



Council Committee as a Whole

MINUTES

April 13, 2023

6:30 pm

In attendance: Trevor Thiessen, Mel Baxter, Tim Lewis, Taylor Braun, Chris Hamblin, David Funk and Mayor Scott Crick

Also in attendance: CAO, Brigitte Doerksen

Gallery in attendance: Lorne Hamblin and 3 granddaughters

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

Mayor Scott Crick

Events attended or Mayoral activities (paid):

- Jan 16th – Breakfast Meeting with RM of Morris (2 hours)
- Jan 20th – M. Richards Meeting (1.5 hours)
- Jan 25th – Teams meeting with MI (1 hour)
- Feb 13th – Multiplex Committee Meeting (1.5 hours)
- Feb 16th – Daycare Announcement in Lorette (2 hours)
- Feb 21st – Joint Council Meeting w/Montcalm and Emerson-Franklin (1.5 hours)
- Mar 23rd – Teams meeting with MI (1 hour)
- Mar 24th – Meeting with Industrial Developer (1.5 hours)
- Mar 30th – Strategic Planning Session (2.5 hours)
- April 3rd – Mayors, Reeves, and CAOs Meeting (AMM – Winnipeg) (4 hours)
- April 4th – Spring AMM (4 hours)
- April 11th – Teams Budget Review Meeting (1 hour)

Events attended or Mayoral activities (unpaid):

Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr: In the Mayor's Chair (2 hours)

Items of Interest to Report on:

1. Apologies for taking so long to submit a report. Been a hectic few months, and I do think it is important that we have written submissions for the minutes. I will not describe all activities over the last few months, but will try and focus on subject areas.
2. I am very excited to see how the "Hwy 75 South Caucus" project will evolve. Part of the work done so far was meeting with a developer at their request to talk about marketing our community and the Industrial Park. We received some very positive feedback, and will look to turn this into action once our current Industrial Park marketing agreement ends in May.
3. I have also appreciated the work done so far with M. Richards, and thought the strategic planning session allowed us to take stock of where we are, and look at areas where we can improve focus in the next few years. I am also looking forward to bot having M. Richards interact with the Chamber of Commerce, and help us arrange for a public forum.
4. It is nice to hear that the daycare process is moving along well, and we are very fortunate to have received a multi-generational asset for our community. Feedback has been almost completely positive, and having a new larger facility will help prepare our community for future growth.
5. It was also good to see AMM make efforts to solicity more feedback from its member municipalities at the M,R&CAO meeting. Although I felt the direction for discussion was somewhat boxed in by the questions that were asked, I thanks President Blight for putting the effort into keeping touch on important issues outside of convention resolutions.
6. As a reminder, AMM will be having director elections at the spring regional meetings. If anyone was interested in running, they should stand up.

Noted and discussed

Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin
Economic Development

Council met with Manitoba Infrastructure to discuss Highway 75 and potential flooding. At this point, they were confident that flooding would be minimal with the worst case scenario requiring the north dyke to be closed. This would cause minimal impact as we have the detour via highway 246. Since this meeting, we and south of the border have had significant snow fall. It has also remained cold so concern has increased for the area to see some level of flooding. We have impressed upon Manitoba Infrastructure that efforts must be made to keep the highway open with the use of temporary highway diking. They have assured us they have heard our concerns but obviously are not able to make any commitments at this time. I believe we should seek out another meeting for further updates as spring approaches.

The Economic Development Committee met on April 6 to discuss budget needs going forward. The committee is recommending continuing with M. Richards and Associates to assist the Town with Economic Development and promotion of our community. We are also asking for budget to provide some signage, some video/picture for use on website and for miscellaneous costs as we move forward with our assisted living project and other promotions for the community and the Morris Industrial Park.

Michelle and Associates assisted the council with strategi planning for the economic development in the community. They helped us identify our long term vision, priorities, challenges and issues. It was a good session with some comfort that many of our priorities are already being addressed but still much to do. M. and Associates will be preparing a report of our discussions for further consideration.

Morris and Area Foundation

The Morris and Area Foundation held their monthly meeting on March 14 virtually. Endow Manitoba will be hosting a “Granting for Impact” session on April 12. This will be an interactive session to help those present make better decisions.

Some of the MAF board attended a meeting in Elm Creek for area Foundations. The discussion was on the Foundations’ annual reports and ways to use them more effectively. Some discussion on using them to keep donors engaged in the local foundation.

Morris and Area Foundation will hold their Annual General Meeting on June 13 at the Multiplex. Plans are under way for the agenda for this meeting and reports are being prepared.

Discussion on the “Youth in Philanthropy (YIP)” program. The board is looking at ways to make this program more meaningful.

