



## Council Committee as a Whole

# MINUTES

February 11, 2021 (via Go to Meetings)

*6:30 pm Virtual Meeting*

***In attendance: Ruth Murray, Ruth Murray, Margaret Johnston, Chris Hamblin, Mayor Scott Crick, Mel Baxter***

***Not in attendance: Trevor Thiessen arrived at 7:12 pm***

***Also in attendance: CAO, Brigitte Doerksen***

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### **Delegations: Morris Curling Club**

Lorne Hamblin made a presentation to Council and provided Council with their request

*\*Councillor Chris Hamblin Declared a Conflict of interest and excused herself from the discussion amongst Council\**

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

- **Mayor Scott Crick**

#### **Mayor's Report**

**For Committee as a Whole – Feb 11, 2021**

#### **Events attended or Mayoral activities (paid):**

Jan 14/21: Meeting with MI - Traffic Plan – Southbound PTH 75 2021 (1 hour)  
Feb 4/21: Meeting with Cousins re: Industrial Park Tenders (.5 hours)

#### **Events attended or Mayoral activities (unpaid):**

Feb 9/21: In the Mayor's Chair (0.5 hrs)  
Jan-Feb: Various phone calls and correspondence, meeting prep, interviews (5 hours)

#### **Items of Interest to Report on:**

1. It has been very encouraging to see the zero COVID-19 case counts in the Morris Health District over the last week or so. It shows our citizens have been listening to public health guidance, and we are finally seeing the relaxation of some of the restrictions.
2. It was equally disappointing to hear from an individual that the Morris Hospital was "full of COVID" when they have overcome the outbreak last month, and there are no reported cases in our district. I encourage Council to check the Province's website regularly so that they can deal with public misinformation in this manner. This is especially important, as individuals may be avoiding medical treatment for an urgent condition due to this.

3. It was encouraging to see the tender process be very competitive for the work we need done in the MIP. It was equally exciting to know that the project will be proceeding in 2021. Once we have firmed up the timelines with the winning bidder, we can begin discussing how best for us to market the lots.
4. We recently received notification of a grant from Co-Op for non-profit organizations who wished to put in place recreational infrastructure. As many groups do not have official non-profit status, I was encouraged to see that applications were open for organizations who work through and have tax receipts issued by a Municipality. Although I promoted the idea of a “west side” playground, I do hope we will see some interest and partnership opportunities from local groups.

**Noted and discussed.**

- **Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin**

Economic Development Committee  
Report to CAAW – February 11, 2021

The tenders closed on January 29, 2021 for the development of the Morris Industrial Park. The committee met on February 4 to review the tenders. After reviewing the tenders and the reference report, the committee accepted JR Cousins recommendation. To expedite the process, this was circulated via email to council for approval. Friesen Hauling will be offered the job and are likely wanting to begin during winter.

We have had a recent inquiry from a realtor asking to list these properties. I have had some earlier discussions with regards to working with other realtors. With work potentially beginning in the near future, the committee will need to decide the best way to proceed.

A recent development has expressed interest in setting up in Morris. They are looking for a large area to rent. We are not sure if we have suitable space ready but may want to reach out to them to gather more information. I don't think the town wants to build a structure for them but perhaps there is a way to assist. It is worth having a follow up discussion with them.

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Valley Agricultural Society  
Report to CAAW meeting February 11, 2021

I continue to spend time monitoring financials and doing bank reconciliations/ filing GST etc. The auditors have provided the financials and after review, we are prepared to present them to the membership. The AGM has been scheduled for February 18, at 7:00 PM. Notices are being sent to members with reminders to pay their 2021 membership so that they can vote at the AGM.

The budget for 2021 is being worked on and at this point we are looking at a budget with none of the regular events. We are hopeful that the Farmer's Market will proceed. At the moment, they are planning to hold these Bi-monthly on Thursdays in the orange building.

Although the board is reluctant to spend money at this time, they are looking for grants and would like to continue with some of the infrastructure improvements. There are few minor cost projects to be completed this summer but also a couple of major ones that we are looking at pricing out and looking for grant assistance. These include re-sheeting the orange buildings rooves and repair to the grandstand. Decisions on these will be made after looking for quotes and potential grants.

Next board meeting will be held virtually on March 4, 2021.

**Noted and discussed.**

- **Councillor Margaret Johnston**

I have included a recreation update for everyone's information. It looks like, despite covid19, many opportunities are being accessed by our community. Which is so awesome! Thanks to all of our staff who have made all of these activities, for our community, available!

Recreation:

- The MB government has not eased any of the Recreation restrictions with these new proposed guidelines, so we are unable to make any changes to programming.
- The Toboggan hill and Ice Rink are getting great use from residents and the school. People are doing well adhering to the MB public health guidelines that are posted outside and updated as necessary.
- Launched the snow shoe rental program, the snow shoes were purchased with a grant from Southern Health
- Received approval for the Safe at Home MB grant for virtual yoga, strengthening, and breathing videos
- Running the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Jack Frost Community Challenge until Saturday, participants are asked to log 130kms of winter activities and log them for great prizes. I've contacted the School for their participation
- Received sponsorship for jerseys for the Recreation hockey team, they are ordered and in production.
- Purchased Valentine's Day Craft/Gift sets to offer through Recreation
- Collaborating with different groups to offer our classroom programs virtually ( Firearm Safety, Hunter Safety, Babysitters, Home Alone)
- Planning on a virtual Rustic Paint night

Budget item: A new pool liner will be required in approximately 3 years. Suggesting that we set aside \$40,000 for 2021, 2022, and 2023. This will then be completed in spring of 2023

Community Partners- It is looking like a meeting will be held towards the end of February. Date to be confirmed.

