



Council Committee as a Whole

Minutes

December 17, 2020 (via Go to Meetings)

5:30 pm Virtual Meeting

In attendance: Chris Hamblin, Margaret Johnston, Tim Lewis, Mel Baxter, Ruth Murray, Trevor Thiessen, Scott Crick and Brigitte Doerksen

Delegations:

5:30- Alex Kube re: Subdivision – Rescheduled

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

- Mayor Scott Crick

Mayor's Report

For Committee as a Whole – Dec 16, 2020

Events attended or Mayoral activities (paid):

Nov 23/20: Virtual AMM (3.5 hrs.)
Dec 2/20: Call with Municipal Affairs – Manor (1.5 hrs.)
Dec 2/20: Budget Prep Meeting (1 hr.)
Dec 9/20: Call with RHA (.5 hr.)
Dec 9/20: Conference Call with Minister Stefanson (.5 hr)
Dec 16/20: Personnel Committee Budget Meeting (1 hr)

Events attended or Mayoral activities (unpaid):

Dec 8/20: In the Mayor's Chair (0.5 hrs)
Nov-Dec: Various phone calls and correspondence, meeting prep, interviews (10 hours)

Items of Interest to Report on:

1. We seem to have transitioned very quickly into budget season, and I know a lot of meetings are taking place. However, nothing illustrates the value of good financial processes better than our Valley Fiber experience. We were disappointed at the delay in ICIP funding, and how this forced the Town to pay for the infrastructure for the network, instead of receiving Federal funding.

However, due to solid financial control, and the support of all staff in finding cost-effective ways to deliver services, we have been able to build reserves over the last two years to be able to pay off the infrastructure without needing to borrow funds.

As Council, two of our primary roles are financial governance and setting property taxation. I hope that continued financial prudence will put us in a position to be more flexible with taxation, and reserve borrowing for when we really need to borrow.

2. As was reported, a complaint was made to Municipal Affairs regarding the Town and its involvement in the Morris Manor. As Council is aware, due to concern with the financial viability of the facility, the Town showed leadership in re-engaging the Board's original partners to help set a move forward course for the facility.

In a detailed conversation with Municipal Affairs, I highlighted that the Board had not been dissolved; in fact, the founding Church members of the Board as well as the RM were encouraged to reengage. To help the Board function moving forward (and help maintain quorum), new by-laws were adopted that created more flexibility if a Church was not able to provide a Board member.

Once this was properly explained to Municipal Affairs, they agreed that the Town has not stepped outside its authority, and there was nothing for them to pursue on the matter. Glad to have had this dealt with, and as a Town, we are very thankful for the Board partners stepping up to help the Manor move forward.

3. The RHA apologized for not giving us better notice of the Hospital's ER closing due to COVID-19, and have committed to providing us better information sooner. I shared that we understand the challenges we are all going through right now, and did appreciate them reaching out.
4. I very much appreciated Minister Stefanson accepting our meeting request to discuss both Busy Nest and Senior's Housing in Morris. Availability of capital will be the largest challenge to address in both areas – hopefully we can identify a role for the Town in each area, and continue to advocate for our facilities and citizens.

Noted and discussed

- **Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin**

VAS – continue to monitor and provide oversight on finances. AGM has been postponed. Hoping to be able to meet in January rather than try to handle it virtually. Audit has not been completed yet for the 2020 year. There doesn't seem to be the same urgency with the AGM postponed plus it seems to take a little longer when it is all done at a distant with no one coming to the office to review documents etc.

Economic Development – tenders have not gone out yet. It was felt it was prudent to wait until most fall work was completed (the nice fall pushed this back with some construction still continuing). Requests for tenders are expected to go out within the next week or two with deadline for submissions to be mid-January.

Assisted Living – nothing to report at this time.

AMM – attended the virtual conference. Listened to Premier Pallister's comments, the minister's forum and resolutions as well as voted in the Vice President elections.

Minister Stefanson – participated in this virtual meeting. The department is to follow up with our office with contact info and further information.

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Margaret Johnston**

Dec. 9th- On the conference call with Minister Stefanson. Discussed Early Child Care (Busy Nest) and seniors (Morris Manor) and Manitoba Housing. It seems that there is no monetary assistance available. And that the province is wanting to move away from running the MB Housing properties.

Dec 11th-Zoom meeting with members of the MARC regarding the Safe at Home Grant.(\$3 Million) As of the meeting the program already had 80 applications for this funding. Each application can receive up to \$50,000. Several ideas shared for this grant. Such as live streaming, fitness classes, dance classes, Breath work, cooking, art. Discussed how to get this delivered to the community. Arien and Melissa have worked on this. I am anxious to hear the response back.

Dec 14th- RRPCC- Zoom AGM- Reviewed the year's budget and programs offered throughout the year. Because of Covid19 many changes had to happen. From not being allowed indoors, to working on outdoor activities and projects. Thankful that the summer weather cooperated and many families were able to participate. Lots of work has gone into preparing take home kits to provide activities. These will be able to be reused for years to come. Cheryl has applied for the Safe at Home Grant (\$20,000)

Dec 15- Rec Budget- Reviewed the presented budgets and discussed the need to have a plan (A,B,C) in place, because of the unknowns related to Covid19.

Community Partners- Information has been forwarded to Southern Health Region and they are working on a way to communicate with the communities.

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Tim Lewis**

Council Report

For Committee as a Whole – December 17, 2020

By: Councillor Tim Lewis

Committees, Boards, and Activities Attended:

Transportation and Infrastructure (Chair)

Items of Interest to Report on:

A report was submitted by Brian Wiebe

Multiplex Parking Lot

- All measurements, storm sewer plans, excavation plans have been designed
- Working on finalizing quotes for complete project
- Access to the complete milled asphalt pile was declined by MI
 - PW has submitted a request to MI engineer to request any additional millings from 2020 as well as the Hwy 23 East project set to start in 2021
 - Currently PW has a stockpile of milled asphalt that will assist in the project
- Working with Morris Multiplex to tie-in all eaves troughs to new storm sewer system to eliminate ice build-up during spring/winter
- Waiting on quotes from companies for doing a 2" overlay of new asphalt across the main area of the parking lot
- Completed project will include new drains, a centre light standard, and painted parking lines

Concrete/Asphalt Crushing

- Fehr Excavating has crushed 2 large piles of material from the PW shop yard

- Cost for this project was taken from the A-base gravel budget
- PW would typically have hauled this pile to an off-site crushing company, that takes old concrete/asphalt, but PW would not get any product in return
- In the end PW ended up with more product for base, at a lower budgeted cost, while saving the in hauling/labor costs

Town Beautification

- Main Street benches have been moved, placed in close proximity to the garbage/recycling cans, to provide better access to Main Street “bubbles” for snow removal
- Christmas lights are hung
 - Have contacted MB Hydro regarding a couple of lights that aren’t energized
 - Receiving multiple quotes on new Christmas lights (2 year budget item)

Water Plant

- Pricing has begun on the 3-5-year water plant renewal plan

Budget 2021

- Budget has been completed and submitted to CAO & CFO
 - Please contact us about any questions related to increases & projects

Morris 2030 Plan

- Continuing to work on asset management

Walkways

- There are two walkways from Agassiz Trail to the ball park trails. These will likely not be developed until 2022.

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Mel Baxter**

Morris Area Fdn report

The MAF has announced that the Endow Challenge campaign held in Nov/20 raised \$35,346.37 which includes the \$4,000 top up from Endowment Manitoba. Current endowment funds stand at over \$325,000 in total. This has been a good fund raising year for the MAF. The next phase of promoting the new Health and Wellness Fund started with the "KICK OFF" beginning Dec 7 -14. Pamphlets, brochures and ad space have been prepared to raise community awareness. The initial investment of \$40,000 from the MLFR Emergency Fund has been forwarded to the Winnipeg Foundation to open the endowment fund. Donations can still be made for 2020 tax receipts.

VRL Report

Moved by Mel Baxter (board member representing the Town of Morris), seconded by Rick Giesbrecht (board member representing the RM of Morris), that we accept the VRL 2021 budget totaling \$78,380 which asks the Town of Morris for \$17,022, and the RM of Morris for \$15,540, exactly the same amount they contributed to the support of VRL in 2020.

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Ruth Murray**

Conference call with Minister Stefanson. Topics discussed were Daycare as well as Morris Manor & assisted living. Zoom calls were held with The Chamber as well as The Rec Board as both required motions to be made and passed by the boards. Some of the rules re the pandemic are rather confusing as to the numbers allowed .If outdoors rinks are allowed do these have to be monitored and by whom.? The same applies to playgrounds .Hopefully rules will be adhered to so we can celebrate Christmas next year.

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Trevor Thiessen**

Morris Manor – we had our first official meeting of the new Manor board. In attendance were Cindy Conway, Ralph Groening, Dale Hoffman, Janine Rivard, Leslie Poulin, Peter Dyck, Ted Swift, and Trevor Thiessen. We elected the executive, with the positions being

Chair – Trevor
Vice – Cindy
Finance – Ralph
Facilities – Janine
Resident Liaison – Janine
Marketing – will be shared by Cindy and others

Discussion around job descriptions, I will be asking if we have any, if not, Cindy and I will create job descriptions for staff. Janine provided costing on renovating another suite. Trevor stated we will wait until Ralph has had an opportunity to review financials before we spend any further money. Leslie stated a grant had been applied for, she will check if it has been approved. Discussion around issuing charitable donation receipts. Trevor has reached out to Bruce Gregory to see what the process is to get this designation. Next meeting Jan 13.

Protective Services

New fleetnet radios have arrived and are operational. This will allow for better communication with 911, as well as with other agencies.

Noted and discussed

Project Board Reports:

Morris Manor Project – Trevor Thiessen

Assisted Living Project – Chris Hamblin

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

New Business:

1. Manitoba Housing – establishing a Manitoba Housing Board
-Tabled till January for further discussion

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm

