



Council Committee as a Whole

MINUTES

February 9th, 2023

6:30 pm

In attendance: Taylor Braun, David Funk, Mel Baxter, Chris Hamblin

Also in attendance: CAO Brigitte Doerksen

Not in attendance: Tim Lewis, Trevor Thiessen

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

Mayor Scott Crick

- Will provide a formal report next meeting.

Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin

Pembina Valley Reeves and Mayors – meeting January 27, 2023 at the Winkler council chambers

Meeting was chaired by Henry Siemens

Meeting started with a vote to have Henry Siemens become chair.

1. It was asked that each municipality discuss what they thought were the top 3 to 5 priorities should be for this group to focus their attention on. Suggested that they meet again in about 6 – 8 weeks and bring these priorities forward. (one suggestion was Provincial Road Infrastructure)
2. Current concern (not a concern of our municipality) was the response to the group lobbying to have funding cancelled to libraries due to certain books being included in the libraries that this group felt were inappropriate. After much discussion and hearing what various municipalities have said, it was generally agreed that they were going to affirm the funding and their board appointments as this was the extent of their authority. The group decided that they were not going to write a joint letter at this time but might consider it later if there is need.
3. Some discussion on the PVWC's request for funding for capital funding. There are some grants available but most require matching dollars. The feeling was that the province needs to kick in more dollars as the economic returns from the region justify more support. Mixed reaction on the support for funding the capital improvements. Generally agreed that the need is there but reluctance to ask the local tax payers to contribute more. Don suggested that PVWC needs to keep all the municipalities involved and that the mayors and CAO should be invited to the February meeting.
4. Boundary Trails Hospital – has requested each municipality provide the Hospital with \$110/capita to fund their capital expansion. Winkler, Stanley and Morden are planning to contribute and are assessing over 3 or 4 years. Some are per assessed value and some are per roll number. Rhineland is not sure of their support as they have their own hospital. They might consider a lesser amount. R M of Morris suggested that they would likely leave it up to the individuals to make a donation rather than do a levy through taxes.
5. Short discussion on asset management, housing needs
6. Decided the group would meet quarterly with heads of council and CAOs (or representatives of these)
7. Next meeting in Altona.

Economic Development Committee

A meeting was held on January 20 with representation from M Richards & Associates, Emerson – Franklin and the Town of Morris. This meeting was to discuss options for promoting a Corridor 75 approach to marketing and attracting business to our areas. Discussion around doing a strategic planning around this plan. We have been asked to identify who we think needs to be involved – organizations and who from the organizations. M. Richards & Associates is looking to meet with councils involved in early February.

A working meeting was held on February 2, 2023 the Economic Development Committee to review the community profile; the Investment Assessment Tool kit and the Morris Industrial Park Report. Feedback was provided. There was some discussion on hiring someone to do professional photos and / or video to enhance the web appeal.

Also looking at a strategic planning session with the council to bring focus to the economic development plans for the Town for 1 or 2 years out and also for 5 years out and beyond. They would facilitate this session and is looking towards mid March to assist us in establishing several pillars along with the actions needed to bring results.

The Economic Development Committee also met with Manitoba Infrastructure on January 25 to receive an update on the extension of the dyke south of Morris to complete the flood proofing of that portion of highway 75. The contract has been awarded to complete the finger dyke and work will begin as soon as spring arrives and work is possible. It is hoped that this will be complete by the end of the summer. The committee encouraged them to look to alternate ways to temporarily dyke the highway should we have high waters again this spring to ensure the highway does not close unless absolutely necessary. Another meeting is planned for March 23 for flood forecast updates and related information.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Taylor Braun

Public Works Report - February 06, 2023

Snow Removal

- Priority street boulevards cleared
 - Toronto East
 - Railroad east & west
- Sidewalks scraped down

Main Street

- Centre median signs straightened
- BMO & Santa Lucia light posts to come down Feb 7th-10th

COR

- External audit to be completed February 8th

Budget 2023

- Submitted for review

Water Plant

- Waiting on tender information from engineers

Winter Activities

- Outdoor rink being used
- Toboggan hill under construction

Shop Equipment

- 3-ton truck repaired & back in operation

Staffing

- Preparing advertisement for a full-time permanent employee
- Mid-Feb posting w/ April 1st start date

Chamber of Commerce

LED BOARD – 6 spots open/ 12 total.

