



## Council Committee as a Whole

# MINUTES

August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

5:30 pm

*In attendance: Councillors Tim Lewis, Mel Baxter, Ruth Murray, Margaret Johnston, Trevor Thiessen (via phone at 5:46), Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin and Mayor Scott Crick*

*Not in attendance: none*

*Also in attendance: Chris Janke-CFO*

**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 – Aug 26, 2021

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

Jul 29/21: PVWC Executive Meeting (1.0 hrs)  
Aug 17/21: Rural Childcare Ideation Session (3.5 hrs)  
Aug 23/21: Meet with area Reeves/Mayors to Discuss Water Issues (1.5 hrs)

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

July 13/21: In the Mayor's Chair (0.5 hrs)  
July 22/21: Lunch with Shannon Martin (1.0 hrs)  
July 26/21: Meet with Willow Park Group (1.0 hrs)  
Aug 5/21: Record message for Willow Park Project (0.5 hrs)  
Aug 10/21: In the Mayor's Chair (0.5 hrs)  
Jul-Aug: Various phone calls and correspondence, meeting prep, interviews (20 hours)

#### Items of Interest to Report on:

1. A possible water shortage continues to be a subject of concern, hopefully helped somewhat by the rain received this week over the Red River Basin. However, there is concern regarding river levels, winter supply, and the PVWC plan that states Winkler will provide water back to the PVWC from the Winkler Aquifer in an emergency. Considering the Aquifer does not supply Winkler fully, continues to become more brackish, and Morden's shortage issues, it is important all Reeves and Mayors in the PVWC area pay close attention to this. I believe further meetings will be called for this issue.

I have also clearly pointed out to the Executive of the PVWC that I have concerns with the area outstripping the capacity of the PVWC to supply water. Not capping communities at the maximum water they can take from this

source, and increasing the flows to the Winkler/Stanley/Morden areas was a disaster-in-waiting all along, and I am glad to see others are starting to realize this.

2. The Province had yet to show any change to how they will be addressing childcare in rural areas. Although centres from the area (and myself) attended an ideation session for the Province, I will believe a movement in policy when I see it. Certainly funding from the Federal government for \$10/day child care could help, but we still have a Federal Election and Provincial Leadership contest to resolve first. Unfortunately, the only candidate currently for the Premier's job is one who clearly demonstrated to our Council they do not understand, nor appear to care about Rural Child Care.
3. A group is currently looking to revitalize Willow Park, and will be starting a public awareness and funding campaign. A tip of the hat to Janice Fyfe-Graydon and Shawn Graydon for showing initiative on this project, and bringing big ideas to our community.
4. The level of calls/emails received from residents has increased, suggesting people are getting back to some form of normal-ish. Hopefully we will continue to see immunizations go up, and cases go down, avoiding an economically destructive fourth wave this fall.
5. I met with our local School Trustee to discuss Bill 64, and the concerns expressed from a local perspective. I asked our trustee some very hard questions about the current system. Regardless, I believe the key point was that some reform is needed – however, Bill 64 is the equivalent of “burning down the house to get rid of termites”. We were asked to support as Council – TBD this evening.

**Noted and discussed**

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**Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin**

Valley Ag Society.

Not a lot to report on Economic Development Committee. I am following up with Century 21. I have had some emails with Valley Fiber as well with regards to space for them. They are looking for a space ready to move in (6 acres fenced with a shed). There is not much ready to go like this. I have passed on some info from a local realtor. Not ideal but hopefully it will help them stay in town.

Assisted Living – nothing to report.

Have also attended a drought meeting with local reeves and mayors from the area. Short term and long term solutions to drought issues were discussed.

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Valley Agricultural Society

Summer has been quiet but activity is picking up. The Farmer's Market started on July 29. It was a slow start as notice was short due to Manitoba Health Guidelines and concerns around hosting an event with limited numbers. The August 12 market saw more vendors and better attendance. We hope that this trend continues.

One of the orange buildings has had the roof replaced and the second will be worked on shortly.

The VAS was the site for a private wedding. It was nice to have people on the grounds.

The VAS is working on a small show September 18 and 19. This will include Heartland Rodeo and Grit + Grace Barrel Racing. Rodeo and racing for both Saturday and Sunday. There will be a beer garden on Saturday with live entertainment. Hope everyone can plan to attend. Sponsorship is coming in well for this event so we are hoping the bottom line will be positive. VAS will be charging \$10 for entry.

I have continued to work on financials including spending some time applying for a grant under Canada Community Revitalization Fund to repair and upgrade the Grandstand. We are applying for 50% funding. VAS will have to come up with the other 50% with the help of its sponsors. This is a project that is critical to the continued success of the Manitoba Stampede, the Rumble in the Valley as well as many other community events held in the grandstand

**Noted and discussed**

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**Councillor Margaret Johnston**

The swimming pool has been running well. Melissa hopes to give a presentation at the next CAAW.

Recreation-

Fall programming has started:

Rec Hockey- which will have sponsorship and a new name.

Babysitters class, Home Alone, Firearm Safety, A revamping of Tiny Tots Skating to attract more participants.,

Fall soccer, Cooking Classes, Adult Dance, Baton, Walk Stretch Refresh,

Reiki Intro/Level One. All programming will follow the 4-2-2-1 Covid19 opening guidelines.

There has been a good response to the Conservation Contest. It will run until the next water bills are out.

Community Partners Committee will be meeting in September. Date TBD

**Noted and discussed**

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**Councillor Tim Lewis**

**Council Report**

**For Committee as a Whole – August 26, 2021**

**By: Councillor Tim Lewis**

**Committees, Boards, and Activities Attended:**

Transportation and Infrastructure (Chair)

**Items of Interest to Report on:**

A meeting was held on August 23 between Brigitte Doerksen, Brian Wiebe, Mel Baxter and Tim Lewis.

The Morris Industrial Park has now been completed as per specs other than hydro is not in yet.

The Multiplex parking lot land drain system is complete and the main parking lot area is ready for a top layer of asphalt. The asphaltting will likely commence about September 15 in conjunction with highway 23 east. The west lot will be graded with new base. This project is still on budget.

Public works is working closely with Manitoba Infrastructure for the highway 75 south project and with Manjit Chana for the highway 23 east project.

The Town of Morris has been averaging a 15-25% water consumption reduction from last year due to the PVWC mandatory reduction request. The rain barrel refill program is working well and increasing in numbers. PW is participating in weekly conference calls with PVWC and other communities.

The garbage and recycling area at the shop is continuing to see bins overflowing and abuse of the area. From video surveillance it would appear that much of the problem is coming from outside of the Town residents. PW is considering the possibility of a gate on the property with signs letting people know that access will only be allowed from 7:00 am until 4:00pm.

- **Morris Museum working with Pembina Manitou Archives**

**Noted and discussed**

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**Councillor Mel Baxter**

**VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY REPORT**

The 2020 Valley Regional Library 23rd annual report is out now and is available through the library. Membership stands at 2827 and is free for resident families of the RM and town of Morris. The year 2020 saw an upgrade to

the public washroom, improved lighting inside and out, an introduction to a free tax service for those who income qualify and the purchase of a few tablets and e-readers to be loaned out to seniors in the community.

The future looks bright with helpful grants being received to build a gazebo and patio area for next year. Digital magazine service continues to be investigated with the closure of the previous supplier. Hopefully the province will pass the status of library tax exemption bill and review per capita funding to libraries as well. A big Thank You to all the volunteers who assisted the library

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**Noted and discussed**

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**Councillor Ruth Murray**

MASS- Repairs completed. The grant from Morris Foundation went for disposable food containers needed for the meal program.

WEED DISTRICT- Weekly reports received. Meeting on August 30.

MORRIS & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE -We received a shop local grant to help support our local businesses. A Shop Local Bingo has been organized.

All business with organizations has been done via e-Mail and phone calls

**Noted and discussed**

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**Councillor Trevor Thiessen**

- **Morris Manor**
- **Protective Services**
- **Pembina Valley Water Coop**

**Noted and discussed**

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**Project Board Reports:**

**Assisted Living Project – Chris Hamblin**

**New Business:** None

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.