**Noted and discussed.**

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- **Councillor Tim Lewis**

**Council Report  
For Committee as a Whole – February 11, 2021  
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

-Toboggan Hill & Outdoor Rink are built and in use with Provincial Covid-19 guidelines posted & in-place

-Street maintenance has had minimal snow removal needed and above average sanding & sidewalk sweeping

-Water Plant:

- Have been in contact with the Provincial Government to begin the process of design and consultation
- Grant application paperwork being completed
  - Capital Projects Grant due Feb 28/21
  - Engineering Grant due April 1/21

-COR Annual internal audit has been completed and submitted to MHCA

**Signage**

- New signs have been installed at several locations along the main sewer line (from main lift station to lagoon)

- Main valve shut off at the lift station 10" forced main underground (to advise those on quads/snowmobiles of the steel post installed)
- 5 signs at the lagoon (to show specific valves for our employees)
- Stop sign discussion regarding Ottawa East
  - Would create a stop sign at each intersection along Mary St
  - Open to discussion with council about options

#### *Morris Industrial Park*

- Test holes dug
- Working closely with Matt @ J.R. Cousins

#### *Break Ins*

- January 28<sup>th</sup>
  - 2 people walked into the PW yard at 2am and proceeded to break into the cold storage building
  - Keys to the Chevy ½ ton were stolen
- January 31<sup>st</sup>
  - White dodge truck entered the PW yard at 5am
  - Driver broke into the small equipment garage
  - Items stolen included 2 chainsaws, 1 concrete saw, 1 fire extinguisher, 1 jug of chainsaw oil
- Incidents have been reported to the Morris RCMP
- All new access door locks have been changed
- New lighting has been installed on the PW yard

#### *Morris 2030 Plan*

- Continuing to work on asset management

#### **Clarification from last report:**

The service line, that had the 2x4 jammed across the main, was dug up. The main line had an open hole at the top of the main, so the 2x4 was removed and the main line patched up. This was an anomaly because the residential service line was directly across from the hospital's service line. Because of the large amount of discharge from the 8" hospital line, and the 2x4 stuck in between the services, it caused water to run across and back feed into the residential 4" line. This problem has been permanently corrected now. I have attached a picture of the issue prior to repair.

**Noted and discussed.**

- **Councillor Mel Baxter**

#### **Valley Regional Library Report**

With reduced hours, the library has seen a slight reduction in usage although curbside pickup and instruction on e-libraries has been expanded. A grant has been received to purchase tablets and an e-book to be loaned out to seniors and others to aid in reading enjoyment and education. With the help of a YIP (Youth in Philanthropy) grant the external lighting on and around the building is to be repaired and upgraded.

**Noted and discussed.**

- **Councillor Ruth Murray**

This is very brief as we did most of our work for MASS on e-mail....going over the budget, treasurer's report, coordinator's report, chairperson's report, as well as the secretary's minutes. The by-laws were up dated. The staff & committee has done a great job during these Covid times with all the added restrictions. Thoughts turn to spring...Communities in Bloom. We should continue to take pride in our community but some of this may depend on restrictions...re volunteers planting the flowers .As far as I know, I believe the baskets can again be done @ Hillbillies but I feel we should not bother purchasing any new Planters this year.

Noted and discussed

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- **Councillor Trevor Thiessen**
    - No Report
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*Moved by Councillor Trevor Thiessen*

*Seconded by Councillor Tim Lewis*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council go in Camera for a personnel issue.*

*Moved by Councillor Tim Lewis*

*Seconded by Councillor Mel Baxter*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council resume their Committee as a Whole Meeting*

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### **Project Board Reports:**

- **Assisted Living Project – Chris Hamblin**

Assisted Living Report for CAAW February 11, 2021

Not a lot of activity. I have met (by phone) with a few people to discuss further.

These include:

A Call from a local citizen concerned that we were no longer considering assisted living for Morris. I assured them that we are but are struggling with the best direction to move forward.

A call with legal counsel to discuss community based / charitable structure versus private investment structure. We talked about the challenges and benefits of each. It was suggested we talk with the Rosenort group, also felt that we may need to hire a consultant to get some draft plans to take to the community or to private investors.

A Call with some from the Dauphin “Independent Living with Assists” building. This is a community based/ charitable structure. I believe it is a design that could work here.

We are accessing some drawings that should allow to better discuss our plans for moving forward. They may also help us get some rough estimates on costs that we can then discuss further with the community or the investors (depending on the desired channel).

Next steps will be determined once we receive these drawings

**Noted and discussed**

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

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### **New Business:**

- 15-minute parking signs on James (both sides) requested by new Owners of Super V
  - Industrial Park- Road opening Economic Development Committee recommendation for naming of road.
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**Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm**