Sudak.

Finance and Accounts:

Council accepted the report of the CFO as presented, and the Financial Statement for January 2026. Accounts, electronic payments, and direct withdrawals totaling \$ 517,849.41 were approved for payment.

By-law:

Council gave first reading to By-law 1/2026, the Town of Carberry Council Indemnity By-law.

Unfinished Business:

As a result of the withdrawal of the citizen representative named in the Board of Revision resolution passed in January, Council amended the resolution to withdraw his name and hold the position vacant until another member can be appointed.

The work of the Corps of Commissionaires has improved since Council tabled the renewal of their contract. Their latest report is encouraging; Council approved the Service Contract with them. It will run from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027.

The deadline for nominations for the upcoming by-election passed at 4:30 p.m. on February 9, and the 24-hour waiting period had passed, so the SEO was able to report that there will indeed be an election. Two candidates have been put forward: Lisa Dobbin-Waters and Micheal Hamilton. Council discussed how best to publicize the contenders and will use their social media and website, hoping that other organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and/or the cable television channel will take the presentation of the candidates further. It can be considered a trial run for the work to be done in advance of the full election in October.

General Business:

A new Director of Leisure Services and Arts has been selected. Council resolved to hire Robyn Brydges for the post. She will begin on February 19.

Council authorized the attendance of ACAO Sudak at the Disaster Management Conference held in Winnipeg on January 28-30, with costs including registration, mileage, meals and accommodations covered. In

passing, ACAO Sudak was congratulated on passing the MAMEC training in Emergency Management. Her graduation was part of the three-day event.

Reports:

Youth Councilor Boganes reported that at the Collegiate the grades 5 to 8 will receive a presentation from the RCMP on February 11. Grades 5 & 6 will go curling on the 12th and 13th. On the 14th the collegiate hosts a JV basketball tournament and a Varsity basketball tournament on the 20th and 21st. CC will host the provincial hockey championships Feb. 26-28. The grade 7-8 ski trip will take place March 4, ice fishing championships on March 10, and the ski trip for grades 9-12 on the 23rd.

The CAO's report included details about the agenda for this meeting and also reported on looking into concerns about the EV charging station at the back of 122 Main Street. The cost to the Town of charging a vehicle varies from \$4 to \$10 per complete charge. Apparently, people have been coming in to charge there at all hours and have asked at nearby homes to use the washroom. Signage can be put up advising users not to approach nearby homes, and notice can be sent to the apps that find charging stations for EV users that there is no public washroom at the station. There have been complaints that the station goes off line from time to time for about an hour to an hour and a half. The service provider says it is a grounding failure, and a firm is working on fixing it. Lastly, someone is using the regular 110-120v outlet meant for block heaters with an adaptor to charge their EV. Though this is slow, it still puts a dangerous drain on the outlet. To stop this, if signage is not enough, locking covers can be put on the outlets, or perhaps for a greater expense a change can be made to the circuit to have it switched from inside the building. The lagoon expansion project is on hold until Manitoba Environment and Climate Change (MECC) and Burns Maendel (BMCE) have worked out some details of the current secondary cell's capacity. A meeting of Council, Stefanie Lynch, BMCE and MECC will be scheduled as soon as possible.

The ACAO has started on a course in Municipal Law at U of M to work towards a CMMA certification. A lot of her time has been taken up assisting the Joint Services in the absence of a Joint Services Manager. This has involved asking members and user groups to re-send any concerns or tasks that may have been dropped. She has also sourced the signage for the outlets and charging station mentioned above. As MEC, she attended the Disaster Management Conference in Winnipeg from January 28-30, and updated the website with the current Emergency Plan. She is seeking volunteers to form a committee for Habitat for Humanity with the Neepawa Chapter. As SEO she has overseen the nomination period for the by-election

and announced the candidates. As interim MJS she reports that a tap at the drop-in centre has been replaced and fixed, and that the leakage from the new dishwasher was caused by an O-ring mis-installed by the warehouse. Perhaps the supplier can be persuaded to assist with any remediation required. The overhead door from the handivan shed will be taken to the Transfer Station as metal scrap when next Public Works has the large trailer out. The ACAO has been working with the CPCC staff on several issues there, and sorting out undelivered invoices she prepared a month ago for distribution by the previous MJS. She has caught up on sending in the water samples which were in arrears. New flags have been ordered for the CP Park and the rink.

Public Works has been very busy plowing the streets and hauling snow. There is little room left on Town property, but with both trucks running the piles are lowering. The John Deere's blower needed repair. Thanks are offered to the mayor for the loan of his skid steer in the meantime. Submersible pumps were acquired for a repair on Jardine at a cost of \$1,000. They hope to recover the cost of a replacement for the trash pump borrowed by Parks & Rec a couple of years ago and left outdoors to let its case crack. New tires on two of their trucks have made a great improvement. They hope to rent a man basket to take the Christmas lights down soon.

The Fire Department's Firefighters' Ball was a great success, raising just over \$53 thousand. With the proceeds they will acquire four new SCBAs and 8 bottles quoted at \$55 thousand. They held a vehicle extraction course, and are training up Level 1 & 2 Firefighters to be ready for testing in April or May. They intend to install a three-sink system for decontaminating SCBA packs and bottles and a dedicated sink for SCBA masks to remove the carcinogens they may have encountered. Calls for December and January have been light; two MVAs and a medical assist.

Evergreen Environmental will be needing monitoring wells drilled to protect their existing cells. They have ended the year in a positive financial situation and are looking at a combination of shredder and compactor to optimize the utilization of their cells. They are considering visiting Regina where such a system is in use and talking with the engineers using it, rather than relying on salesman's assessment of suitability. Deputy Mayor Kalinowich was approved to join the visit, with all costs covered.

The Arts Council has partnered with the Rec Board to hire a Director of Leisure and Arts who will start on February 19. They will have a visit and concert from the BU Chorale on February 27.

The Museum Board is seeking funding grants and further display material for their standalone outdoor display of the origins of potato farming and processing in the area.

The Western Manitoba Regional Library along with the Friendship Centre will be accommodating "Ask Auntie," an approachable service of advice and advocacy, into their downtown location. The local branch is investigating a picture rail system to be less destructive to the walls as art displays are mounted and frequently changed. They also report difficulties with snow removal on their steps and ramp that the redesign will hopefully alleviate.

The Health Action Committee is gearing up for fundraising to assist with recruitment of health professionals. They will be losing the services of Dr. Aligallie soon, but are on the list to receive one of fifteen foreign-trained students coming to Prairie Mountain. They will work under the supervision of another doctor until they receive their certification, when they will be able to work independently. The HAC is lobbying with Shared Health to ensure that the Health Centre's equipment is kept up to date and in good supply — things like blood pressure cuffs, lab equipment, ambulances and the x-ray machine. They are in discussions with Elite Safety Services who offer to train first responders for EMR certification at a cost of about \$5 thousand. Though EMRs are approved to work with local emergency services, no financial support is offered, and no equipment or supplies. Local departments have to supply their own. The HAC are also looking at restoring a program of offering help with the tuition of BN students in second year and beyond on condition of their working here.

Dr. Maharajh is getting upgrades to the HVAC at the Super Thrifty store with the approval of its owners. He will also need the assurance of PMH that a nearby ER will be open whenever his equipment is in use. The equipment also must be certified by the College of Physicians and Surgeons. There will be a site visit in two or three weeks. The equipment is for the moment in a heated storage in Brandon.

The Daycare is still working to expedite the subdivision of their building's site. They are looking for new or gently used toys to equip their facility.

The Splash Park Committee has \$260 thousand on hand already and is looking to open their facility in mid to late 2027. Fundraising continues with another iteration of the Hoedown, flower sales, and a pork sale for which orders must be in by March 8 and will be ready for pickup on March 26 at the rink. There is no provision for refrigerated storage, so the pickup date is fixed.

The White House has asked for a larger washing machine to handle bedding, but at the present rate of use it will make more sense to take any special loads to the laundromat.

The engineers for the lagoon expansion, Burns Maendel, have found that the previous engineers misestimated the capacity of the existing second cell, which would take ten years off its intended 20-year service life. The alterations this introduces in the current project are creating a logjam of paperwork that will have to be settled between Manitoba Environment and Burns Maendel. It may change the third cell or involve a full remake of the second. In addition, the lift station is at or beyond the limits of the existing pumps to keep ahead of the incoming greywater.

Communications:

The Manitoba Motor Carrier Safety Program sent an auto-renewed Safety Fitness Certificate for the Town's fleet. A full review of the SFC will take place next year.

The Epilepsy and Seizure Association of Manitoba sent a reminder that the Government of Canada has declared March 26 as the date for Epilepsy Awareness with the Purple Day Act of 2012. They ask the Town to acknowledge Purple Day 2026 by lighting up buildings in purple, strings of purple lights, decorating a door or wall purple, staff wearing purple, and/or promoting the day on social media or outdoor signage.

The Public Utilities Board advised of a reduction in Stittco Utilities' rate for propane gas, and the increase in Centra's rate for Natural Gas.

The RCMP Blue Hills Area sent their report and statistics for Oct. 1 to December 31, 2025.

The Men's and Ladies' Curling Clubs requested support. A basket of merch and goodies will be provided for them to raffle.

The U15/U18 Girls' Curling Team also requested support. After some discussion, it was decided to provide them with \$100 for each of the five applicants — \$500.

Around the Table:

Councilor VanDamme reported that at a recent event the temperature in the bowling alley had been uncomfortably cold. The boiler has been examined by Sandhills and the temperatures now are better, though the weather has not been as severe.

Councilor Rea offered her congratulations to the two candidates to come forward for the by-election, and kudos to the Public Works for keeping ahead of the considerable amount of snow this month.

Councilor Kalinowich echoed Rea in congratulations to the Public Works Department on keeping the streets clean and passable, and congratulated MEC Sudak on graduating from the MAMEC training program for Emergency Coordinators. He inquired about the policy that would apply to pop-up vendors such as the coffee truck proposed at the last meeting. He was told that officially there is a \$25/event or \$160/season license fee. Council discussed whether such a license fee would be a disincentive for people offering services the ratepayers would want. Full enforcement of such a fee would probably cover visiting craftsmen and other services that should be encouraged. Administration was encouraged not to insist.

Mayor Muirhead mentioned that one bay of the old handivan shed was filled with material ("junk") that could be cleared out and better use of the space made. ACAO Sudak agreed to get it cleared out. He went on to warn people to take care walking or driving in weather that causes melting and refreezing. He offered congratulations to Team Calvert, who under Carberry-born skip Braden Calvert are Manitoba men's curling champions and will represent Manitoba at the Montana's Brier in St. John's Nfld. He also thanked Bill Kalinowich for his work and advice helping Shane with the equipment at the rink.

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