

Joint Councils' Committee, October 28, 2024

The Joint Councils Committee of the Town of Carberry and the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford met in the council chambers of NCL on Monday, October 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. with Reeve Drayson in the chair, accompanied by Councilor van Kommer, and Mayor Muirhead with Councilors Kalinowich and Rea. Councilor Olmstead attended by Zoom. Also present were CAO Parker and ACAO McConnell.

Delegation:

A delegation was received from Exit Stage Left, represented by Tracy Sutherland and Mike Hamilton. ESL has had a long history in the area and has rehearsed and presented plays in the Community Hall since the '90s. In the course of their association with the venue, they have provided a sound system, extensive lighting apparatus, and a set of round tables for the Hall and left them for the use of other renters. In consideration of this, they hope to get a break on the cost of their rental of the Hall for their 2025 production, which will be in rehearsal two days per week for the months of January through April. During that period, they use mostly just the stage area and pack up before leaving. They are happy to pay the full tariff for the actual days of production, when they use the whole hall and its kitchen to present their show and to charge admission. In 2023, they paid \$25 per night for 35 nights of rehearsal, and \$75 per day for the three days of production. The meeting agreed that ESL had made important contributions to the facility but were uncomfortable with having them considered to be the property of anyone other than the joint municipalities. They asked if ESL could provide an inventory of the equipment they had purchased. Sutherland and Hamilton agreed that they could provide an inventory of the equipment and would be happy to negotiate a value for it and hand it over. There have been more than enough problems with the existing situation; valuable microphones have gone missing, and Hydro has condemned the way the lighting equipment was wired and demanded its removal. The problem arises whom to blame or whom to bill for repairs and replacements. It would be much better to have all the facility's equipment owned and inventoried by the Hall [and thus the joint councils]. From ESL's viewpoint, it is preferable to know clearly what is provided and what must be supplied by the renter. They are also concerned that their equipment is insured when in the Hall. The decision was that ESL would provide a detailed inventory of the material they have left in the care of the Hall, and a value will be negotiated to clear up the ownership as the Hall's which can be applied to whatever tariff is agreed upon for the rehearsal and production dates. There

will also be a decision about the disposition of ESL's equipment and sets during the period they aren't renting the Hall. At the moment, they are stored in the locked dressing rooms behind the stage. Sutherland added that if another storage/rehearsal space became available, they would gladly go where their set and equipment could be set up and left rather than having to strip it down twice a week as they do at the Hall. The Agricultural Society and the Museum Board will be asked if they have space available.

The committee thanked Sullivan and Hamilton for their presentation and cooperation.

Unfinished Business:

The municipalities' insurer recommends strongly that all users of municipal facilities take out their own insurance for their events. The process of getting insurance coverage has been streamlined and kept inexpensive. A policy to require insurance will be developed; both councils agree that it will be a necessary and positive step. The CAOs will be encouraged to get policies ready for the next meetings of each municipality.

Regular Business:

The allocation of funds for the Recreation Board and Manager of Joint Services is currently being evaluated. At the moment, the Manager of Joint Services' discretion to write cheques is capped at \$500, which means that she has to wait for a decision from the board for things she should be able to take care of promptly. In turn, the board has to discuss among their eight or more members all these smaller purchases and distract themselves from the larger and more complex decisions. The committee agreed that the Manager of Joint Services should be given a greater discretion. The amount of her spending limit was discussed at length, with \$2,000 coming up as a consensus. It can be adjusted at the time of her review as she grows into the position. Beyond that figure, the board or the municipal CAOs can decide. In a budget approaching \$1M, there probably ought to be a limit to the board's discretion before bringing the matter before the joint councils. The CAOs were asked to prepare a procurement policy for the Rec Board incorporating the spending limit for the Joint Services Manager, one for the CAOs, and one for the Rec Board before bringing spending proposals to the municipal councils. It should be ready for each municipality's next council meeting.

The Daycare Committee have asked that they be given a break on the rental of facilities for their fundraising efforts until they have become established. The committee did not like the precedent of dictating a change in rental rates for a particular entity or group, but offered to provide some seed money instead, leaving them to pay the regular tariff for whatever

venue or facility they needed. It was agreed that each municipality would seed the Daycare Committee with a one time grant of \$1,000.

With the completion of the building at the Transfer Station, the Job Jon is no longer required there. The disposition of the unit was discussed. The monthly rental of it is \$550, of which 70% is applicable to the purchase of the \$18½K unit. This would leave the purchase price at \$11K, or 5½K for each municipality, an amount that could come from a capital purchase fund. It would be a pity to forego the credit earned, but the subsequent use of the unit is a question. In summer it can be sited at the cemetery, but without great care it can't be stored over winter unheated. It will spend this winter protected in the new building but can't stay there indefinitely. It is only a single occupancy unit, not an answer to special events; at Homecoming, for example, there were ten units rented for the event. Regardless of the duration of the use, the cleaning cost is \$170 per time. It is better suited to a low-traffic placement like the cemetery. The suggestion was made that the unit be bought and then resold to someone in the sanitation business. This will be investigated.

The old Transfer Station shack will now be made available to Langford for the cost of moving it.

