



Council Committee as a Whole

Agenda

November 9th, 2023

6:30 pm

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

Absent: *None*

Also in Attendance: *CAO Brigitte Doerksen*

Delegations: 6:30 Stacy Wiens – RCMP new Sgt. And Aaron Dobson new Cpl.

7:00 Cheryl Demarke - President - Chamber of Commerce

6:30 – RCMP Sgt. Stacy Wiens and Cpl Aaron Dobson introduced themselves to council.

7:00pm – Cheryl Demarke met with council to request we partner with the Chamber to host the Rings Of Influence.

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

Mayor Scott Crick:

- HWY 75 Caucus-Mid Canada Trade Corridor.

Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin

Morris Area Foundation – We are currently viewing applications for granting. We are meeting November 14th to discuss further. We also have a board training session scheduled for November 29th.

RRSH/LSRR – We have received indication that the VAS will be bringing our request for site location to a member's meeting. This is a critical step in site location. While we await this meeting, the board will be meeting to discuss and work on our next steps.

Economic Development – We are continuing to work with Michelle Richards and company to develop our website. We will be meeting this week to review draft video and draft website. Hopefully we will be ready for release before the end of the year.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Taylor Braun

Valley Regional Library Board – Looking for contractor to replace ramp/railings but is proving to be difficult as we need sand blasting and powder coating.

- Purchasing new furnace.
- Author visits/Readings lined up with **MASS**.

Morris Fire Department – We have recruited 6 new members since December, and we are currently sitting at a total of 20 members out of 21 spots. This is up from 12-24 members total last year.

- Within our group now we have a full-time ER nurse, full-time EMS/Fire as well as a CPR instructor which only benefits us.
- Our biggest struggle is still daytime calls. Right now, there are only 3 members that work in town, and one is unable to leave his job and two of us work at the same employer.
- Department has been working hard this year to get our department back on track and we feel like we have made progress with our budget and implementing a PO system for all purchases.

Valley Agricultural Society

- Board training on November 8th.
- Strategic planning schedules for the 14th.

- Awarded MCMA event of the year award!!!
- AGM and volunteer appreciation December 7th.

Morris District Chamber of Commerce – Meeting next week.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Tim Lewis

Public Works Report:

Charles Street completed.

- Landscaping to be finalized in spring.
- Stayed on schedule and budget.

Main Street

- Castle pots removed.
- Banners being replaced as need be.
- Benches to be removed for winter to ease snow clearing.

Snow removal

- Will post guidelines again.
- Will be reviewing parking bylaw with Brigitte.
- Agassiz Trail and Mulvey West (1st block) parking one side only would be beneficial.

Water Plant

- Steel floor to go in this month.
- Valves to be tested for isolating flows allowing for easier crossover of new infrastructure.
- Slight delays due to shortages.

Dutch Elm Disease

- Received Dutch Elm Disease list and sent to contractors for quotes.
- Estimating work to start in December when ground is frozen.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Mel Baxter

Morris Wellness Committee Report – Financials continue to show improvement such that money should be available to clear the CEBA loan.

- A rent proposal is being developed to submit to the multiplex manager for 2024. A new website called “PushPress” was approved to facilitate a faster and easier registration process.
- A schedule of rates was also approved with incentives for individual, family and corporate memberships.

M.A.S.S Committee Report – There has been a turnover in the cook position at the Davidson Ctr as the former chef resigned with short notice. A new replacement has been found and comes with good experience. It is hoped that this will work out well and that M.A.S.S can start up the Friday night suppers in Lowe Farm again in the new year.

- In regards to the mold situation, Manitoba Housing sent an engineer around to assess the problem. He indicated that extensive reno’s will need to be done including a new kitchen, west wall and window replacements. Apparently, monies have been put aside for this work, hopefully commencing in the Spring of 2024.
- Craft activities which have recently been started have had a slow uptake.

Noted and discussed

Councillor David Funk

Morris Early Learning Centre – The search for a director is well underway. We have contracted the services of a recruiter to help bring in a successful candidate. We are hoping that this recruiter also unearths some potential ECE (Early Childhood Educators) for us to potentially hire as well. We have had few applications for CCA’s (Childcare assistants) come in, but we need ECE’s in the centres to adhere to licensing. Next board meeting will be November 21st.

Morris Museum – Closed for the season, but the breezeway is under construction. The frame and roof are on, and the electrical has just been completed. The next step is to install the accessible door, insulate and finish the interior. The board will meet on November 20th at Community Futures for board training.

Morris Curling Club – Preparations continue for planning the DEKALB Superspiel. A stick spiel was just hosted this last weekend and other leagues are underway. The board meets on November 21st.

Facilities Manager – Report to CAAW

Pool – Renovations are well underway and ahead of schedule to where they were hoping to be in the Spring. The beach entry dig out was completed before the snow. We still have a target of opening for our regular season, end of May 2024.

Lesson registration numbers

- 2020: 242 Participants – Private Lessons.
- 2021: 314 Participants – Private Lessons.
- 2022: 572 Participants - Group Sessions & Private Lessons.
- 2023: 463 Participants - 1 Group & Private.

Town usage increased to 43.81% from 39% in 2022.

2023 was the first year introducing the new Swim for Life program. The program is designed for children to repeat each level more than once to increase confidence in the water and techniques taught. Some parents had an issue with this format. The Lifesaving Society will be evaluating the program based on feedback from their partners this year. We should expect to see changes and adjustments throughout the next couple of years.

Splash Park – Park has been shut down and lines blown out for the season.

Parks/Ball Diamonds – New shed roof still scheduled to be completed.

- Diamond 3 will need 20 yards of torpedo sand in Spring.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Trevor Thiessen

Morris Multiplex – Report to CAAW

Staff

- On October 31, 2023 there was some staffing changes, Dan and the 3 part-time arena attendants have adjusted their working hours to cover times needed.

Facility

- Efficiency Manitoba lighting project to replace all lighting in the facility is scheduled to begin late November. The cost of lighting project is entirely covered by Efficiency Manitoba.
- North Hall washroom renovations are scheduled to start beginning of December, after Breakfast with Santa.
- Arena bookings are doing good. The Area is busy most days with School bookings and throughout the evenings with Minor Hockey, Mavericks, Twisters and Private bookings.
- Kitchen has been rented regularly every month from a new renter.
- Hall bookings are looking good for the Holiday Season. We have bookings for a wedding, a social and 3 birthday parties this season, as well as our regular renters. We've been working on updating our profiles on the event websites the Multiplex is listed on and will be looking into some more marketing strategies for this upcoming year.

Morris Manor

PVWC

Noted and discussed

Assisted Living Project: Chris Hamblin

Reported above.

HWY 75 Caucus Group: Mayor Scott Crick

Reported above.

New Business:

Morris Community Development Corporation – discussion regarding bylaw and handbook.

Noted and discussed – bring to next meeting for further discussion after council review

Livestream Partner (DeKalb)

- Will be brought back to the next council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.