



**Council Committee as a Whole**

**MINUTES**

**March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**6:30 pm**

***In attendance: Tim Lewis, Mel Baxter, Taylor Braun, David Funk, Chris Hamblin, Trevor Thiessen***

***Not In attendance: Scott Crick***

***Also in attendance: Arien Peterson***

**Delegation: 6:30**

**BTHC Foundation representatives Deb Wier – RM of Thompson, Ben Friesen – RM of Stanley and Kyle McNair presented on the 10-million-dollar expansion of Boundary Health Centre.**

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

**Mayor Scott Crick – Absent/Excused**

**Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin**

Community Partners Meeting on February 23, 2023

The Community Partners meeting was held virtually (with a few in the board room). Updates were provided. Morris Hospital continues to maintain 24/7 emergency. There are few occasions when it is closed due to nurse shortages. Hospital beds are currently at 14. They would like to get back to the 23 beds but again nurse shortages are preventing this from happening. Both the hospital and the PCH are using agency nurses but they feel the care is consistent as most of them are repeat nurses.

The Emerson / Morris Health fund held by Morris and Area Foundation was reported on. The Emerson facility has spent their portion but the Morris hospital has not. They have done some painting and plan to do more. They are also planning the upgrade to the nurses station and are hoping to complete the project by June. They are looking at adding railings but this will come out of the regional budget, not the MAF fund.

Other facilities also updated on their vacancies and projects underway. Most projects are smaller in nature and general maintenance.

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**Economic Development Committee**

Work has been continuing with Michelle Richards. The committee met with them on Feb 2 to review some of the sector profiles. We met again on March 1. They are continuing the work to put together the Town profile for promotion. Looking at updating video and pictures for the website as well. They will have a workbook ready mid March in preparation for the Economic Development Strategic Planning Session on March 30. Once ready, questions will be circulated for response. Looking to seek responses from various areas.

They have raised a question on the water and waste capacity. They have suggested applying for a grant to study our infrastructure and its capacity. Also need to look at other grants for improvements.

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**Noted and discussed**

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**Councillor Taylor Braun**

Library Board Meeting – currently they have the per capita split 60% Town of Morris and 40% RM of Morris. They are hoping and working on getting away from this as they actually do see more usage of the library from RM of Morris residents.

Free tax clinic started March 03, 2023 – spread the word that people need appointments.

VAS – Triple R Board training

VAS Board Meeting

Planning is well under way. Looking at a couple of longer term rentals for barn and campground.

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**Noted and discussed**

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**Councillor Tim Lewis**

Transportation and Infrastructure (Chair)

**Items of Interest to Report on:**

A meeting was held on March 7, 2023 between Brian Wiebe, Taylor Braun and Tim Lewis.

Snow piles along side streets have been removed and hauled away. Some sidewalks have been scraped down to bare concrete.

The decorative light posts in front of BMO and Santa Lucia have been removed and the remaining ones on the west side of Main Street will be removed when the weather warms up. The light posts on the east side of Main Street will be removed with the help of Manitoba Hydro in summer.

An external COR audit was completed and public works is working with the auditor to complete final documentation recommendations.

The public Works budget for 2023 has been completed and reviewed by the committee and has been sent on for the finance committee and council.

We are waiting on tender information from the engineers. A pump failure has been repaired.

Safeties are due in Feb/Mar on all heavy equipment. A stump grinder has been purchased.

Public Works will be doing emergency first aid and WHMIS training in the near future.

Applications are coming in for the full time public works position and will close on March 13. The new position will begin April 3.

The concerns were brought up about how the lift station property in the north east corner of town was left after construction was complete. Public works will have a look at it in spring to see if anything needs to be done on public property and if anything was left uncompleted on the province of Manitoba property.

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**Noted and discussed**

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## **Councillor Mel Baxter**

### **AMM & WESTERN FINANCE ANNUAL REPORT**

As our insurance broker Western Finance provided their annual report on Feb-22. The program is self-insured with private insurers if needed. The program is healthy with a claims surplus. Return of premium last year was 1.65% of total property premium. The group is working to enhance abuse and harassment coverage for our policy.

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**MORRIS DIST. HANDIVAN REPORT**

The recent audit (BDO) showed finances to be in good order in spite of the Man. Govt. slow to provide the balance of grant monies owed for 2021/2022. The bus and Toyota van have both been safety. Cheryl Thiessen has been contracted to provide bookkeeping services. The AGM has been set for Mar-28th.

