

Carberry Town Council, March 10, 2026

The Council of the Town of Carberry met in their council chambers at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, with Mayor Muirhead in the chair and all council members present as well as CAO McConnell and YC Boganes.

Planning Matters:

Council temporarily closed the meeting to hold a public hearing regarding variation V 05-26-C presented by Planner Penner. Brad Wells, on behalf of the Museum Board, has requested that the required rear setback be reduced from 25' to 10' for the post frame structure in which they plan to house a display of potato growing and processing in the Carberry area. It is in an RG (Residential General) zone. Penner had no issues with the variation, and none of the public alerted to the change had objected. The Town had heard no objections either. The Public Hearing was closed, the meeting resumed, and the requested variation order was approved.

Finance and Accounts:

Council approved the Finance Report as presented and received the February 2026 Financial Statement as presented. Accounts, electronic payments, and direct withdrawals totaling \$428,581.56 were approved for payment.

Council approved an investment of \$42,195.00 in a GIC with Stride Credit Union at 3.80%. It was the best rate of the three quotes received.

Council approved the 2025 Draft Financial Statements.

By-laws:

By-law 1/2026, the Town of Carberry Council Indemnity By-law, was given its second reading, discussed, and given its third reading. It passed unanimously and will become law.

By-law 20/2025, to establish sewer rates within the Town, having received PUB approval, was given its second and third readings, was passed unanimously, and becomes law.

Unfinished Business:

Council added an outstanding invoice to the tax roll of the recipient.

General Business:

The Joint Confidentiality Policy has been updated and presented to Council, who approved the changes. A complementary policy, a Joint Media Communication Policy was presented and approved.

As agreed at the meeting of Joint Councils, an agreement between the Town of Carberry, the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford, and Carberry

Minor Ball was approved. It deals with the installation of sprinklers at the Ball Diamonds.

For the upcoming Spring Convention of the AMM, all council members, the CAO, the ACAO, and members of Public Works were approved to attend, with costs of registration, mileage and meals covered.

The Director of Leisure and Arts, Robyn Brydges, was approved to attend the Recreation Conference in Winnipeg on February 25 & 26. Costs of registration, mileage, meals and accommodations to be covered.

Council approved the application for tax incentive funding for the renovation of 10 Main Street. The total incentive to be determined upon receipt of the final invoices for the project.

The problems with social media were discussed. A recent burst of hysterical posting was so severe that it very nearly caused the closure of a newly opened business and brought down threats and abuse on the mayor when he went online to try and put a stop to it. The frenzy has reached a point in some communities that door buzzers and Plexiglas shields have been installed in the administrative offices. All the Town can do is require that any post on their own site is attributed. Provincial or even federal law would be needed to mandate that all posts be signed, and the laws of libel and slander applied. Police are in a poor position to charge anyone for what they post because of a primary right to freedom of expression, but even a clearly libelous post is hard to act against if it isn't attributed. They are also unwilling to deal with matters of civil law and can only work with criminal infractions like hate speech and threatening. The Town will draft and publicize a policy for posts on their own site and get their site hosts to notify them whenever anything is posted to their calendar or message boards.

A problem that has held up the approval of the Daycare's grant application is that their site has as yet no physical address. After some deliberation and consulting the Manitoba Civic Addressing Standard, Council agreed that the Daycare's municipal address will be '750 Stickle Avenue' and passed a motion to that effect.

The resignation of Jim Robinson as Animal Control Officer was accepted effective February 13, 2026, with regrets.

Reports:

Youth Councilor Bogan reported that the provincial Ice Fishing Championships were being held that day, and that Course Selection would take place the next two days. The school has three basketball teams qualified for the provincials, the JV on March 12-14 and the Varsity on March

19-21. A Student Appreciation Pancake Breakfast is to be held on March 18. The Grade 9-12 Ski Trip takes place on March 23, and Grade 7-8 Curling on March 27 which is the last day before the Spring Break. Evening Student Conferences for grades 5-8 will be held on March 18 & 19. The "Grade Wars" will take place March 25-27. Spring Break is March 28 to April 5.

The CAO's report deals in large measure with the details of the present meeting. She adds that a meeting for council orientation has been booked with GOVFox's Cheryl Christian for November 20, and that PlunkEV has repaired the EV charging station. Lockable covers have been put on all the 120v. receptacles, and signage is put up.

The ACAO (and EDO, SEO and MJS) reports that Joint Services have kept her busy while there is no MJS, and she has been onboarding the new Director of Leisure and Arts. The subdivision for the new daycare should be completed soon. The crosswalk at Stickle and Wellwood Road and the speed reduction on Wellwood Road will require a resolution which she will prepare for next meeting. Summer job postings for Public Works close on March 27. As EDO she is researching new swag and is starting on the top priority items from the recent meeting. She has asked the website hosting company if the public can be (safely) enabled to submit events directly to the website. As SEO she is awaiting the by-election day on March 17, and offers thanks to Pat Graham and Jim Elliot for their work at the voting stations in the Drop-In. As MJS she reports that the recent High School Hockey Provincials were successful and no issues arose. Kudos to rink and booth staff for their hard work in a very busy month. Much work was done on the parking lot, including clearing the west side of the rink for additional vehicles. The Brandon Curling Club's bonspiel was successfully relocated to Carberry when their refrigeration failed. Applications for summer jobs — parks and rec laborers, cemetery laborers, day camp staff, and pool staff — are published. Deadline for resumes is March 20. TAC has been asked to take the old Handivan door away as scrap.

