



Council Committee as a Whole

MINUTES

November 12, 2020 (via Go to Meetings)

6:30 pm Virtual Meeting

In attendance: Mel Baxter, Chris Hamblin, Margaret Johnston, Tim Lewis, Ruth Murray, Trevor Thiessen

Also in attendance: CAO, Brigitte Doerksen

Delegations:

6:30- Claire Comte - Letter to council was reviewed and discussed

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

- **Mayor Scott Crick**

Mayor's Report

For Committee as a Whole – Nov 12, 2020

Events attended or Mayoral activities (paid):

Oct 29/20: Meeting with B. Gregory (1 Hour)
Oct 29/20: Meeting with Deputy Mayor (1.5 Hours)
Oct 30/20: Pembina Valley Reeves and Mayors Meeting (2 Hours)
Nov 2/20: AMM Convention Prep (1 Hour)
Nov 2/20: Morris 2030 (3 Hours)
Nov 4/20: Economic Development Mtg. (1.5 Hours)

Events attended or Mayoral activities (unpaid):

Oct 13/20: In the Mayor's Chair (0.5 hrs.)
Oct 20: Various phone calls and correspondence (20 hours)

Items of Interest to Report on:

1. With COVID-19 forcing Southern Health into red status, it is important we continue to encourage our citizens to comply with the public health guidelines as much as we can. We have gone from 0 to 8 cases in the Morris area (Town and RM) in one week, and I am concerned about the effect of an outbreak in any of the facilities that house at-risk individuals in our community.
2. The long-term effects of COVID-19 have not been good on a number of people in our community, exacerbated by the huge amount of misleading, incorrect, false, and dangerous information on Facebook. I have already had to block a number of non-residents from my Mayor page, and have been clear that encouraging people to follow public health guidelines is not a subject that I will encourage debate or discussion on. This is a practical health issue that could be fatal to a number of our residents.

3. As a second point to this, there are a lot of angry and worried people out there who are lashing out at those who are in authority. I won't share the details of some of the personal attacks and trolling I've received recently – we'll just say they are very personal and unpleasant. As elected officials, we need to do the best we can to rise above this, not write-off people for what they believe, have empathy, and be there for them if there is anything we can do to help. Despite how poisoned the environment has become, we need to remember we are here for all of our citizens.
4. I was very happy with our discussions at the Morris 2030 meeting, and think we now have enough ideas for forming a long-term financial plan for the next 5-10 years. Although there were some big wish list items in our discussion, I am hopeful we and future Councils find the time and effort spent here useful. It is just disappointing that we will need to delay the public consultation portion of this project until we can have a proper meeting.
5. Congratulations to the dog park for their successful opening. Early in our mandate, Council expressed its commitment to partnering and supporting groups that were interested in doing things to make our community better. To my mind, this looked like exactly what Council had in mind when making this commitment. This group has worked very hard to raise funds, and will be continuing to fundraise until they have paid off the park. In a time where COVID may still be with us for a bit, having an additional outdoor activity is very valuable.

Noted and discussed

• **Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin**

- Attending the Chamber of Commerce meeting on October 14 (in place of Ruth). I previously circulated a report for this meeting.
- a meeting with Brigitte to discuss some VAS concerns and MIP updates
- a meeting with Mayor Scott to discuss/update on various topics
- Sat in on the AMM pre-conference web meeting. Questions need to be submitted by Nov 13. They are planning a ministerial forum – Did we have any questions or should we set up a virtual meeting with any ministers on our own. (I am wondering about an update on Hwy 75 and 246) / Also wondering about the new Federal announcement re: internet access and whether we should see if we can get retroactive?

Economic Development Committee Report to CAAW November 12, 2020

The Economic Development Committee met on November 4, 2020 to update on the progress of the Morris Industrial Park. Brigitte confirmed that we are ready to tender and these should be going out before the end of the year. She will confirm with Cousins. Some discussion was held on the costs of Phase 1 and what could be a starting point for sale of lots. The committee was reluctant to settle on one specific value as lot price would be influenced by factors other than size such as; size of lot, value of development; number of jobs being created etc.

The committee also reviewed other properties in the community and potential sale opportunities for these lots. Sale of lots will be reviewed on a case by case basis. There have been a few inquiries but no concrete offers at this point.

Future discussions will be around marketing / promotion opportunities.

Valley Agricultural Society report to CAAW – November 12, 2020

Activities around the grounds have been wrapped up for the season. Water lines blown out, doors secured etc. Many projects were completed over the summer; dressing rooms for "Gathering of the Nations", fair office fresh up with paint etc., fair bleachers painted, barn doors installed, concrete for the bin bar, asphalt repair. Thanks to the Town of Morris for their in-kind contributions with asphalt and concrete and barn doors.

The Haunted Barn and other Halloween activities took place on the VAS grounds thanks to various board members and community volunteers. Permission was given for this to happen provided that COVID-19 health guidelines were followed and there were no costs to the VAS. There were various donations received by community members to make this happen. Donations were received of \$1260 which covered all costs.

