

Joint Councils, March 23, 2026

The Joint Councils' Committee of the Town of Carberry and the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford met in NCL's council chambers on Monday, March 23, 2026, with Mayor Muirhead in the chair, and Councilors Kalinowich, Van Damme, Rea and Dobbin-Waters for the Town and Reeve Drayson with Councilors Murray, Davidson, and (virtually) Olmstead. Also present were CAO McConnell and ICAO Unrau.

The meeting was called to order and the Agenda and Minutes approved. These were from December, the last meeting at which there had been enough members present. The first item of business was to welcome Lisa Dobbin-Waters, the newly elected Carberry Councilor, to the first meeting of her term.

Financial Matters:

CAO McConnell presented detailed financial spreadsheets of the income, expenses and budget for the Community Centre and the Memorial Hall. She proposed that both places have a balanced budget for the year, with a slight increase in the support from the Councils. The Committee approved the budgets as presented.

Unfinished Business:

For the campground, preparations are underway to advertise for attendants, and to prepare a letter to prospective sponsors requesting sod to complete the landscaping. An ad for a project manager drew many respondents, and the position will be awarded at this meeting. Once a project manager is in place, more detailed quotes for the remaining work will be settled.

A quote for insurance of the CPCC and cyber coverage has been received from Guild Insurance, but a matching one has not been received from Western Financial Group, the insurance company that handles the AMM Municipal Insurance. Accordingly, no decision could be made.

The search for a Manager of Joint Services is still ongoing. The process is being paused, and the requirements are being reconsidered to make the position more attractive. The two CAOs will meet to discuss possible changes.

General Business:

After examining a dozen proposals for project management of the improvements to the rec lands, including the campground and eventually the Splash Park, the Committee settled on the bid of Local Link Consulting Ltd. to provide On-Call Project Management Services.

Reports:

The Manager of Joint Services Report was presented on an interim basis by the Town's ACAO. She reports that the past month at the CPCC has been very busy with bonspiels, a hockey tournament, and a figure skating show. The ice plant will be shut down on April 7 for the season. One employee will take her refrigeration handling license exam in April or June as awarded, and two employees will take the Aquatic Facility Operator course in Winkler in May. The old Handivan door will be taken by TAC to a scrap dealer. Repairs and upgrades to the Hall are awaiting approval of their budget. The Drop-In has secured grants for a number of upgrades and intend next to replace the carpet at the entrance to avoid the tripping hazard of bunched up mats. The board is considering changing the lighting over to LED and expects to get Efficiency Manitoba rebates to cover the cost. If they require any extra funds, they know they will have to work through the Buildings Committee. Summer Student applications have been received, and the Daycare Subdivision is progressing, but slowly.

The new Director of Leisure and Arts reports that she attended a meeting of the Westman Recreation Practitioners Association for an opportunity to meet and consult with other nearby Rec Directors. Her Youth Group, which was staffed by Willow Resource Centre, closed down because Willow couldn't participate in a program that required fees of the participants' families. Since the Hall requires a rental fee, that was not negotiable. She will only restart the program if it can be better structured. She is preparing a monthly youth night on the fourth Tuesday of the month, starting on April 28. Program will cycle between craft, board games, and a movie night. She has restarted Tots' Time successfully. It will vary the play opportunities provided; scooters, bouncy castle and crafts. She is sorting and cleaning up the toys in the back room. She is collaborating with Deb to bring recreation opportunities to the seniors, and with the librarian to offer community events.

The Archivist is collecting data on the area's old schools, those with cairns and those without. She is asking CACF for funding to set plaques in the missing spots, getting quotes from Carberry Signs for them. She has added a brochure on the area's grist mills and elevators. She keeps in touch with other archivists remotely. The plaque for the Wop May house will be dedicated on June 7, 2026.

Dr. Maharajh has completed all the necessary repairs and improvements to the Super Thrifty site and is awaiting only the inspections and approvals to open up shop.

Evergreen Environmental's trip to Regina to see their shredder in operation was impressive. They are convinced of its suitability for their use.

The Fire Department hosted a wildland/urban interface fire course that drew 19 participants from several departments to learn the problems of wildland fires reaching to urban structures. The department's courses for level 1 & 2 firefighters are ongoing and will start testing in the next few months. Their members are being trained in the new confidentiality and media policies.

The new hydroponic garden has arrived at the Library and the first plants are started. It was acquired with funds from Westoba Inspire, applied for with the previous Director of Leisure and Arts. The new DLA is helping develop program with it. She will be working with the Librarian on several projects, including a pre-school Easter Egg hunt on April 1, and a puzzle building competition on May 21. The Librarian is concerned about the piles of snow that have been built up throughout the winter. As they melt, they create puddles that then freeze into hazardous sheets of ice. She asks that in future, snow shoveled from their walks and ramp be removed rather than piled there. This spring, her office was once again flooded. Roof and basement are dry, but the floor is soaked. The water seems to come through the wall.

The Museum is hosting a fundraising concert at the Legion featuring "Lucky Ned" on April 12. They have found a contractor to build their new display building, and he will start work in early April.

The Tiny Taters Child Care Cooperative continue to plough their way through administrative hurdles. They have been in touch with the MLA and the PC critic for Early Learning and Child Care in an effort to get their grant expedited. The severance still hasn't come through after a year's wait. They have an Easter Egg fundraiser going and more planned.

The Splash Park Fundraising Committee had reached the stage of seeking quotes for their project from a variety of suppliers. When they took their findings to members of the Joint Council, they were disappointed to find that there was no consensus in the Councils about any Joint funding or support of the venture. There are a couple of fundraising projects in hand, including another 'Hoedown with Hicktown' which was so successful last year.

Communications:

The CNCL Fire Department's Inspector sent a report of his Fire Safety Inspection of the Carberry Child Care Cooperative's building at 240 Main Street. It found no departures from code or problems in need of remedy.

A report of the unofficial meeting of the Joint Councils held on February 23, 2026, where a quorum was not present and no business could be officially transacted.

A report was received of an informational meeting held with members of the Joint Councils' Committee, the Project Manager, and the Splash Park Committee to discuss the infrastructure issues complicating the placement of the splash park. Costs to bring in the infrastructure would be far higher than anticipated. It was agreed that a feasibility study should be promptly done to determine where and whether the facility could be sited.

Around the Table:

Councilor Murray reminded the meeting that he is continuing his project to repair and redistribute bicycles to kids who might need them.

Councilor Rea wished to thank ACAO Sudak for her extra work throughout the period that there has been no MJS. She also welcomed the recently elected Councilor Dobbin-Waters.

Councilor VanDamme reminded that in honour of the 50th anniversary of the Bowling Lanes, there would be a celebration (and free bowling) at the Lanes on April 11 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. She also noted that at a recent meeting at 122 Main Street, there had been problems with the front door lock, which had to be locked from inside, and another exit used to leave.

Councilor Davidson called attention to the Splash Park Feasibility and Location Study, suggesting that Water Services be contacted to give a timeline for the route to approval of a license for the large amount of water that the project will require. The Project Manager will check it out.

Councilor Olmstead offered thanks to Lanes Manager Sylvia Swaenepoel for a fantastic job, both in the long and short term as the anniversary approaches.

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