



Council Committee as a Whole

MINUTES

January 14th, 2021 (via Go to Meetings)

Happy New Year Everyone!

6:30 pm Virtual Meeting

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

Not in attendance: None

Also in attendance: CAO, Brigitte Doerksen

Delegations:

6:30- Morris Fire Department Fire Chief Wes Zilkie- Quarterly Report

7:00 – Kube Construction: Subdivision on Agassiz Trail

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

- Mayor Scott Crick

Mayor's Report

For Committee as a Whole – Jan 14, 2021

Events attended or Mayoral activities (paid):

Jan 7/21: Teams Meeting – Closure of Ag Offices (1 hour)

Jan 11/21: Budget Meeting – Multiplex (1 hour)

Events attended or Mayoral activities (unpaid):

Jan 12/20: In the Mayor's Chair (0.5 hrs)

Dec-Jan: Various phone calls and correspondence, meeting prep, interviews (10 hours)

Items of Interest to Report on:

1. Other than a number of various citizen inquiries, and a “year-end” interview from Dean Penner at Golden West, the Christmas season was expectedly quiet. However, I would be remiss in not thanking our citizens for their responsibility through the Christmas season, as seen by the low number of post-holiday COVID-19 cases in our area.
2. In the last week, we were informed by peminavalleyonline.com that our Ag office would be closing, and only received the press briefing from the Minister's office later the same day, with a teams meeting set up for the day following. I have no opinion on the merits of the new service model for producers, as the Province shared none of its justification other than what was prepackaged in its press releases. Sadly, even if there are no job losses, the annual cost savings appear to be nominal (some building leases in rural Manitoba), and accessing services will be dependent on robust rural Internet connectivity, something that is not available to many even in our region.

What dismays me most is that the Province and our Premier continually pay lip service to the value of municipal government, yet had zero engagement on this issue with Municipalities until it was a fait accompli. This is even further compounded by the fact that our MLA was the Minister responsible for these changes.

Words mean nothing without action, and during my tenure as Mayor, I have seen the actions of this government speak very clearly about their true level of respect for Municipal government.

3. With the incidence of COVID-19 in our health region dropping to pre-second wave levels, we can hope that the Province begins looking at easing some restrictions in a way that is meaningful for businesses that have been forced to stop operation. We also hope that there will be some relaxation that would allow family members to visit each other – this has been a difficult period for the mental health of many.

Noted and discussed.

- **Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin**

Valley Agricultural Society Report

We are waiting for the audit to be complete. The AGM needs to be held by March 1, 2021. They are looking at near the end of February. This may have to be held virtually. We are looking at ways to do the voting in a secure way. We probably only need this for the electing of directors. Other motions can be done by a show of hands (likely for opposition rather than in support).

No board meeting has been held for some time as there has not been much activity. Decisions will have to be made soon as bookings will need to be made if the Tractor Pull and Stampede are going to proceed.

I continue to oversee finances, do bank reconciliation and file GST. Finances are in good shape thanks to government supports.

Economic Development Committee Report

The tender for development of the Morris Industrial Park was posted on January 5 with tenders closing on January 22. Test holes were to be dug on January 13. Hopefully we will have decisions to make and progress will continue.

Noted and discussed.

- **Councillor Margaret Johnston**

- New Funeral Home
- **Outdoor Arena**
- **Animal control**

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Tim Lewis**

Public Works Report- December 2020

Sewer Line Repairs

- Main line repair on Ottawa completed
 - Main line had hole at the top of it causing dirt buildup
 - Also had a 2x4 board causing backup issues for a resident which was removed at time of repair\

Snow removal - Minimal snow removal has had to be done to this point

Covid-19

- PW shop still closed to the public
- No in-home work being done unless on an emergency basis
- New meter installs are being done by the contractors, under guidance from PW

Water Plant

- Have been in contact with the Provincial Government to begin the process of design and consultation

Budget 2021

- Waiting on final approval before making any major purchases

Morris 2030 Plan

- Continuing to work on asset management

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Mel Baxter**

Morris Area Fdn Report

At the recent MAF meeting, the current executive was re-appointed for the 2021 term. The 2020 audit has not been completed but 2020 was a successful year for fund raising. The fund currently stands at approximately \$367,000. The new Health and Wellness Fund is up and running and discussion on how to promote it is ongoing. Board member terms as set out in the by-laws are subject to review in 2021.

Noted and discussed.

- **Councillor Ruth Murray**

We are going over MASS by-laws which were last done in 2010 .On Jan. 14 via Skype we will change, add or delete any by-laws required. Then on January 21, @ 1:30, MASS will hold its annual AGM.

Note and discussed

- **Councillor Trevor Thiessen**

- Protective Services
- Morris Manor-

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:

No new business

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM