



## Council Committee as a Whole

# MINUTES

April 8th, 2021 (via Go to Meetings)

*7:00 pm Virtual Meeting*

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

*Also in attendance: CAO, Brigitte Doerksen*

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**Delegations: NONE**

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

- **Mayor Scott Crick**

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

**For Committee as a Whole – Apr 8, 2021**

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

Feb 18/21: Pre Budget Meeting  
Feb 25/21: Budget Meeting and Review  
Mar 10/21: Economic Development Meeting  
Mar 24/21: Meeting with MIP Engineer  
Mar 24/21: Economic Development Meeting

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

Feb 9/21: In the Mayor's Chair (0.5 hrs)  
Mar-Apr: Various phone calls and correspondence, meeting prep, interviews (20 hours)

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

- I was very pleased with the results of our budget deliberations. As a Council, we have often discussed making our community more competitive from a tax perspective, and we have made great strides in this area. Staff has also been very supportive and found ways for us to deliver the same services in a more cost-effective way. Net result is the first "real" tax decrease Morris has had for many years.
- It has also been promising to see the movement forward with the MIP. The tender process rewarded us with some very competitive bids, and we will be able to complete our first phase development within the initial borrowing taken. With the interest we have already seen in the park, it is exciting to consider how quickly this may take off. An RFP has been released for marketing the development, and I am looking forward to reviewing the submissions at the end of the month.
- With potential commercial development, housing development is also a priority. We have already had an initial plan submitted for the balance of our undeveloped land in the South part of Town, and are waiting for it to be revised before moving forward.

- Disappointed that the Stampede has been cancelled again in 2021 – however, with the slow roll-out of vaccines, and the potential of another wave of variant-driven COVID spread, this is understandable. The light is still there at the end of the tunnel – unfortunately it’s just not as close as we’d like it to be at this time.
- Also disappointed to see the Province’s approach towards affordable housing after last week’s announcement. Despite our continual conversations with the Ministry regarding affordable housing in Morris over the last few years, it is apparent that only large rural communities need financial assistance to help address housing challenges.

Noted and discussed

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- **Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin**

VAS

The Valley Agricultural Society will not be meeting again until May 6, 2021. The board has dealt with a few details via email. They are hoping to have some summer activities but this will depend on the Manitoba Health guidelines at the time. They have also been approached by the Manitoba Mounted Shooting Association to hold their competition here on July 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. This will not bring in some revenue but more importantly will see the infield being used and an event taking place.

I continue to oversee the finances and complete Bank Reconciliations, GST, etc.

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**Economic Development Committee**

The Economic Development Committee met on March 10 and again on March 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss various topics many of them around the new Morris Industrial Park. We have been in contact with various realtors about promoting the park and have heard from a few potential businesses interested in buying in the Park. We also met (virtually) with our engineer for the project to seek clarification around the subdivision plan. Clarification was received in terms of the services provided (phase 3 power, water, sewer, gas, drainage, internet access) and what would be the responsibility of the buyers of lots (site and access off of the road as well as any work from road to buildings etc.)

We had further discussion about the costs for land and development for phase 1 and how we could recoup these values. Property sale and tax revenue are our revenue sources.

Marketing and advertising of the lots was discussed as well. Possible signage is being explored. We have decided to put out a request for Proposal to many of our local realtors and have it accessible to others via the website and other social media. This has been released and proposals are due back by April 30, 2021. At this time the committee will review and make a recommendation to council.

We also reviewed a subdivision proposal for south of Willow Drive and a proposal from another business looking to develop a new build in town.

The committee has also received request to rent a lot in town for display purposes.

Noted and discussed

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- **Councillor Margaret Johnston**

The following programs are running this Spring with proper Covid restrictions according to public health:

- Babysitters
- Home Alone
- Volunteer MB Food Handlers certificate (Southern Health Grant)
- Good Manners Obedience (5 week course)
- Rustic Paint Night – Pick up kit or Stay options
- First Aid CPR-C
- Firearm Safety

SAYZOONS Spring Camp was a success with full registration for full week plus drop in kids. Even though the weather and wind didn't cooperate the kids were kept busy and had a lot of fun

Applied for and waiting for approval on the Participation healthy community grant to hold a mud run this July. Space & obstacles have already been confirmed.

Town garage sale (May 8) has had fantastic registration so far! Maps will go out throughout the community May 4/5.

Surveyed the community to see what was felt about having soccer in the spring, made the decision to keep it in the fall due to conflict with baseball and Gymkyds.

Working with Gymkyds to being in a shorter spring program and what it would look like with Covid restrictions and class sizes. I have a survey out to see interest in the shorter program and comfort with such a hands on program with the kids.

Join the Red river wellness committee to refurbish the basketball/tennis courts at the school so they can be used for badminton, tennis, and basketball and pickle ball by the community and school.

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I was able to attend two of the three days of the Provincial Recreation Conference on line via the Whova App, on March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup>.

The theme of the conference was Power of the Past, Force of the Future. A very apt title considering the last year that we have had.

I sat in on five breakout sessions.

1-Inspiring Ideas from the Field-This was a discussion on how to provide families with recreation during and after the pandemic. Many of the suggestions were much the same as our Rec Programmer and RRVPC have already been providing.

2-Impact of Uncertainty-Glenella McIntyre spoke on how the pandemic has taken a toll many different ways. Physically, Psychologically, Emotionally. She shared ways to deal with FUD. WTF- fear, uncertainty, and doubt. She suggested strategies to deal with the constant changes.

3-Peer to Peer Mental Health Support- This presentation was about MDAM- Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba. This is a 40 year charitable organization geared to self-help. There are regional offices throughout the province. They provide peer supports to many who have mood disorders such as BPD, anxiety, postpartum depression, eating disorders etc. They discussed coping strategies, activities, and skills that can be applied in day to day living.

4-Road Worlds for Seniors Initiative- This is a unique way to get inactive seniors moving by using Motiview/Motitech program. It utilizes a stationary cyler while watching videos of interest geared to each participant.

5-Accessibility and Inclusion- A presentation by The Canadian Museum of Human Rights. A panel discussed what true inclusion is. It is by embracing the voice of our disability community. Getting their input as how to change things so that they can optimize their use, in our existing facilities. And to seek their input into new planning, so that it will fit all and not just a few.

I listened to two of the three keynote speakers. Dr Janelle Joseph spoke about Transforming Sports for anti-racist Community Building. And Dr James Makokis and Anthony Johnson (Amazing Race Canada Team), who discussed Building on Indigenous Values to Generate Success.

Noted and discussed

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- **Councillor Tim Lewis**

## Public Works Report March 2021

### Steaming Culverts

- Crews steamed for most of March
- Reduced amount of steaming required due to weather

### Street Maintenance

- Sweeping has begun
- Street/Pothole assessment continues
  - Asphalt patching truck to be rented late April for potholes/cracks

### Water Plant

- Waiting on grant approvals

### Water Bypass Lines (frozen water line prevention)

- Will begin turning off bypass lines as overnight lows stay above 0

### Signage

- New signs have been installed on Mary Street at Ottawa East
  - Change of stopping direction official as of March 15<sup>th</sup>

### Morris Industrial Park

- Construction has begun
- Working closely with engineers & Friesen Hauling

### Multiplex Parking Lot

- Multiplex LDS (land drain system) installation to begin in early/mid April  
Main parking lot area to be discussed with contractor & engineer in April

Noted and discussed

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- **Councillor Mel Baxter**

### Valley Regional Report

VRL is now open to the public with a limited occupancy of 5 individuals at any one time. Sat. is by appt. only. The requirement of 6 ft. distancing while difficult to maintain seems to be honored by patrons.

The use of an e-reader or tablet as a pilot project has brought in favorable comments from the Rosenort housing and Heritage lodge group where it has been successfully tried. The library will continue to monitor and adjust the program as best suited.

Library activity has picked up with increased circulation counts happening.

Grants continue to be applied for to help fund patio, shed and lighting projects.

Handi-Van Committee – Free Transportation Grant of \$10,000.00 to those who need transportation services to Vaccine sites.

Golf Course Committee- food services

Noted and discussed

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- **Councillor Ruth Murray**

MASS mtg all done on Zoom. I am happy to announce that Joanne Desaulniers has agreed to serve as treasurer on this board as John Voth has retired from his many years of service. Weed Meeting - April 7- in Letellier

COVID has certainly affected many groups and although we still have obnoxious weeds there are other factors we have to now consider such as grasshoppers & drought in the area. One of these concerns is grass fires. We should have a fire ban here as sparks from the machines using the dyke or sparks from the trains can start a fire immediately. St. Jean just had a fire along the tracks that had to be extinguished by their Fire Department. Perhaps we could get our fire chief to do a trial practice run along the tracks to get rid of the dry weeds there. We should also put some pressure on the CN regarding the weed growth along the tracks. Both the audit report as well as the budget will be tabled on Zoom as there are some corrections that have to be made prior to approving these reports. A motion was made & passed to put me in as chairperson on the Weed District Board.

Noted and discussed

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- **Councillor Trevor Thiessen**

Report on Manor

**Manor** has been re-keyed- every unit including the main door. Every tenant will have a master key

- only 2 suites left to rent
- next hurdle is rent disparity

**Fire Department** – current Fire Ban in place

Noted and discussed

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**Project Board Reports:**

- **Assisted Living Project – Chris Hamblin**

Scott has shared some information and discussion with a facility being built in Dugald. It is yet another structure to consider. He has put me in touch with the consultant for this facility. This person has been involved in a few successful builds in smaller communities. I will connect with him and discuss what needs to happen to move this forward.

Noted and discussed

**New Business: None**

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.