Storage continues to be a positive income generator for the VAS – especially with the shows being cancelled.

My duties have centered around the finances. Time has been spent on bank reconciliations, tax submissions (PST and GST) and working on grant accounting. We are now working on year end tasks. This will all be done electronically. Usually Scarrow – Donald sends someone to the office to review the accounts. This will not be happening so the office and I will do our best to provide what is needed as they make requests.

The office has been compiling invoices for the Building Sustainable Communities Grant. We hope to have the final report submitted before the end of the year. We have discussed better ways to track these expenses and have implemented a new system for going forward.

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Margaret Johnston**

RRVPCC Report

A zoom meeting was held on October 30th.

Grants received this year are:

Healthy Child Coalition \$4,000 (reduced by 30%) This was used for July through September, for Outdoor play, the Nature Program, Mindfulness Program and the Story Sack Program

As well a grant from the HCC for \$2,800 for Sept through March

RRVSD grant was awarded for \$13,000

MAF-\$10,250 This was used for the community art projects(mural and angel wings art) Family Matters program as well as purchasing a laminator, disinfecting fogger, craft and educational supplies.

Town of Morris-\$3,000

Program Directors Report- A summer student was hired, through the summer student program. Chloe Landry ran the Park Program, which was well attended and received a very good response from families. Cheryl ran the Stay and Play, Storytime and Nature programs and continues to do this weather permitting.

As the United Church remains unavailable, programming will be held at the multiplex for November and December, barring Covid19 restrictions. Cheryl is prepared to switch to on-line programming. She is also working on educational binders that families will be able to sign out and borrow. These binders will be easy to clean upon return as pages and activities will be laminated. Kari Hamblin ran a Nature program in St Pierre this fall. This was well received. There is also money available for further programming in St Pierre.

MAF is offering a second round of emergency covid19 grants. Cheryl has applied and will use the funding for games, puzzles, etc for families to sign out.

Siobhan Mass is building a little free library, to be placed at the park for community use.

The financial report was given.

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Tim Lewis**

Council Report

For Committee as a Whole – November 12, 2020

By: Councillor Tim Lewis

Committees, Boards, and Activities Attended:

Transportation and Infrastructure (Chair)

Items of Interest to Report on:

A meeting was held on November 10, 2020 between Tim Lewis, Mel Baxter, Brigitte Doerksen, Brian Wiebe and Jimmy Berg.

Valley Fiber crews are nearly done in town. Lines will be pushed into the public works shop and the water plant. The line into the water plant will allow for a future monitoring system.

The asphalt at the VAS grounds has been completed but the Rebecca Cove repairs were not completed. Public Works will see what temporary fix can be done there and will complete the project next year.

The pool and the splash park are now shut down and blown out.

Town Beautification:

The hanging flower pot brackets have been removed and PW is looking into whether repairing or replacing them would be cheaper.

They are waiting to hear back from MPI about the replacement of the two decorative light poles downtown.

Fall cleanup went well again this year. Discussed whether spring cleanup by PW and one week free at the dump in the fall would work but it was felt most residents would prefer the way it is.

Street sweeping was completed just to get rid of leaves and some gravel on the streets.

Christmas lights will go up after Remembrance Day. The cost of new Christmas lights is about \$500 per fixture and there are 35 light standards that can have lights on them.

The speed hump on Willow Drive will be removed in early November for winter.

PW is getting pricing on new pumps, genset and electrical for the water plant for budget purposes.

PW is continuing to work on asset management reviewing streets and the sewer line filming done this year.

Brian's MI contact is 99% sure that we can have the milled asphalt from the MI yard, however PW is already hauling to their yard as well everything milled off of PTH 23 next year will go to PW.

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Mel Baxter**

MAF Report: The MLFR Emergency Medical Fund recently turned over \$40,000 to the MAF to be placed in the new Health and Wellness fund. The fund agreement should be in place shortly with an anticipated announcement and campaign launch in December.

MAF is currently awaiting approval from Community Foundation of Canada (CFC) for the additional \$30,000 in funds allocated to groups with Covid related needs in our district. This is over and above the \$40,000 released in the late spring. So far 9 applicants have applied.

This year MAF has provided grants of \$10,000 from their fund base.

The Southern Health Acct. stands at \$255,600 as of Oct-31/20

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Ruth Murray**

- Museum Meeting
- AMM Zoom meeting
- Valley Weed District meeting

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Trevor Thiessen**
 - Valley Weed District
 - Morris Manor

Noted and discussed

Project Board Reports:

Morris Manor Project – Trevor Thiessen

Assisted Living Project – Chris Hamblin Nothing new since last meeting

...any additional specific Board reports that need in-depth discussion outside of Mayor's/Councillors' Reports

New Business:

- Town of Morris Emergency Plan
 - needs to be updated annually – Council to review and provide feedback
- Landfill Agreement
- Ministerial Forum AMM convention
 - Housing /Senior Housing
 - Daycare
 - infrastructure

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm