



Council Committee as a Whole

Agenda

December 14, 2023

6:30 pm

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

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

Mayor Scott Crick:

- Dekalb
- Economic Development

Noted and discussed

Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin

Morris Area Foundation – There have been two significant events to report on since the last CAAW meeting.

The first is the Endow Challenge which ran for the week of November 13 – 19. MAF used social media, a direct mailing, posters, and a booth at Morris Bigway to promote the event. The final number raised with the matched dollars was \$42,503.73 which is up from last year's event. This is a good indicator that the MAF is becoming recognized as an important foundation for our community and the surrounding area. MAF's fund totals are \$551,137.61 as of end of November.

The second event was the MAF's Granting Awards Celebration on December 5, 2023. The Foundation issued grants in the amount of \$19,000 with a commitment for another \$7,500 from next year's grants. The following were recipients of this year's grants.

- Morris Community Gardens – for raised garden beds.
- Valley Agri. Society – to widen the grandstand steps and add handrails.
- Sperling Community Centre – to add fire protection and security lights.
- Morris School Band Program – for upright bass pick up and other equipment purchases.
- Morris Wellness Centre – for the addition of a hip thrust machine.
- Rosenort Community Centre – for tree planting in area parks.
- Morris School – for senior year's kitchen upgrade.
- Morris Multiplex – to add an automatic door opener for access to the arena.
- Morris District Centennial Museum – to create an Honour Bench and Arbour.
- Willow Park Committee – for phase 2: a picnic shelter and washrooms.

Community Partners – met on November 23, 2023 with a combination of in person and web based.

Matt Norris chaired the meeting. Minutes from last two meetings/updates were shared and approved. (submitted to the office for filing)

Each of the facilities in the area updated the meeting on how it was going. Doctor and nurse shortages continues to be an issue. The Facilities are covering the needs with the existing staff and Locum's when necessary.

- Morris Hospital has a high priority with Southern Health for a new doctor. Matt indicated that the nursing staff is in pretty good shape.
- Emerson Health Centre – Dale indicated that they are about 60% staffed. They have added two Health Care Aide positions, one which has been filled. They are still needing more nursing staff, One full time position and two part time positions.
- Red River Valley Lodge – Reported nursing staff is okay but Health Care Aides are short. This is being covered by Locum's.
- Vita – Reported they have seven beds open but are short on nurses.

Comments were made on the importance of assisting with keeping people in their own homes and not having to rely on personal care.

Maintenance – Many examples in all facilities for general maintenance. Morris General Hospital has been approved for the upgrades to the nurse’s desk. This is partially covered with funds from the Health Fund held by MAF.

Red River Valley Lodge - upgraded their microwashers, this was also supported by the MAF. Next on RRVL list for Improvements is an upgrade to the sprinkler system.

Elderly Care – increased need for home care, assisted living suites to help our elderly. Leslie also reported that there is a 40% increase in use of the food bank.

Economic Development – Committee has met twice to further review the website developments. Website is close to ready and discussions took place on our launch plans. Looking to do something early in the new year.

Met with Cushman-Wakefield about the Industrial Park for ideas on increasing the presence. Options suggested:

- Enlisting services of a digital advertiser
- Increased signage – it was agreed that highway signage would be an asset.

We also heard from a developer that may interested in developing the Industrial Park, meeting has been arranged with them.

Members of Council joined a virtual meeting with Ryan Coulter from MB Infrastructure and Transportation, to provide us with an update on highways in our area. We expressed concerns about highway 75 north and south as well as highway 23 west. All are priority areas and he indicated he would like to see them in next year’s budget. It was indicated that 75 north will be finished first thing next year including final coat on the portions that were opened for winter travel. Properties south of town that are now inside the new dike will remain with the Province of Manitoba.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Taylor Braun

Valley Regional Library Board – Gordon Goldsborough author visit on November 29th went well, approximately 53 people in attendance and he sold around 100 books.

- 2024 budget is underway.
- Looked into efficiency Manitoba for grants available for furnace purchase – nothing available at this time.
- Have applied to do the free tax clinic again for 2024.

Morris Fire Department – unable to attend meeting this month.