- Town of Morris grant is finished and submitted
- AGM March 8th, 2023
- Planning session with Triple R in April
- Pat Schmitke was saying that he would provide the space needed on the side of his building (Tim's drive through) if we (Council) wanted to put a sign up there advertising the industrial park.
- Couple changes to Christmas Lights contest.
- Chambers wishes to be kept in the loop in regards to public meeting for assisted living project if and when that happens.

Valley Agricultural Meeting

- Committees have been updated.
- Decided to cancel farmers market for now due to not enough continued support.
- Will offer haunted barn to other organizations – too much work for little return.
- Charity of choice for 2023 will be Soldier On.
- Looking at offering businesses/groups from surrounding areas discounts for those with over 25
- Board governance training being booked.

Valley Agricultural Meeting

Planning of Stampede 2023 is in full swing in regards to booking things.

- Looking at revamping concert times so that it does not interfere with rodeo times.
- Working on creating an "Accessibility VIP Stage" on the front of the grandstands.
- Applying for numerous grants
- Perimeter fencing, handles on grandstands and fixing of steps are some big ticket items needing to be done
- Increase ticket prices to include fees and taxes as we had a number of complaints last year.

Library Meeting

- Still looking for quotes on furnace
- Claudia is wanting to cut back on some of her duties so potentially looking at hiring another body.
- Tax Clinic to start March 1st, 2023
- Asking RM to increase their per capita amount for the library
- Per capita rate may change as per Public Library Service in the coming months.

Fire Department Meeting

- It was brought up to maybe look at having some of the firefighters go for a certification in mental health for first responders.
- Some, if not all of the crew will likely be taking part in a note taking training session.
- Wondering if there is an EAP program offered to the Fire Department through the town?

- 6 calls in January
- Potential team up with Oak Bluff Colony. Oak Bluff has two fire trucks but little equipment and slim knowledge in regards to fire fighting knowledge. Would like to team up with our department to learn more, train and see what equipment each organization has.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Tim Lewis
-not in attendance

Councillor Mel Baxter
Wellness Board Update

The Wellness board met in late January. The new gym manager indicated that things are going well. He is available Mon. to Thurs. 5 to 7 pm and responds to emails daily.

The need to upgrade a new fob entry system was discussed. Newer systems work off a QR code on a members smart phone. Quotes are to be investigated.

Finances are improving. The CEBA loan is still on the books. Grants are being applied for. Inquires were made as to a contract renewal with the multiplex. They were advised to put a financial presentation together and bring it to the Multiplex committee and/or council.

M.A.S.S. Board report

M.A.S.S. has received 3 to 4 applications for the cook position at the Davidson Ctr.

The phone line and dining/lounge room TV's have been enrolled with Valley Fibre and are working well.

Serious mould problems have been detected in the games room West wall. Samples have been taken and air quality checked. Manitoba Housing is to build a temporary barrier while corrective actions are considered.

Board replacements - Ruth Murray will continue as a board member.

Note and discussed

Councillor David Funk

Events Attended (Paid):

- January 15- Morris Museum Executive Meeting (1.5 hours)
- January 16- Morris Curling Club Executive Meeting (1.5 hours)
- January 17- Morris Early Learning Centre Executive Meeting (3 hours)
- January 21- Morris Curling Club Vision 2023 Strategic Planning Session (5 hours)

Items of Interest:

- Morris Museum AGM tentatively scheduled for March 15.
- Curling Day in Canada- February 25. MCC is working on hosting a family curling day in conjunction with the national curling day in Canada. This event will offer a brief training session/tutorial on curling, two or three 4-end games, plus a coupon for the canteen. Continuing ways to expand the membership.
- MELC executive attended the Community Futures board orientation. Very informative session. Provided good direction to the board regarding roles and responsibilities. Next step into implementing new bylaws and policy manual.
- MCC Vision 2023 was hosted by Scott Crick. Various stakeholders for MCC gathered on Saturday, January 21 to discuss and plan the vision for MCC moving forward. Areas of priority include membership, hiring of a club manager, marketing and engaging the volunteer base.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Trevor Thiessen
-not in attendance

New Business:

1. MGRA Newsletter
2. Ec. Dev- Strat Planning session with M.Richards Inc. (potential date for March)- Chris to report.

Noted and discussed

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.