



Council Committee as a Whole

MINUTES

July 23rd, 2020

5:30 pm Council Chambers with Social Distancing in place

In attendance: Tim Lewis, Mel Baxter, Trevor Thiessen, Margaret Johnston, Chris Hamblin and Mayor Scott Crick

Not in attendance: Ruth Murray (excused)

Also in attendance: CAO, Brigitte Doerksen

Delegations: None

Council Round Table (Committee, Board, and Personal Reports):

- **Mayor Scott Crick**

Mayor's Report

For Committee as a Whole – July 22, 2020

Events attended or Mayoral activities (paid):

June 11/20: AMM Virtual District meeting (2 hrs)
June 12/20: Meeting with residential developer (2 hrs)
June 30/20: Meeting with JR Cousins, MIP (1.5 hrs)
July 2/20: Meeting with RM Reeve and CAO (1.5 hrs)
July 14/20: Meeting with resident, by-law (1 hr)
July 21/20: Meeting with possible MIP tenant (1.5 hrs)

Events attended or Mayoral activities (unpaid):

July 7/20: In the Mayor's Chair (0.5 hrs)
June-July: Various phone calls and correspondence (10 hours)

Items of Interest to Report on:

1. It has been good to see the uptake on the pool, especially in a year where there are limited recreation options. Although I still have latent concerns regarding the expenses on this, we can hope that it ends up at or below budget for 2020. A thank you to staff for making this happen, and being adaptable to the changing situation.

2. I am very encouraged by the initial interest in the MIP, with three potential tenants already approaching the Town for land. It is now incumbent upon us to agree to the scope of work, and get it out to tender ASAP.
3. Ralph and Larry requested a meeting with Brigitte and I to discuss two main items. One was tipping fees at the nuisance grounds (which will be on the agenda for discussion tonight) while the other was a general inquiry as to ways we could find to work together. I have proposed a few ideas to the RM since 2018 with little success, and have requested Ralph meet with his Council, and they provide us with their suggestions or areas they would like to discuss. They should hopefully provide this feedback to us by October in time for our Morris 2030 planning meeting.
4. One of our residents had noticed some challenges with our noise by-law, and had approached Brigitte to discuss updating it to be more consistent with other jurisdictions. Brigitte decided that Ruth and I were the noise by-law committee, and Ruth and I met with the citizen last week. They were very participatory in amending the existing by-law, and it is presented for Council's discussion at CAAW and/or 1st reading at Council this evening.
5. After receiving feedback from a former VAS Board member, I had approached VAS and the Chamber of Commerce to see if they would like to partner on a "Stampede-ish" – a Stampede-themed event that would be great for families, community togetherness, and community perception. I saw a role where the Town could help facilitate events through our recreation department, and provide some funding where needed. The Chamber indicated they are already working on an event with VAS, though after conversation with others, there is some question if this is a Chamber event, or a Daycare event. My question for Council is if we do still want to initiate some form of event led by our Recreation department, and reach out again to the CoC and VAS to see what could be done. I welcome everyone's feedback.
6. Housing remains a hot topic, and I know Chris, Trevor and Margaret will be speaking to their various areas of responsibility this evening. However, I feel more hopeful about CMHC funded options for affordable housing than I used to, and wonder if there is a path forward for our community through this route. Something for us to continue to keep focused on.

Noted and discussed

- **Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin**

Valley Agricultural Society – Report to Committee as a Whole

July 22, 2020

Submitted by Chris Hamblin

(Some of this was reported via email earlier)

A couple of things I wanted to share from the VAS meeting on July 8.

1 – They are looking for a home for the framed painting they had commissioned for the 50th Stampede. It is approximately 3' wide by 5' high. They asked if there was somewhere in the hall that it could be hung. They are needing the space in their office and also would like it to receive higher visibility. My opinion is that we should find a spot – just not sure where.

2 – they are finding the lawn mowing to take a very long time with their small mower and are wondering if for next year this is something they could ask for in-kind help to have this done with larger equipment. They suggested Town and RM. No decision was made and they are not looking at this year but rather going forward. I thought I would share so we can be thinking about it before the formal request comes our way. The other option is to purchase a larger tractor and lawn mower. Some are favouring this but most are feeling it is difficult to justify this expense especially under current scenarios. There are more important infrastructure improvements that are needed before a major purchase such as this can be considered.