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**RIVERVIEW GOLF COMM. REPORT**

The Riverview Golf committee met on Feb-28<sup>th</sup> to commence the upcoming 2023 golf season.

Revisions to restaurant pricing and sponsorship packages were implemented. A quote for upgrading our course entrance signage was reviewed with more estimates to be sourced. Financial reports were given, numerous grants have been applied for and the good news is that the DFA claim has been approved for most outstanding invoices and payment should occur shortly.

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**MORRIS WELLNESS CENTER REPORT**

At the recent Wellness Board meeting approval was given to proceed with investigating and possible implementation of a new entry system, analytical data collection and security system. This would allow for improvements to administrative, marketing and organizational structure.

Also, the possible renting out the former physio space to an interested company was discussed. They are wanting to establish physiotherapy, athletic therapy, acupuncture, etc. to the area. The executive will engage the individuals involved.

Finances were reviewed and expenses are being met.

### **Noted and discussed**

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## **Councillor David Funk**

### **Events Attended (Paid):**

February 7- Morris Curling Club Executive Meeting (1.5 hours)  
February 17- Manitoba Stick Curling Banquet Presentation (2 hours)  
February 21- Morris Early Learning Centre Executive Meeting (2 hours)  
February 27- Morris Curling Club Executive Meeting (2 hours)  
March 6- EMO Spring Conditions Seminar (3 hours)

### **Morris Curling Club:**

- Two executive meetings held in February. The first meeting was held to specifically discuss the results of the Vision 2023 board retreat. One of the high priorities is to hire a club manager who can manage bookings and marketing.
- The second executive meeting was held on February 27. This meeting was more focused on regular business. Financials discussed, bylaws and policy manual update, social media responsibilities assignment.
- On the weekend of February 17-19, the Morris Curling Club was proud to host the Manitoba Provincial Stick Curling Championships. On Friday night, a banquet was hosted for all participants where I was able to bring greetings to the group on behalf of council. I attended once again on Sunday afternoon to witness the presentation of the trophies to the winners.

Morris Early Learning Centre:

- Executive meeting was held on February 21. There was excitement around the table in regards to the new centre awarded, but are awaiting more information before any action from MELC can be taken.
- Ideas were circulated around the board on staff recruitment and retention. With Rosenort getting a new centre as well, there is some concern that we will have a harder time recruiting staff, even with the chance of existing staff moving to the other centre.
- Preliminary budget talks were held. Budget to be finalized next meeting.
- Code of Conduct policy presented as a draft. Second reading to be held at next meeting. Storm Closure policy revised.

EMO Spring Conditions Seminar

- Data presented on precipitation, snow moisture content, soil moisture content and potential spring forecasts.
- Drought update, likely no drought this year.
- Education on disaster financial assistance (DFA) program.

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Recreation Report March – 2023

- Arien attending Rec Connections Conference March 13-15
- Morris School Sr & Younger years gym classes have been making great use of snow shoes, broom ball and the outdoor recreation areas. Working with younger years to use gymnastics equipment in April.
- Winter Carnival/Cancer Care Fundraiser March 18
  - Activities Include:
    - Outdoor Bonfire
    - Outdoor Rink
    - Toboggan Hill
    - Dog Sled Rides
    - Co-op Canteen with Hot Choc/Cookies
    - Cotton Candy
    - Curling
    - Indoor Shinny with the Twisters
    - Hot Dog BBQ
- Recreation Hockey Finishes on the 20<sup>th</sup>, will be looking at running two days a week next year if registration remains 15+
- Pickleball has had a great evening turnout and runs Tuesdays & Wednesday with day and evening drop in times.
- Non-Restricted Firearms March 11. Full registration for first class, opened another for April 1
- Good Manners Obedience class followed by Leash Training runs Mondays for 6 weeks starting March 20
- Gymkyds is back starting May
- Paint & Wine Night April 6<sup>th</sup>
- Spring Fling Vendor and Craft Show scheduled April 22<sup>nd</sup>, just over ½ available tables are sold.

- **Noted and discussed**

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**Councillor Trevor Thiessen**

Weed District – Interviews for to fill position March 16,2023

Morris Manor – 13 People on waiting list. All suites rented.

Pembina Valley Water Co-Op – Letellier upgrade about ½ complete, construction concerns dealt with. Looking at an additional \$32 million in upgrades.

Multiplex- Preliminary meeting. Concern over what is happening with the North and South halls.

**Noted and discussed**

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**New Business: None**

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.