



**Council Committee as a Whole**

**Minutes**

**October 14, 2021**

**6:30 pm**

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

Also in attendance: Arien Peterson

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**Delegations:**

**7:30 – Morris Early Learning Centres** - Discussions on government funding, community involvement, hiring ECE’s

**8:00 – Willow Park Committee** - Presented plans for Willow Park refurbishment to be completed May 2022

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

**Mayor Scott Crick**

No Report Submitted

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**Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin**

**Assisted Living Report**

Red River Group has submitted some information for us to review in preparation to make a decision on seeking their expertise to help move this project forward.

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**Economic Development Committee Report**

Morris Industrial Park - Action has been slow due to summer and Covid restrictions. Spoke to Realtor about Interest level. There has been some interest but it has also been slow. He was expecting a serious offer to come in shortly

I have enquired about having some signs made to promote the Morris Industrial Park. I am waiting for a quote on these signs. Would like to go with 10’ X 20’ signs – potentially with one on 75 hwy; one on each of Hwy 23 east and Hwy 23 west. I will bring the quotes to council as soon as I have them. Signage will be simple and to include: Morris Industrial Park, Serviced Lots now available; Call 204-746-2531.

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**Valley Agricultural Society**

Heartland Rodeo and Grit and Grace Barrel Racing – these events ran very smoothly and were well received by spectators and participants. Having a rodeo presence was seen positively by all involved and I believe this was positive for the community. This event helped the VAS meet the granting requirements with the Province of Manitoba and with sponsorship, will net a small profit.

I continue to work on assisting with the accounting. It has been busy following the rodeo and added to this is the year end of September 30. We are hoping to have the books wrapped up shortly and available to the accountant to finalize the financials in preparation for the Annual General Meeting to be held on November 25, 2021.

#### **Noted and discussed**

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#### **Councillor Margaret Johnston**

##### **Community Partners Meeting**

The Southern Health Region is still in a restructuring process.

Human resources are a challenge for our area, as it is across the province. Several vacancies within our area, and with staff picking up available shifts and Agency nurses, they are able to fill these.

Emerson Health Center struggles the most with staffing.

The Nurses Desk at Morris Hospital, that has been in the works for years, is still not in place yet. A goal for June 2022 for this project is now tentative!

At RRVL, the staff room improvements were done. The office area is currently being renovated. And landscaping the courtyard are upcoming.

At Emerson Health Center, there has been improvements to outdoor lighting. And a new shower room is in progress.

With the provincially mandated Covid19 Vaccination by October 18<sup>th</sup>, an action plan is in place.

Visitation at the facilities has improved but is still restricted.

A big shout out to the Morris Handi-Van group!! It has been well used and much appreciated by our health care facilities!

Terms of Reference for this committee will be discussed re possible changes related to the way that Southern Health has restructured.

#### **Noted and discussed**

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#### **Councillor Tim Lewis**

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

Transportation and Infrastructure (Chair)

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

A meeting was held on October 7 between Brigitte Doerksen, Brian Wiebe, Mel Baxter and Tim Lewis.

The Multiplex parking lot land drain system is complete and the main parking lot area is being lowered by 1" to accommodate 3" of fresh asphalt. The asphaltting is scheduled to take place October 16 and 17 and the line painting 2-3 days later. Signs will be put up at both entrances to thank the sponsors of the parking lot project. Does council want Mr. Poersch's name on the signs as well?

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. We are still under a state of emergency. The rain barrel refill program is now done. PW is participating in weekly conference calls with PVWC and other communities.

The decorative light poles on the corners of Main Street in the downtown area require repair and or replacement and the cost to remove, sandblast and re-paint would be about \$20000.

Public works would like to budget for new benches, planters and hanging baskets in 2022.

The 15 new Christmas light fixtures have arrived and will be put up this year.

**Recommendations:**

It was felt that the decorative light poles should be removed altogether and possibly re-painted in the shop as time permits and re-use them in other locations (parks, walking trails, etc.)

**Noted and discussed**

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**Councillor Mel Baxter**

**Morris District Handi-van Report**

The Morris Dist. Handi-van committee recently passed a Covid transportation policy for utilization on all 3 vehicles. Implementation has already begun with cooperation from all passengers. A motion was passed for an additional garage to be added to the existing PW town site. Estimate from Morris Build-all is approximately \$30,000 for the project.

**Noted and discussed**

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**Councillor Ruth Murray**

**Chamber of Commerce-**

Held the AGM meeting on Oct 5 @ 8:00 a.m. This was such a successful AGM meeting held at The Stampede INN Most of the executive met there in person & were joined with Chamber members via ZOOM as well. We were all able to view who was there as well as partake in the election of the executive .A Power Point was presented by Cheryl listing our activities for the year which consisted of a Graduation Award, Wild West, support to the Halloween Haunted House ,Christmas Lighting Contest, Shop Local Business Bingo, and the Chamber Bucks were revamped. (Not bad for a Covid year).

Election was held for the new directors who are as follows:

President-Cheryl DeMarck, Membership-Andy Anderson, Advertising-Pat Schmidtke, Treasurer- Annette Bergstresser ,Town Rep- Ruth Murray,& Chair Person ,Administrative Assistant -Cheryl Crick.

**District Weed**

in Letellier Harold Janzen is now chair.-Approved minutes of previous meetings ,finances, & inspectors report. Discussed the noxious weed as well as the grasshopper program .There were fewer unsightly properties in Morris. Luke will be working on the M.I .agreement .We will be requesting letters of support from the R.M. of Montcalm & the Town of Morris to be sent to CNN as they do not follow any orders.

**MASS**

Just phone calls to keep in touch.

**Noted and discussed**

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**Councillor Trevor Thiessen**

Report given verbally - Morris manor

**Noted and discussed**

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**Project Board Reports:**

**Assisted Living Project – Chris Hamblin- covered in report**

**New Business: No new business**

Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.