



Council Committee as a Whole

Minutes

February 8th, 2024

6:30 pm

In attendance: Tim Lewis, Mel Baxter, Dave Funk, Taylor Braun, Scott Crick

Virtual Attendance: Trevor Thiessen, Chris Hamblin

Also in Attendance: Brigitte Doerksen CAO and Shaun Conway (Reporter)

Delegations: None

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

Mayor Scott Crick:

Events attended or Mayoral activities (paid):

- Jan 10/24: Economic Development Meeting.
- Jan 15-18/24: Red River Basin Commission Summit, Fargo.
- Jan 22/24: HWY 75 Caucus Meeting.
- Jan 24/24: AMM Executive/Director Meeting.
- Jan 25/24: Lauren Stone, MLA For Midland.

Events attended of Mayoral activities (Unpaid):

- Jan 9/24: In the Mayor's Chair.
- Jan 24/24: Misc Media inquiries, phone calls, citizen inquiries.

Items of interest to report on:

- This was the first Red River Basin Commission Summit I had attended, and found the subjects varied and interesting. Although many subjects did not relate to a small urban municipality, they were very informative to help understand water and drainage challenges. There were a few takeaways from this meeting.
 - a) The movement to regenerate agriculture was very interesting, especially hearing the discussions how this retains more water, reduces chemical and nutrient runoff, and reduces dependence on chemicals. Parts of this are already well-entrenched in agriculture (i.e. low/no till), and it will be interesting to see more data supporting the cost/benefit to producers. Regardless, the more regenerative agriculture that occurs, the better it is for flooding.
 - b) The USGS has been working on stochastic models for Red River flooding, with the hope of eventually creating predictive models for flooding. In review of a century's worth of data, it was determined that they were unable to develop good explanatory models for high water years, meaning their ability to predict is very limited.
 - c) Reports from the NWS showed the depth and moisture content of the US snowpack and probability of 2024 flooding looks to be very low. This report was in advance of our recent melt, suggesting the risk remains low.
- HWY 75 Caucus meeting.
 - a) I was able to visit with the caucus at the meeting, and discussion continued at our meeting. Of note, Dave had a meeting with PrairiesCan (Western Diversification) and there was some enthusiasm for our initiative. The group has scheduled a meeting in February with Ministers for both MI and ED, Councillor Baxter will be attending as I am away. Initial indications are the new government is in favor of what we are doing, and it will be good to open dialog.
- There will be a small request for funding in the 2024 budget for the Town, as some small seed funding is needed for developing bylaws as well as a basic website. We also hope to have a branding exercise that involves all the Councils involved.
- Curling Centre of Excellence.
 - a) An interested citizen contacted me regarding the new governments' deferral of a decision regarding a curling centre of excellence in Manitoba, as reported in the Winnipeg Free Press. Their contention was we already had a centre of excellence in Morris and should encourage the Provincial government to support this versus a new build.
 - b) A rather prompt response was received from the Minister, and we hope to get them here for a visit sometime in the back half of March.

Noted and discussed

Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin

Community Partners – Met on January 25, 2024. Reports were received from the various health centres in the area.

Morris General Hospital – Reported that Fridays in January provided emergency coverage but moving to February and March it is looking like it will be difficult to have enough locum doctors and nurses to provide this coverage. For this reason, they are looking at reopening the walk-in clinic as a way to provide off hour care. Hours and details will be shared once it is set up. The goal is to have the hospital back up to its 23-bed capacity. It is currently at 16 and is expected to move to 18 shortly. It was cut to 14 during covid. They have put in a number of requests for updates of facility and equipment and are pleased to report that they have received approvals. The Nurses' desk has been approved and ordering will start shortly with an anticipated start of construction to occur mid to end of March. -Looking to hire some Nurse Practitioners in the area. There is a physician recruitment occurring. There will be a need for more clinical space and they are currently looking in Town for space to rent.

RRVL – Has some vacancies. They received Some Health Care Aides from recruitment in the Philippines and are looking to receive more but don't know when this will occur. Upgrades are occurring for the fire system. It is quite disruptive so they will need to have 4 vacant rooms until the project is completed in order to move patients while those rooms area being upgraded.

-Next meeting will be April 25, 2024 at 1:30pm.

Morris Area Foundation (MAF)-Met on January 16, 2024. It was reported that an extra \$26,000 was received in Donation after the Giving Challenge had completed. The Foundation is now sitting with a total value of \$866,336.

-The board welcomed a new member in Sean Conway. He will bring valuable skills to the board.

-Discussion was held on the Endow Manitoba Conference in April and board members are encouraged to attend. The Endow Manitoba will reimburse MAF for some registration fees but MAF is prepared to cover more if more directors can attend.

-Some discussion was held on creating separate funds within the MAF. This would allow local areas to have funds donated and income from these funds would be given priority to projects in the specific local area. Examples could be Rosenort, Lowe Farm, Sperling, etc. No decision has been made to move in this direction.

-Next meeting will be held on February 13, 2024.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Taylor Braun

Valley Agricultural Society- Budget completed and passed.

- Planning for both events is well underway.
- Getting a big, new, covered stage donated.
- Looking at doing some renovations to the fair office by the YFC booth to make it our year round office for our staff.

Valley Regional Library Board – Budget completed and passed.

Morris and District Chamber of Commerce- Will go ahead with the 2024 Stampede kick off again.

