

Town Council, September 8, 2026

The Council of the Town of Carberry met in their council chambers at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 with Mayor Muirhead in the chair and all members plus the CAO present.

Finance & Accounts:

Council accepted the Finance Report as presented and went on to receive the Financial Statement for August 2026. Accounts, electronic payments and direct withdrawals totaling \$272,955.37 were approved for payment.

Council approved the investment in a GIC with Stride Credit Union for \$155,000 from the Fire Safety Reserve at 3.70% for a two-year term.

By-laws:

The Town of Carberry Traffic By-law, #03-2026, which updates the Traffic By-law to include stop signs on both sides of Wheatland Drive at Wellwood Road, was given its third and final reading, approved unanimously, and will become law. The by-law had been tabled while council considered strengthening the penalties specified for breaches of the by-law, but on reflection, the penalties and the consequent enforcement issues will be left to the next council.

Unfinished Business:

There were a number of resolutions arising from the recent meeting of Joint Councils. The Joint Services and Shared Fire Department Compensation and Training Policy (Joint Policy PS 01-2026) was approved (in the temporary absence of Councilor Rea, whose grandson is on the department). Tender 09-2026 for On-Call Weed Control Services was awarded to Livingstone Landscaping for a rate of \$407.50/hr. At the recommendation of the Joint Foreman, the hiring of Zaine McConnell as full-time Parks and Recreation Labourer was approved (in the temporary absence of CAO McConnell).

Council approved the estimate received from Wall-Hung Eavestroughing to replace 50 feet of 6" eavestrough at the library, and revised the Tendering and procurement policy JS 01-2026 to establish updated guidelines for the procurement of goods, services and construction projects and for the disposal of municipal surplus assets. This was introduced to expedite the job of the administration by giving them more discretion.

Two positions on the joint staff have long been classified "Joint Utility Department" labourers, and their work has been primarily for Parks and

Recreation operations. They were reclassified to Parks and Recreation Labourers.

General Business:

Council discussed a proposal received from ASI Engineering to provide comprehensive Asset Management software, including asset inventory, maintenance logging and capital planning. The CAO felt that though the package offered was of good quality and completeness, it was perhaps too costly, too much, too soon, and should be kept on file for now.

Council passed a Tendering and Procurement policy (GG 02-2026) similar to the one passed for Joint operations, to give the administration the same higher limits to their discretion and speed up operations, particularly where time-sensitive repairs are required.

A quote from Wall-Hung Eavestroughing for the removal and replacement of eavestrough at the Town Administration Office was approved. It is hoped that Wall-Hung can fit the work in when in town to do the library's eavestrough. It is desirable to have it done at last before the weather closes in for winter.

Some changes to the 2026 Assessment Roll were made. Taxes of \$4,785.94 were added and \$535.14 were deleted for a net added tax of \$4,250.80.

Imperial Oil, through its contractor Millenium EMS Services Ltd. (MEMS), wishes to drill groundwater wells for environmental site assessment on town property on the north edge of Fourth Avenue between Dufferin and Lisgar. MEMS is asking for a lane closure on Fourth Avenue during the periods of September 22 to 26, and October 20 to 22. They undertake to provide all traffic control measures. Council approved the request, with extensive conditions that the Town will be notified before work begins, that the applicant will be responsible for any damage to Town infrastructure and repair it at no cost to the Town, including damage that may arise during the subsequent year. In the discussion of the resolution, Council considered the caveat from Public Works that the well-heads may end up on the walking path and create a trip hazard and a danger to snow clearing equipment. This also is addressed in the resolution as passed. The environmental assessment is welcome; neighboring dwellings need to be assured that their groundwater wells are free of fuel and chemical contamination.

Council approved the attendance of the CAO and ACAO at the Manitoba Municipal Administrators Fall Convention in Winnipeg September 14-16, 2026. Registration, accommodations, mileage and meals will be covered.

The Town has been relying on an IT software package from MicroAge, which was first signed in 2024, and comes up for annual automatic renewal every October. The CAO is happy with the service received and would let the renewal take place unless Council would prefer to check out other providers. Council agreed to let the renewal take place.

Pursuant to the Municipal Act, the Town of Carberry placed a reserve bid on all properties to be auctioned for tax sale equal to the arrears and costs for the particular property.

