

Joint Councils' Committee, December 4, 2024

The Joint Councils' Committee met on Wednesday December 4, 2024, in the council chambers of the Town of Carberry municipal offices at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Muirhead in the chair and Councilors Kalinowich and Rea, and Reeve Drayson with Councilor Olmstead attending by Zoom. Regrets from Councilor Van Kommer.

Delegation:

The Manager of Joint Services, Callie Sudak, appeared before the committee to present a report on her activities. The rink at the CPCC is very busy and will host the Tournament of Champions on January 2-5, for which cleanup and presentation are under way.

The new lockers have been installed in both change rooms.

The sound system is broken, and quotes are sought to install a replacement. Two have been found but the third has been elusive. With Rec Board approval, she will proceed with just the two unless she can find one among the suggestions offered by the committee. NCL is to be thanked for the loan of their speakers in the short term.

At the Hall, final repairs before the Hydro inspection are completed. Reports of early shutdown of the generator are being investigated. The caretaker has been alerted about reports of uncleanliness before the Joint Christmas Party.

The Drop-in Centre's exterior is painted and signed; quotes are sought for the interior, to be done in spring of '25. To get an exterior plug for Christmas lights was quoted at \$700, which couldn't fit in this year's budget. A local quote has been invited to supply a roll-up door between the kitchen and the main area. The Drop-In board will cover the cost. She has three quotes to install a needed water softener, iron filter, and RO filter for the kitchen. Some of the cost will come from an old capital equipment fund on the Drop-In's books.

At the Library, a small water filter will be installed in their kitchen, and the tap units will be replaced. Furnace issues appear to have been overcome.

At the Museum, quotes are being sought for insulating the west wall and part of the north wall. Clarification of responsibilities for repairs and renovations will need to examine the Terms of Reference.

Updated tenders for the campground have been put on MERX. This tender includes the supply of A-base, delivery of A and C base gravel, and placement. The closing date on this tender is January 17, 2025

At the transfer station, the staff continue to suffer from the rudeness of people being asked for the tipping fee for larger non-household loads, and this despite that the present staff are friendly and attentive and helpful. A Brandon Sun article in October talked about the damage taken by disposal trucks handling metal bars and other material not properly household garbage. Proper sorting of waste is crucial. At the scale, the steep slope to the west has been eased with some more gravel, and the sander is used to ensure traction.

The windmill is still not installed at the cemetery, and no word of when it will be done.

With her report delivered, the committee returned to the examination of the problem of liquor found in the changerooms at the CPCC. This is *not* a small problem; if drinking at the CPCC results in an injury or worse, a fatality, and it is found that the CPCC is negligent, the liability could be horrific. At the very least, the venue would never see another liquor permit issued. The same would apply if a snap inspection by the MLCC were to find that there had been unlicensed liquor on the premises. All users will be reminded that if the behaviour of just a few of their members were found out, their chances of hosting any major events with a liquor permit would vanish and the whole facility would suffer. There is a permit for the bowling lanes, and it too would be revoked. With that permitted facility in the building, there is no excuse for people to bring large amounts of liquor to the dressing rooms. A warning letter will go out promptly, due diligence requires it. The matter will also be brought to the Rec Board.

Unfinished Business:

The fate of the 'Job-Jon' from the Transfer Station was discussed. The rental of \$550/mo. has been applied to a lease-to-own contract, and the unit could now be bought out for about \$13 thousand. The unit would be available for use at the cemetery, where a facility is needed. If the credit is forfeited, the cost of something for the cemetery would have to be considered. Unfortunately, the Job-Jon would be irreparably damaged if it endured a winter unprepared. Perhaps the unit could be kept another year at the

cemetery while waiting for the full bathroom to be built. The decision will be left to the building committee.

In a related matter, the small building at the Transfer Station that has been replaced is still on site and in the way. It was to be given to NCL for use at the Langford dump for the cost of moving it. CAO Parker assured the meeting that it would be moved soon.

The requirement that all users of municipal facilities have their own liability coverage is in the process of being set out in policy. Manager Sudak had prepared a breakdown of the fees that should be applied. They take into account the risks involved and the frequency of use. A system is in place to accept by email the small fees involved and forward the information to the municipality.

In the hope of having an instrument to ensure fulfilment of performance contracts, advice has been sought about the use of penalty clauses. Recent court decisions have made the penalty clause as such unenforceable. The only thing acceptable is to invoice for legitimate costs (“liquidated damages”) the delay or inadequacy has caused or will cause. Nothing “unconscionable” or “oppressive.” Alternative mechanisms would be holdbacks or performance bonds.

The plumbing at the museum required repairs totaling \$8,700 after someone in a cost-saving measure extinguished the furnace pilot light. The invoice will be passed to the museum board to cover; the joint municipalities’ liability for repairs doesn’t have to extend to problems caused by unqualified meddling. A letter detailing the board’s terms of reference will accompany the invoice.

General Business:

CAO Stephenson absented himself for the discussion of Fire Department wages. The Joint Committee approved an increase to Fire Department wages equivalent to the increase in the province’s minimum wage. They also approved an increase, effective January 1, 2025, to all fire fighter wages of 3% as is being given other municipal employees not governed by a collective agreement.

Stephenson returned, and it was further agreed to raise the pay of those joint employees not covered by the collective agreement (the managers) by the same 3%.

Reports:

The Manager of Leisure Services reports that her “Tots’ Time Drop-In” has increased in popularity with the change of season, and the video seniors’ fitness program has decent attendance. “Coffee and Craft” has evolved into coffee and chat, as people come for the conversation without participation in the basket-making. Winter Wonderland is planned for December 20; hot dogs, hot chocolate, decorations and skating to holiday music. Hall walking is starting soon, and Karate will restart in January. She also hopes to initiate a youth drop-in at the Hall, Mondays from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. New lockers have been installed in the pool changing rooms, and Kids Corner furniture acquired for the CPCC lobby. She is recertified for First Aid.

The Archivist has been busy, cooperating with the librarian on information and their oral history project. She has done work on an interpretive brochure and web page for the cemetery and led a walking tour there on October 27. She plans a more detailed inventory and obituary list of the occupants of the cemetery. She used the last of her CACF grant on lighting and a transparency scanner.

The Arts Council has held their Handmade market, and several craft classes — stained glass, mosaics, mitts, and sewing machine use. Their piano lessons continue, with an end-of-term recital on December 14 at the United Church. They will have a float in the parade of lights on December 20. Upcoming craft classes include a wreath, a resin charcuterie board and mixed media with Nova Cassan. The free after-school arts program runs every Tuesday for kindergarten to grade 5, with the help of volunteers Sharon McNeily, Joanne Johnstone and Elvira Rutz.

The Health Action Committee visited Neepawa to see their clinic and discuss commonalities. PMH assures them that they are using fewer agency nurses now and are trying to keep two acute care beds open. PMH has not moved on the request to remove the wall between the two tiny exam rooms at the clinic. The Terms of Reference set by the Joint Committee have been received.

At Evergreen Environmental, the new cell is in operation. The books have not satisfactorily handled the asset retirement, which has led to a condition on the contributing municipalities’ audit.

The fire department has had a busy month and year; Stephenson reported that the year’s 98th callout had happened that day. With the help of

some generous donations, they will be purchasing a new compressor to fill their BA bottles.

The library has prepared a wish list of improvements: Repairs and upgrades to their ramp, replacement of one of their furnaces, replacement of windows whose frames are of wood and deteriorating, a water filtration system, a new door, replacement of the carpet, and moving the AED from 122 Main (or purchasing a dedicated one). The order and importance of these things should be sorted out with a strategic planning session.

At the planning district, Planner Andrews has not yet been replaced.

The new handivan is in use, but the old one has not yet been sold.

The Daycare Committee is working with a planning group to establish needs and specifications. They will be hosting a presentation on January 6. They continue to ask whether they ought to be paying the rent for fundraisers that benefit the Municipalities directly.

Added to the Agenda:

At the request of Deputy Mayor Kalinowich, the matter of engine braking (“Jake Brakes”) was raised. The Town has added engine braking to its noise by-law, but at its recent meeting, NCL considered the two-fold request and only effected a reduction in the speed limit to 80 Kph along PTH 5 adjacent to the Town. Councilor Olmstead explained that the feeling of the municipal council was that both changes were very hard to see enforced, and they had, as a starting point, made the change to the speed limit to see how well it would be complied with. CAO Parker added that despite the Town’s ban, she hears Jake brakes right outside her office on Fourth Avenue. Enforcement is a difficult issue. The RCMP and the DOT are both empowered to issue tickets for the offence, but they rarely do.

Around the Table:

Councilor Rea asked who it is that is responsible for keeping the railway crossings cleared. Whether it is the railway or MIT, the job is not being well done; people are regularly losing control as they cross the line at Wellwood Road and on PTH 5 near Fourth Avenue. The crossing at Petrel is equally dangerous.

Councilor Olmstead wanted to ask about the contracts for fire and life safety inspections, she also reported that the Joint Staff Party had been a hit and thanked the council members for their support.

Mayor Muirhead advised that he would shortly be interviewed by the CBC on the subject of local speed limit setting, as had been presented as a call for action by the AMM at the convention.

CAO Parker wanted to congratulate Councilor Olmstead on her work to organize the Staff Christmas Party. The meal, catered by Melanie Green, was excellent, and the games afterward were great fun and made for a congenial evening that was very well received.

With that, the committee adjourned at 8:45.