- New members continue to join the Chamber.
- Hosting Small Business/Self-Employed tax help seminar.
- 2023 fees for sign to be credited to business/individuals due to not working?

Morris Fire Department – Doing some training at the colony this month.

- 8 calls in January.
- 2024 budget completed and handed to Chris.
- Want to start working on a 3-5 year "best guess" budget.
- Spreadsheet created for keeping track of when equipment was put into service and when it should be retired in order to budget accordingly.
- Lights being put on the new ¾ ton truck at the end of March. Quotes came in at around \$13k.
- Waiting on decal quote for new truck
- Purchased gym memberships for the department members -Well received.
- Stampede kick off steak dinner will be a go.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Tim Lewis

-A meeting was held between Brian Wibe, Brigitte Doerksen, Taylor Braun and Tim Lewis on February 5, 2024.

Items of interest:

Main Street-Snow piles on Main Street will be moved or knocked down this week. The reader board top sign will be Replaced. Side street sidewalks are now being maintained according to the weather.

Water Plant-The 10-inch valve is to be replaced February 6th. This will require a BWA for 4 homes on Boyne Ave East. The new header tie-in will also take place this week. Coring for new pumps will take place in the next two weeks and will not require a BWA (approved by ODW). As per the Office of Drinking Water the Town will begin a lead monitoring program this year.

Current Projects- Public Works has been working on some equipment repair and maintenance as well as street and ice clearing. Grant applications have been going in. The water and wastewater tin-in for the daycare is scheduled for February 7th.

Training-Brian and Anna registered for the MWWA conference February 25-28.

2024 Budget-Public Works will be seeking increases in specific areas for green space projects. The Third stage of Christmas lights have been ordered to receive the early order discount. PW will be requesting to utilize money from the equipment reserve to partly pay for a new Toolcat from Bobcat with a bucket, broom and blade.

The east side of the PW shop is sliding, and contractors have been asked to assess the situation. In the long term a possible new shop building should be planned for. Brian will be researching grants and would like to suggest that money be set aside on an annual basis for this project.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Mel Baxter

Morris Wellness Committee Report

- Rent for PhysioGo to remain at \$600.00 for 2024.
- Windows to be tinted (1/2 way) to prevent vision concerns.
- Pursuing some new equipment (stair master & leg strength unit).

M.A.S.S Board Report

- Meal numbers continue to increase with new cook – more volunteers needed.
- No update on mold condition other than approval from Man. Housing to proceed.
- A significant increase in rent for the M.A.S.S office and storage area in the Davidson Ctr. being disputed by the board.
- Friday nights supper in Lowe Farm postponed until the logistics can be worked out.

Noted and discussed

Councillor David Funk

Morris Early Learning Centre – We have officially hired a new Executive Director. Her name is Kaeleigh Schwark and she is from Niverville. She has many years of experience in child care and will bring a lot of strengths to this position. She is only an ECE 2, so she will need to enroll in post secondary to obtain her ECE 3. I've had a few phone meetings with representatives from the province regarding the new centre and staffing. In short, the province has recognized us a priority for staffing as they want to see the first 104 space centre fully operational once we have occupancy. They are launching targeted advertising (print & radio) for ECE's in our centre. We also spoke on subsidizing centres for ECE training, staff replacement grants and hosting ECE training program in Morris.

Curl Morris – There is a meeting on February 20th to determine the future of the Dekalb Super Spiel, with both Curl Morris representation and Dekalb representatives. Dekalb financials will be finalized by February 29th, with their AGM to be held sometime shortly after. Curl Morris' financials are currently in a positive cash position, but Cheryl Thiessen, has resigned effective April 30th. There has been a shuffle in the executive with Steve Michaleski resuming the role of President, Brenda Hunt as Vice President, myself as the Secretary and Janice White assuming the role of Bar Chair.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Trevor Thiessen

- Multiplex Board Meeting.
- Valley weed meeting.
- Pembina Valley Water Co-op February 23rd,AGM

Noted and discussed

Assisted Living Project: Chris Hamblin

Red River Supportive Housing-Logement Supervise de la Riviere Rouge (RRSH) met on January 19th, 2024 at this meeting we agreed to begin phase 1 with a RFP for design of the project. The project is envisioned to include.

- A mix of 50, one and two bedroom units.
- Link to the Morris Multiplex.
- Roof top terrace.
- Covered parking spaces.
- Outdoor community green space.
- Service areas (common dining, laundry, etc.)

The project is to consider accessibility, affordability, and energy efficiency.

The goal is to have the RFP out by February 1st with a deadline for submissions to be February 15th.

Once the design contract has been awarded, we will look to visit a few facilities for further exploring of our needs.

Th RRSH will be looking to obtain a line of credit which may need to be guaranteed by each of the municipalities. This line of credit is to provide funds for initial costs and potentially costs prior to the fundraising beginning.

Noted and discussed

Moved by Mel Baxter

Seconded by Tim Lewis

BE IT RESOLVED that council go in Camera to discuss the Assisted Living Facility Project Development.
(carried)

Moved by David Funk

Seconded by Taylor Braun

BE IT RESOLVED that council resume their Committee as a Whole Meeting.
(carried)

New Business:

- Council tasks-look at other websites to compare our own – Ones that would stand out and are accessible – MB Accessibility Grant being applied for to upgrade Town Website, Multiplex including mobile apps.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.