Valley Agricultural Society

- AGM held on December 7th, 2023. Members special meeting was held prior to the AGM to vote on the sale of up to 2 acres to the Assisted Living Project – Members voted in favour of VAS’s recommendation.
- The board of directors for the VAS will remain as is for another term. Executive team to also remain the same except for the position of secretary.
- Youth Volunteer of the year awarded to Owen Lewis, Volunteer of the year was awarded to Tim Lewis and the Red hat Membership was given to Marcel Sarrassin.
- Announced at the AGM that in 2024 The Manitoba Stampede and Exhibition will see the return of the RCMP Musical Ride!

Morris District Chamber of Commerce – Held “Ring of Influence” event on December 1st, 2023. Attendance was good, feedback was good in regards to speakers Mayor Scott Crick and Manitoba Chambers of Commerce President Chuck Davidson.

- Seeing an increase in members especially from surrounding areas.
- Frustration with the LED sign – Technician coming out to fix it.
- Planning a lunch and learn and our annual Christmas Lights contest for homes and businesses.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Tim Lewis

Public Works Report:

Main Street

- Christmas lights are up with one waiting on hydro to change fuse. Reader board is currently not working, and technicians are expected next week.

Water Plant

- Water plant project is in progress with the concrete work now completed. The 8” valve replacement was completed and the BWA rescinded.

- New Plant to be up and functioning by March -April 2024

Current Projects

- Public Works has been doing some sewer flushing and found the new section on Mary Street between Boyne and Ottawa has separated. Contractors have been contacted and we are waiting their response.
- 74 trees are scheduled to be removed and Tree Pro is about half done the removal.

Training

- MWWA is scheduled for February.

2024 Budget

- Possible Projects For 2024 include benches and chess/checkers tables and a possible water feature for the green space at the south welcome to Morris sign, asphalt or seal coat for gravel portions of Wagon Trail and Baseball Diamond Road, phase 3 of Christmas Lights, replacement garbage/recycling bins and benches on Main Street.

Community Futures Triple R Report – Jason Denbow, executive director for CF Manitoba is now back on the CF National Board. He met with Minister Vandal who informed him that there would be no new money for anything this year unless it had to do with housing.

There will be a strategic planning session on January 11th which will include CF Manitoba Board members and managers, this will be led by Troy Dungate.

The Community Futures Pan West Conference will be held in Kelowna on February 26-28th 2024.

At the AGM the following were elected to the executive board of CF Manitoba.

- Steve Lupky, Chairman
- Tyler King, Vice-Chairman
- Furlon Barker, Secretary
- Florence Campbell, Treasurer

Noted and discussed

Councillor Mel Baxter

Morris District Handi Van Report – At the last meeting the committee reviewed its policy on wheelchair passengers-whereby safety purposes the policy states that all wheelchair passengers must have an escort. Independent living clients in wheelchairs will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. A motion to this effect was passed.

New studded tires have been purchased for the Ford Escape and a pair of new tires for the bus. Current winter tires have been put on the Toyota. All vehicles will need safety checks soon.

With the new minimum wage in Manitoba, the Hand Van committee increased the driver remittance.

The new budget for 2024 was approved.

Noted and discussed

Councillor David Funk

Recreation Committee – Meeting held on November 28th.

- As of November 28th, recreation revenue is \$5,000 higher than budgeted. A variance report will be provided once profits for the craft show have been concluded.
- \$100,000 grant received for the pool. The pool is slated to open on time.
- The pool and splash pad both closed well with no issues identified.
- The patio blocks for the picnic area will be installed next year.
- Looking into cross country ski trail, applying for Community Healthy Living Grant.
- The halls are busier than last year, with bookings straight to December 14.
- The Cancer Care fundraiser/Winter Carnival is scheduled for February 3rd.
- There has been some feedback from community members that there needs to be alternative events offered for children outside athletics (paint nights, cooking classes, etc.)
- Next meeting to be held in the new year to start discussing the budget.

Daycare

Noted and discussed

Councillor Trevor Thiessen

Noted and discussed

Assisted Living Project: Chris Hamblin

- Close to reviewing the RFP to have a design and then build proposal submitted.
- Draft document has been approved, asked to have put on agenda for discussion.

HWY 75 Caucus Group: Mayor Scott Crick

Reported on previous meetings attended.

New Business:

Morris MCC Thrift Store Letter – request for a reassessment on the taxes for the store.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.