3 – They are looking to have a beer garden sometime to allow people the opportunity to gather (within the limits of the Covid restrictions) and celebrate summer / VAS etc. Haven't set a date yet.

4 – They are looking at having a barbeque to acknowledge and thank the volunteers. The date hasn't been set yet but they are looking towards late August or early September. They have strong community support for this and so most items will be donated.

5 - Plans are under way for a Fall Expo. This will be timed around Halloween and will include the haunted barn and other activities. It will also include a homecraft element to reflect this part of the fair that was integral to the history of the Valley Agricultural Society. This event is to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Ag Society. They are planning this with a positive budget or at least break even.

6 – I continue to spend time on accounting and programs. We have worked on a new budget that will more accurately reflect the finances without the events taking place.

Report to CAAW – July 23, 2020 by Chris Hamblin
Assisted Living / Assisted Living
Meeting with a developer to discuss options for Morris.

The Developer has been involved in many seniors' housing types. Mostly these are condo type not rental although they have been involved in some rental. Many ideas reviewed but bottom line is without some input of government support or donations, it will be difficult to cash flow this type of facility. One suggestion was to do a combination of condo/rental with a common area for gathering for games and potentially meals. This format would provide some of the startup funding (assuming the condos are presold). A good discussion with various ideas considered. We need to continue to look for innovative ways to get this project up and running.

Report to CAAW – July 23, 2020 by Chris Hamblin
Economic Development Committee

The committee met to review the Industrial Park plans and cost estimates. The plan includes a much larger retention pond than previously believed necessary. The property is low and thus the need for a larger area for retention to handle a large rainfall. Other elements discussed included the fire hydrants, water flows and roads. The cost estimates were for the entire project. We have requested a new costing that would reflect 2 phases. If need be this would allow us to complete the first phase and begin selling without incurring the extra costs for the second phase until the area is needed. We have received some feedback on our questions and are awaiting additional information.

We have met with 2 interested parties for lots in the industrial park – one by phone and one in person with the committee. Both are interested but not ready to commit. Both gave us the opportunity to talk about many of the positives of our community and of this site for establishing their businesses.

We continue to consider ways to promote the Industrial Park. It has been mentioned by Scott on “In the Mayor’s Chair” and this likely attracted one of the businesses to inquire.

Noted and discussed

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- **Councillor Margaret Johnston**

Morris Manor

I attended a meeting on June 29.

a presentation re some of her thoughts on how to spruce up the outside of the Manor. Initially it was about painting the Morris Manor sign. But then bridged into the paint on the building, the flower beds, some dead trees, etc. After some discussion with the board, a volunteer work party is being planned for July 21 and 22nd to address some of these issues.

The Building Insurance is due as well payment to the auditor. Also the property taxes are due in September. The question was asked about the town forgiving the municipal portion of the taxes. I have advised that they request a grant application and it would need to be filled out with information about the request.

The annual fire inspection has been delayed due to covid19 but will be taking place in the fall.

A couple of issues have arisen. There is a stone chip in a window of the common room and the eaves trough of the shed fell off. Also an electrical wire is protruding from the ground near one of the apartments. After the meeting was adjourned, the board walked around the building for a quick inspection.

Swimming Pool Update- The pool has been running well and because of this, the decision was made to allow more swimmers in at a time. An additional 20 was added, bringing the total to 50. All covid procedures will still be in place- pre-purchasing passes, pre screening before entrance, hand sanitizer, cleaning etc.

RRVPCC- Summer programming has begun. The board was able to hire a person to run the Summer Fun Program in the Park

Red River Interagency and Community Partners Committees- Have been postponed indefinitely.

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Tim Lewis**

Council Report

For Committee as a Whole – July 23, 2020

By: Councillor Tim Lewis

Committees, Boards, and Activities Attended:

Transportation and Infrastructure (Chair)

Items of Interest to Report on:

A meeting was held July 20 with Mel Baxter, Brigitte Doerksen, Brian Wiebe, Jimmy Berg and Tim Lewis.

Valley Fiber – the Dig-All crews are nearing completion and the question of who is going to do the clean-up and hole filling, grass seeding etc. is still to be determined.

Tree planting – 75 trees have been planted at the Multiplex, Highway 23 West green space, Ottawa Avenue Reservoir, baseball diamonds and the cemetery.