Reports:

The CAO's report covers the details of the meeting's agenda and adds that she has been dealing with MTI about the paving of Main Street from Third Avenue to Fourth. The latest reply says that the request has been sent further up the chain of command. The Board of Revision will sit on October 13; the appeal deadline is September 28. The ACAO has been asked to prepare a tender for the municipality's bank accounts. The primary lagoon's level is at a record low, so the CAO has been looking into dredging. A company from Notre Dame that specializes in the work has just finished doing such a job in Gladstone. They advise that before the job can be done, we must apply for a land application license. A 10 to 20 year license is recommended to make future dredging easier. The license application should be completed by an engineer. She has not taken this further without encouragement from Council. She adds that the coordinator of the Strategic Plan needs a few more details to complete her presentation.

The ACAO reported that renovations to the White House are complete. Two new bedrooms and additional storage furniture were added. She is starting another CMMA course that will run until early December. Quotes to replace the eavestroughs at the Town Office for the insurance claim from last winter have been received. The sound system at the Community Hall has been upgraded. Final reports/claims are submitted for Green Team and Canada Summer Jobs employees. As EDO she reports the campground is now officially open and the "Let's Camp" website is usable for bookings. She is putting new pictures of the campground as it matures on the website. Signage for the campground, transfer station, and cemetery have arrived, ready for installation. She is updating the website and keeping social media updated. As SEO she reminds that the registration period for Mayor and Councilor continues until September 22. Paperwork and answers to questions are available from her.

Public Works have been trimming the back lanes' trees and may need a man basket to reach the higher branches. Summer Students are going back now. Water levels in the lagoon are so low that irrigation is off. The east lift

station will be cleaned to let the structural engineer see its condition. They warn that the test wells proposed on Fourth Avenue may cause issues with snow removal and walkers. Also, if the water mains need work they will add complexity to the excavations needed. Contec will come and look at the lagoon shack again and quote on an upgrade. If the lagoon project is delayed, some of the pumping equipment may need replacement. They are considering removing the sidewalks on Young and Selkirk and putting to dirt. They ask if the crops the lagoon farmers are growing can be discussed — some have taken the field out of irrigation. When the grass on the boulevard opposite the High School is cut, the clippings have been thrown onto Main Street and have blocked one of the few drains. Taking the first pass in the other direction should clear this up. They ask if the landowners along the back lanes whose trees they have been trimming should be held liable for the work.

The by-law enforcement officer sent a detailed report of the properties he has been working with and has left Orders to Remedy with the CAO for delivery to the landowners. Council agreed to discuss the scope of the officer's work *in camera*.

Evergreen Environmental is considering charging municipalities for picking up recycling; there isn't enough revenue in it for them. That would cut into the funding received from MMSM for recycling.

The new doctor has arrived in town, and her children are registered and attending school here.

Pictures of the White House renovations show excellent improvements. The many people who did the work over just two weeks are to be commended.

Communications:

Liam Denton sent a gracious thank you for the Town of Carberry Scholarship, which he will use at Assiniboine College to get his Public Safety Certificate, on the way to becoming a police officer. Council appreciated the note and extend their best wishes on his future endeavours.

Carberry Small Animal Vet Clinic invited mayor and councilors to their 10th Anniversary celebration on September 10, 2026.

The Neepawa Titans sent a "Partnership Manual" requesting sponsorship of their upcoming season.

The Western Caucus sent the agenda for their September 18 meeting in Pipestone.

AMM sent the agenda and details of their Fall Convention to be held in Brandon November 24-26, 2026.

Around the Table:

Councilor Van Damme noted that many recreation activities are starting up again for fall, and that Bowling has many leagues and age groups looking for signups.

Councilor Kalinowich reported that in conversation with a town business owner he heard worries that the new overpass may reduce the chances of Trans-Canada traffic coming to town to shop and visit. He also suggested that the northwest corner of First and Wellwood would be an excellent place to promote low-cost housing. Lastly, he had been kind enough to thank mayor, council and administration for their work over the last few years. He felt that they had made excellent progress in guiding the Town.

There followed some discussion of how affordable housing could be fostered, and indeed what "affordable" could even mean in today's housing market. Any activity that would put the administration in the real estate business would be ill-advised. Discussion of the problem was tabled to the *in camera* session to follow.

Reporter McNeily reminded the meeting that it was once again time to prepare a Newsletter and sought input from councilors and the sub-boards they attend. The headline story will of course be the election, so until the applications close on September 22, he will have to hold off publication, but would like to have all the fall news and events ready in advance of that.

Mayor Muirhead took the opportunity to congratulate the McNeilys on the state of their garden along the lane behind 31 Main Street. It is in stark contrast to the state of the derelict building at 33 Main Street. Reporter McNeily insists that all the credit for the oasis there must go to his wife Sharon.

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

When they emerged, they passed a resolution hiring Chris Creighton for the post of Director of Joint Services. He will begin his duties on September 17, 2026.