Public Works has been working flat out on removing snow piles and clearing drainage ditches to keep walking paths open. They cleared the rink parking lot and the west side of the rink for parking. They changed the elements in the White House's water heater tank and recommend a softener.

The Buildings Committee is preparing a budget and considering an upgrade to the boardroom at 122 Main Street and getting the stucco on the Library completed.

The Transfer station is in good shape, with new signage.

Evergreen Environmental's managers and reps from their participating municipalities made a visit to Regina to see the Comptech shredder in action

and see the operation of a very large facility where methane recovered from the cells is used as fuel for further 'green' operations.

The Museum board is going ahead with their display building for the potato industry in Carberry, and they are planning a fundraising concert with Lucky Ned at the Legion on April 12.

The Library has an indoor hydroponic garden acquired with funds from the Westoba Inspire promotion. They hope to develop programs with it.

The Health Action Committee continues to advocate for optimum service for Carberry. They work with Shared Health and with Prairie Mountain Health to that end. They are facing the departure of Dr. Alagaili at the end of March. CEO of PMH Treena Slate has undertaken to help fill the vacancy.

The Daycare is focused on getting title to their land so as to properly qualify for their provincial grant and for the mortgage needed to proceed. They have been granted a 20-year relief from municipal tax but must also own their land to gain their grants and a mortgage.

The Drop-In had a positive year financially due to grants from the CACF to buy a commercial dishwasher and a new set of chairs and a successful set of fundraisers. They are reducing their membership fee to attract more members. They point to many improvements through the year, both from their own funds and from the Town and NCL.

The Splash Park Committee is far enough along in their fundraising to be looking for quotes on an installation. They find they will need information from Council as to how the water would arrive, and how it would leave the facility. Daily consumption of water would be approximately 33,000 gallons, enough to require a provincial permit.

The White House has had repairs to its hot water tank and some fixtures. It is in steady use. The caretaker worries that the washing machine can't accommodate large loads such as bedding, but for the present she has been advised to use the laundromat for anything oversize.

Correspondence:

Principal Ryan Robson of Carberry Collegiate wrote to thank the Town for their part in the successful 2026 MHSAA 'AA' Hockey Provincials. Thanks to the Town and NCL for a well-kept facility and for keeping the parking lot clear, managing the ice, and handling the "insane" traffic. Joint staff were listed and thanked for a job well done, and Karla and the canteen staff got a special mention.

CFB Shilo requested that the Town acknowledge and celebrate the retirement of MCpl R.A. Doerksen, who has served in the area for 18 years, and lived in Carberry since 2021, where he intends to stay with his family

and carry on a small engine repair business. A letter of congratulation and appreciation from the mayor will be sent to be presented to MCpl. Doerksen at his Depart with Dignity ceremony on April 10.

The Western Manitoba Regional Library sent a draft of the minutes taken at their recent board meeting.

The Property Assessment Services Branch of Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations sent an invoice for their services in accordance with the Municipal Assessment Act. The due date for the levy is November 30, 2026.

Around the Table:

Councilor Rea mentioned that the Splash Park Committee had difficulty finding a place to hold its most recent meeting, and she wondered if the Town Office council chambers might be available in such cases. With conditions to do with how the key would be handled, the answer was positive. She also wondered if the installation of a water softener at the White House was the answer to their manganese problems. With Councilor Kalinowich she felt an in-line filter would serve better for less, though it would require changing every couple of months. She had heard about the failure of the bar fridge at the Hall, and wondered if it should be replaced, and was assured it was being put into the budget. Lastly, she had noticed that there remain basketball hoops at the edge of the roadway in a couple of places, which forced the plow to pull out to avoid them, causing congestion and parking problems on the street. Is this something the by-law enforcement officers could address?

Councilor Van Damme reported that the basement bathroom by the bowling lanes suffered a water leak from a dripping shower head in the change rooms above. Checking the change rooms when teams leave might avoid the problem. She added that the bowling lanes will be celebrating their 50-year anniversary on April 11 with a party from 3-5 p.m.

Councilor Kalinowich wanted to congratulate Public Works on the job done to keep streets clear during the snow season. Many of the ones he talks to say that other towns have not been so well kept. Alluding to the social media problems mentioned earlier, he added that the behaviour exhibited was childish; can't we act like grown-ups?

Mayor Muirhead agreed that Public Works had done a wonderful job on the streets of the Town. He spoke recently with John Lavich, who chairs the local branch of Habitat for Humanity, which covers the area of Neepawa, Gladstone and Carberry. They are very keen to do their next build in Carberry and are actively seeking a site — either an empty lot or one with an old building that could be razed. Anyone with ideas could contact him or

the ACAO. He, the CAO and the ACAO will shortly be going to a meeting at Shilo to meet the new commander and discuss an impending expansion of the base, which will bring in more soldiers, of whom some may well wish to live here. He concluded by reporting that he had attended the concert given in the Hall by the Brandon University Chorale and was impressed by the quality of the music by the choir and the soloists, among whom was Irene Wong-Montgomery who lives in town and teaches piano to students through the Arts Council. He felt that it was a great pity that more had not been present for the excellent concert the Arts Council produced for free.

This reporter added that this is the time for the bi-monthly Newsletter to be published. Councilor Kalinowich had brought a copy of the newsletter published in his home town, the Ethelbert Echo, which is put out monthly by a volunteer non-profit collective to replace their lost commercial newspaper. It has been very successful. The Town's website has well over two thousand followers, a greater number than the News Express had when it closed, so there is interest in local news and events.

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