Water Plant Inspection – Inspection completed by Kale Black with no major problems. He will help with future considerations and designs for a new plant. It was suggested that we should have access alarms for the water plant.

Town Beautification – the flowers are all blooming nicely and are being checked and watered on weekends as required. PW suggested in the 2021 budget we could plan for adding a trail between Boyne and Ottawa through the 23 Highway West green space as well as possibly benches and flowers.

Mosquito fogging is going well. We have been asked by the RM of Montcalm and the RM of Morris about contracting to them for fogging.

Asphalting has started and will continue throughout the summer.

The question was raised of who is responsible for monitoring and policing the level that existing residential yards are raised when doing landscaping as drainage has become an issue with several properties.

Brian is still trying to get quotes for the sewer line replacement on Mary Street as most companies will only do it on an open pit, replacement basis.

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Mel Baxter**

MAF Update - At the recent meeting of the MAF on July-14th the financials were approved including the invoice from the Southern Health District for renovations done to the Morris area Hospital. While paying this account the MAF has requested more input into the use of these funds. The balance now stands at approximately. The MAF annual general meeting has been set for Sept-17th/2020 at which time the MAF hopes to announce the establishment of a Health and Wellness fund to be administered by MAF with all monies raised going towards grants for these concerns. It is felt that this will help to bring in more charitable donations for the communities served.

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Ruth Murray**

CAW Report for July 25, 2020 for Council

June 25- Weed Mtg in Letellier. Report from Luke Hemphill, weed inspector, re Work he has done. He continues to send weekly reports which are greatly appreciated.

July 8- Chamber meeting @ Santa Lucia. We had to meet in the Lounge & this was very distracting due to other customers there. It was decided to hold budget meeting elsewhere.

July 15- I am grateful that Brian was able to allow 3 employees from Green Team to help clean up weeds in the Perennial garden @ South Park opposite Big Way. Some of my volunteers are ageing & are unable to help.

Scott & I did meet with a resident. Am reviewing it now.

MASS report-Although We received a notice from regarding stage 3 allowing people in the dining room...only 7 people @ 1 time, because of table distancing, it was decided this was not practical for Morris for congregate meals so will continue the delivery unit until everyone can use the dining room together. In Lowe Farm however because of low numbers & extra space they will use the dining area.

Glad to see the Swimming Pool staff is expanding hours for public swimming. Good planning on their part.

Noted

Councillor Trevor Thiessen (report in Project Board Reports)

Project Board Reports:

- **Morris Manor Project – Trevor Thiessen**

Report on meeting with Trisha Cooling of CMHC re: manor

Margaret and I had a virtual meeting with a representative of CMHC on June 30. The intent was to find out if there is Federal funding available, and what our next steps would have to be.

They informed us that our current contact at the Provincial level, is no longer there. They weren't sure who the replacement is.

There is a 'Loan First' program available. It looks at market factors, energy efficiency, etc.. In order to qualify, a current market study must be conducted. There must be buy in at the Provincial and Municipal level. Our current rent subsidy understanding with the Province would qualify as their contribution. The Town could look at property, tax concession, etc as their contribution. This is what they call a co-investment program. They would likely want a % of the suites to be at median market values.

There is also seed funding available for soft costs ie: hiring a consultant, market study, etc.

There are a few other factors that go into the decision making at the Federal level. They emailed us a link to their program, so I will attempt to work through that over the summer

- **Assisted Living Project – Chris Hamblin**
Already reported above

- **Medical Clinic Project – Tim Lewis**
Nothing to report

- **Morris 2030- Scott Crick**
Morris 2030 presentation
**CAO Re-schedule a separate meeting prior to the August meeting **
...any additional specific Board reports that need in-depth discussion outside of Mayor's/Councillors' Reports

New Business:

- Noise By-Law Review
-Add to Regular Council meeting Agenda for 1st reading

- Landfill Tipping Fees- new fee proposal
Noted and discussed

- MultiPlex Arena- protocols for opening Update
Noted and discussed

- Opening up of MultiPlex FYI Report/update from Sherri
Noted and discussed

- Red River Parent Child- announcement of newly funded Art Project
-Advise to move forward, Council reserves the right to request removal or re-location.

- Council Committees and Boards
Nothing to report

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm