



**Council Committee as a Whole**

**MINUTES**

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**6:30 pm**

***In attendance: Scott Crick, Tim Lewis, Mel Baxter, David Funk, Taylor Braun, Chris Hamblin (via Microsoft Teams) and Trevor Thiessen (arrived at 6:56pm)***

***Gallery in attendance: None***

***Also in attendance: CFO, Chris Janke***

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***Delegation: Melissa Marion Presentation @ 6:30 p.m***

- *Melissa provided her Facilities Manager Report to Council.*

**Noted and discussed**

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

**Mayor Scott Crick**

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

- Oct 30-Nov 3, 2022: Meeting with Councillors (6 hours)
- Nov 2, 2022: Economic Development Meeting (2 hours)
- Nov 17, 2022: RRBC Gala (3 hours)
- Nov 21-23, 2022: AMM Convention (20 hours)
- Dec 2, 2022: Dekalb Sponsor Evening (2 hours)

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

- Nov 11, 2022: Remembrance Day (1 hour)
- Dec 6, 2022: Fire Department Meeting (1 hour)

**Items of Interest to Report on:**

1. In speaking with multiple organizations in our community, I have noted that many struggle to find volunteers and Board members. Also understanding we have had some turnover in our local population, I was wondering if the Town should consider holding an “open house” for these organizations allowing them to meet people and discuss their organizations. Welcome everyone’s feedback on this, and ideas how to get the most robust turnout we can.
2. At previous council, we had discussed establishing a 10-year plan for the Town. Although this was somewhat derailed through Covid and we were not able to do the community consultation we would have liked, I’d like to bring this back to Council. Possibly a “Morris 2035” plan is now in our planning window, and I would like

us to discuss this as a group, and what value we believe it would have. I am a big fan of intentionality, and making small decisions now towards a longer term plan can be helpful for this and future Councils.

3. Speaking of public consultation, I would be in favour of having an open house with our citizens. Would welcome everyone's thoughts on, if and when, we should hold this.
4. I attended the Fire Department meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> to say thank-you to Chief Zilkie. With Wes leaving the community, the Department Executive has all moved up one rung until their next departmental elections in December 2023. I would like to congratulate Trevor on his appointment to Chief.
5. I would also like to offer a thank-you to Chris and Lorne Hamblin for 15 years of service to the Dekalb Superspiel. My understanding is that they will be stepping away from their chairing of the event, and I genuinely appreciate how they have brought both attention and people to our community.

**Noted and discussed**

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**Discussion of Councillor Serving as Fire Chief for the Town of Morris**

1. Mayor Crick will prepare an agreement to be signed between the Mayor (on behalf of Council), the CAO and Councillor Thiessen. If all parties are amenable to this agreement, then it will be executed, and Councillor Thiessen will have a clear understanding how we will need to manage this dual role moving forward.

**Noted and discussed**

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**Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin**

Assisted Living – A meeting is planned for Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. More to report after that meeting.

Valley Agricultural Society – Annual meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the MultiPlex. I encourage all to attend.

Morris and Area Foundation – Webinars “lunch and learn”, have attended 2 so far. One more in January. Useful to provide some background on operations of the Foundation. Reception and celebration of grant recipients on December 13<sup>th</sup> at the MultiPlex. I encourage everyone to come out and attend and learn about the good things happening in our area.

Economic Development – Michelle Richard's people have been meeting with office to investigate areas for our next steps. Will try to get a report from them for January report.

**Noted and discussed**

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**Councillor Taylor Braun**

Valley Regional Library Board Meeting Report – November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

\$1400.00 remaining left to spend on the gazebo project, which the Province will match.

Plans to reach out for help in regards to applying for and keeping an eye out for new grants.

Requested funds from Morris Area Foundation in the amount of \$2,000.00 but were denied.

Reconditioned computer donated by Sean Conway. He will keep his eyes open for a good deal on a new one.

Applying for a Federal grant (minimum application of \$10k) looking at ramp and bike rack repairs.

Purchase a new tea kettle – hopefully this one won't fill the building with smoke.

**Noted and discussed**

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**Councillor Tim Lewis**

Transportation and Infrastructure (Chair)

A meeting was held on December 7, 2022 between Brian Wiebe, Taylor Braun and Tim Lewis.

New stainless steel hanging basket hangers are being manufactured by the school welding shop. The Christmas lights have been hung up and public works is proposing 6 more lights be purchased next year and a few more poles have plugs put on them.

The new development lift station required both backflow preventer valves to be replaced and parts are still on order. The trailer court lift station pump has been repaired and reinstalled.

Brian is working on the public works budget and should have it completed by December 16.

There was one small wording change made to the public works on-call policy and a couple of small changes and clarifications made to the snow removal guidelines. The snow removal guidelines will be posted on the Town website.

There was a water break in Oak Bay that was caused by Bell and was quickly repaired.

A new street sander was purchased in time for this winter's street cleaning.

The ice is in and the boards should be going up this week for the outdoor arena and the toboggan hill will be built as we get more snow.

**Noted and discussed**

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**Councillor Mel Baxter**

**Morris Area Senior Services Report**

The hiring of a cook for the supper meals is still an ongoing multi advertising effort. Some contacts have been made but no luck so far.

Through grant projects the hookup with Valley Fibre for service to the center is moving forward. TV service in the lounge, dining and games room should occur soon.

The M.A.S.S. Annual Meeting is set for Tues. May-30/2023 at the Davidson Center.

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**Morris District Handivan Service Report**

The handivan committee voted to increase the service charges on trips to reflect the additional expenses for fuel and driver's wages. This is the first increase in a number of years. The committee will start to investigate costs involved in vehicle replacement as the Ford Edge is nearing its end point for usage with the handivan service. All vehicles have been fully serviced for the winter.

**Noted and discussed**

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**Councillor David Funk**

Nothing to report - has not attended any meetings since the last Committee as a Whole meeting.

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**Councillor Trevor Thiessen**

- Pembina Valley Water Coop Meeting
- Morris Manor
- Morris MultiPlex

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**Assisted Living Project – Chris Hamblin**

- Work is on-going towards the new corporation

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**New Business:**

- **Letter from Morris Pickle Ball Group**
  - Arien Peterson, the Recreation Programmer, will be contacting the group to work at developing a Pickleball Program with them.

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**In Camera Items:**

- **Moved by** Councillor Tim Lewis  
**Seconded by** Councillor David Funk  
Be it resolved that Council go in Camera to discuss a property issue.

**Moved by** Councillor Tim Lewis  
**Seconded by** Councillor David Funk  
Be it resolved that Council resume it Committee as a Whole Meeting.

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Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.