The third quarter event report from the Fire Department has been received and shows that there were 22 events in town and 55 in the rural municipality. It was asked what the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport pays the department for a call-out to the highway. The answer will have to await the return of the Fire Department's executive from the presentation at the Legislature of memberships in the Order of the Buffalo Hunt to which the first responders on June 15, 2023 have been elevated.

Committee Reports:

The Manager of Joint Services reports that the CPCC rink is staying busy, and the curling ice will soon be in. New lockers for the changerooms at the pool have been sourced with the help of the CACF. Paving tenders for the parking lot were due last week. A new reader/register was ordered for the booth to improve the daily reports available.

At the Hall, the generator has been fenced in. A group present during the recent power outage reported that the generator powered down before the power switched over. Smarts have been informed. Exit Stage Left has removed all the lighting extension cords as Hydro required. The generator can now be inspected, after which the reinstallation to code can start. At the Drop-In, prices are being sought in order to budget for painting the interior next spring. At the old Town Hall, the elevator is back in service, and one of the baseboard heaters will be changed out for safety reasons.

At the Transfer Station the staff are getting harassed by people assessed a payment for non burnable construction waste. It is not acceptable that they endure disrespectful behaviour. An explanation of what and why we charge will be drawn up. Material that ought to be put in the roll-offs and charged is now showing up in garbage bins in town.

The Manager of Leisure Services reports increased participation in the 'Tots' Time' sessions as the weather cools. A video seniors' fitness class runs Friday mornings at the Drop-In. Karate is well enough attended that a second session is considered. 'Coffee and Craft' program has begun at the Drop-In centre, and a movie night was held October 25. With a grant from the CACF, new lockers have been ordered for the pool change rooms. Funding was also received for a 'Kids' Corner' in the rink lobby.

The Archivist created an interpretive brochure for the cemetery and led a walking tour there on October 27. With the Manitoba Historical Society, she is arranging to place plaques at the Wop May House and at the plant, site of a British Commonwealth Air Training Plan Flight Training School during WWII. She is also cooperating with the film company that intends to use Carberry as a movie location, and with an author researching stories of the Chinese Exclusion Act who is looking for details of Gin Yuen, the owner of the wartime Liberty Café, and subsequently the C.V.M.

The Health Action Committee is of course very pleased with the arrival and welcome of the two new doctors at the clinic and health centre.

The Fire Department had a busy month and plans several training sessions in November — electrical and gas safety with Manitoba Hydro, pipeline training from Plains Midstream, and a drill with McCain's at their plant. In October they received training in the handling of accidents involving electric vehicles.

The Museum enlisted some BU students to improve the available information and will video a walk-through with WCGtv before covering the displays. They are considering improving the insulation of the building in consultation with the Manager of Joint Services; there may be funding available for the efficiency improvements. Flags at the "Wings to War" will come down after Remembrance Day. A fundraising concert of the Strathclair Theatre Chorus will be held at the Community Hall on November 17.

The Planning District will lose the services of Rachel Andrews on November 22. She will be missed.

The new Handivan has just arrived! It is awaiting its decals.

Added to the Agenda:

Mayor Muirhead brought up the matter of the now-razed old town shop. It sits on Town-owned land and has a firefighting reservoir under it that dates back to when the fire hall stood there. A heated structure will be required to keep the reservoir from freezing. The Fire Department is hoping to use it for storage and training. Muirhead wished to ask NCL if they would consider purchasing an interest in the site to make it jointly owned for the use of the joint fire department. He explained that it would be necessary to prepare a severance, as part of the site is wanted by the Town; there is a two-bay garage needed for storage, and a small structure housing the valves for the fire control system for the west end of town. If there is interest, a value can be put on the parcel and the existing structure, and the severance will be made. If not, then it will be necessary to move the reservoir to the other end of the fire hall to site it on jointly owned land. This would not be simple, but perhaps timely, as the existing tank is very old, riveted steel. It should never be allowed to drain down and let corrosion take hold. The wants/needs of the Fire Department can be ascertained. It would also be important to determine if the tank is yet leaking.

Around the Table:

Councillor Kalinowich wondered if it wouldn't be better to hold the staff Christmas party in the Legion, where there is good catering on site and an existing liquor license. It was replied that when the venue was compared with the Community Hall it was agreed that the Legion provided an excellent dinner, but that the Hall's round tables were more congenial. Perhaps the event can alternate between the two venues; for this year, the Hall and the caterer are already booked. It was agreed that for those who cannot attend the event, including those who are on duty, a take-out supper will be available. No provision is made for those who do not attend.

Mayor Muirhead wished to add his congratulations to the recognition the province is giving the first responders on June 15, 2023, who were at the time of the meeting receiving membership in the Order of the Buffalo Hunt, the province's highest honour, at the Legislature. He also wanted to know why the old fire trucks which were to be disposed of were still in the Town's yard. There was to have been a tender, and whether there were any responses is unknown. CAO Parker agreed to get them picked up by Westman Salvage at once.

Reeve Drayson added his voice to the congratulations to the first responders being honoured.

Councilor Olmstead wanted to speak about the staff party. She has received an offer from Shandar Elmhurst to set up, decorate, and eventually take down the tables to be used for a flat rate, and an offer to host some

games, music and participation for the event at an hourly rate. She was approved to take up the offer, for a two-hour event. The hunt is on for prizes and giveaways to add to the interest.

With that, the meeting went *in camera* to discuss personnel and preparatory matters.