Next Meeting is April 12, 2023.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Taylor Braun

Chamber Meeting

Strategic Planning session with triple R on April 26th, 2023. Looking at starting to plan something for Stampede Kickoff. We are teaming up with VAS for a town wide Easter egg hunt

Library Board Meeting

Starting some small renovations at the counter to ensure easier accessibility for those with mobility requirements. Will be planting numerous trees once the weather allows. We have created a new material policy and it will be available for pick up at the library for anyone who would like it along with complaints. Tax clinic has been well attended and Claudia raised \$1000.00 for the annual Cancer Care fundraiser.

Fire Department Meeting

- Nothing to report at this time.

Valley Agricultural Society Meeting

Had Chris Hamblin on behalf of the Town of Morris come and speak to VAS about the Assisted Living project and potential land opportunities on VAS property.

Hiring a support staff for the busy months – looking like a total of 400 hours.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Tim Lewis

Transportation and Infrastructure

A meeting was held on April 11, 2023 between Brian Wiebe, Taylor Braun, Brigitte Doerksen and Tim Lewis.

Public works is currently steaming daily and will be ditching as necessary.

Once all of the snow has melted they will be washing and sweeping the Main Street sidewalks.

The water plant tender will be posted in April and awarded sometime in May. If all goes well the construction will likely begin in November or December.

The outdoor rink will come down once everything has thawed and the toboggan hill will be removed as soon as possible.

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

New public works staff members have been hired starting on April 3 and starting on May 1.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Mel Baxter

MORRIS DISTRICT HANDIVAN REPORT

The AGM for the HandiVan Service was held Mar. 28th. Audited financials were presented. The new bookkeeper (Cheryl Thiessen) was introduced and delegation of duties were discussed. Revenues were improved with the receipt of the provincial grants of \$30,000 to cover invoices from winter 2021 and spring 2022.

The Morris Super Variety store has currently announced that they are offering taxi service in Morris. Too date, the HandiVan Service is not changing their operation in any way.

RIVERVIEW GOLF COMMITTEE REPORT

Finances are still remaining as the main concern of the golf committee. Funds have not yet arrived from the DFA claim although we are led to believe that will happen soon. In addition we are waiting to hear about numerous grants that have been applied for in regards to summer student staffing and landscaping.

A proposal to join Emerson, Gretna and Dominion City in a golf lottery has been approved. Tickets will be \$35.00 which will have a prize payout of \$15,000. Each ticket will include green fees for a round of golf at a participating club.

A review of bar prices and staffing levels for the 2023 summer season is taking place.

The theft claim for our previous stolen tractor has now been completed with all funds being released.

Noted and discussed

Councillor David Funk

- Museum meeting
- Curling Club- search for a full-time manager and summer student
 - By-laws and policies in place
 - Curling Club 125th anniversary this weekend
- Day Care updates

Councillor Trevor Thiessen

Morris Manor

We continue with general maintenance as well as upgrades as they can be supported. Grants have been applied for to enhance flooring and other upgrades. The manor is full, with a 14 person wait list. I will provide financials at the meeting, however most months are positive. Again, increasing rent is necessary as it had not been done in so long and we are fully subsidized by the Province.

Weed district

We are looking at making an offer to an excellent applicant. Hope to hear soon how that goes. Providing financials for audit, and that's the juice right now. Things will pick up in the next 3-5 weeks.

Multiplex

We had a budget meeting a couple of weeks back. Hall rentals are down, and likely not expected to increase in any great way thanks to the past 3 years. Companies have recognized that virtual meetings work and are not actively booking in person. I would suggest some brainstorming could happen here. We looked at Priarie HVAC, their contract, what they bill. Billing is down from when they started, for the most part. I have personally done a bit more research and have found that Tower Engineering, who did the original build, did a terrible job. They have faced litigation in other jurisdictions. I still feel a RFP would be wise, but don't think we are getting the dark side of billing or service.

Noted and discussed

Assisted Living Project: Red River Supportive Housing Inc. -Chris Hamblin

The assisted living committee met on March 27 to review the survey and work on next steps. Based on the review, we believe we should target 36 - 42 units. We need to look for suitable locations. The committee will be meeting with the councils of Town of Morris, RM of Morris and RM of Montcalm on April 12 to discuss the results of the survey and suggestions for next steps in moving towards building an assisted living facility in the area. The

committee continues to believe that creating a major centre that can then link to others in the area to support each other in providing services to residents in all the facilities. Next steps will be determined following this meeting. Fund raising to support this initiative will be very important in moving this project forward. Timelines will also be based on the dollars raised. Construction will not begin until there are funds in place that will allow for the mortgage to be manageable with pay back based on rental fees. estimate target to be raised is \$2 million.

Noted and discussed

HWY 75 Caucus Group: Mayor Scott Crick

Nothing to report at this time

New Business:

Budget Review @7:30

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.