

RM OF SPRINGFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, December 1, 2020 1:00 p.m.

WITHOUT PREJUDICE (E&OE)

 [Zoom Meeting Log In 1](#)

It is interesting to note that never before and not for this December 1st. Council meeting has a simplified Log In been available. However for the Planning Meeting November 26, 2020, a one click Log In Icon was included. For previous meetings and this meeting, it has been necessary to ZOOM into the meeting by entering a long string of numbers and letters and going through a complicated process to access the meeting. ONE WONDERS WHY they are not being consistent. THE SIMPLIFIED ACCESS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS. Mayor Fell goes through the motions of mentioning Question Period knowing full well that no public is allowed in RM Buildings and that no one is attending via ZOOM. In the Consent Agenda there is an AMM November News Bulletin in which a course is being advertised, AMM Education Program - New Session: Uncertainty, Resilience & Change Interactive Webinar led by Wendy HOFFORD of Legacy Bowes December 18, 2020 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, and Councillor Ralke thinks it sounds interesting and asks whether all of Council can sign up for it in spite of the \$75 registration fee because she thinks it may be of benefit to her. Mayor Fell responds "yes". I feel that if Councillor Ralke registers, she should be prepared to report back to a Council meeting on what she learned from taking the session. This would not be possible for breakout sessions at Conventions where most councillors attend and they go to different and multiple sessions all in a short space of time. But where courses are offered and certain councillors attend on behalf of the Municipality, I feel this would justify the expenditure.

NEW BUSINESS

8.1 2021 Interim Budget - Be it resolved that Council approve an interim operating budget of \$8 million Sixty-Six Thousand (\$8,066,000.00), for 2021. Mayor Fell explains this is done every year and is "business as usual". **CARRIED 6-0** **8.2 Capital Report** - Be it resolved that the Capital Report as of October 31, 2020 be received as information. **CARRIED 6-0** **8.3 Hazelridge Sports Complex Reserve** - Be it resolved that Council of the RM of Springfield approve \$9,448.49 plus all applicable taxes from the Hazelridge Sports Complex Reserve Account for repair projects. **CARRIED 6-0** **8.4 Oakbank Community Club Facilities Reserve** - Be it resolved that Council of the RM of Springfield approve \$7,140. plus all applicable taxes from the Oakbank Community Club Reserve Account for repair projects. **CARRIED 6-0** **8.5 Springfield Curling Club Facilities Reserve** - BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the RM of Springfield approve \$1,118.49 plus all applicable taxes from the Springfield Curling Club Reserve Account for repair projects. **CARRIED 6-0** **8.6 Replacement of Yield Signs** - Be it resolved that Council of the RM of Springfield authorize the Public Works Dept. to change all Yield signs within the RM to Stop signs where warranted. **CARRIED 6-0**

8.7 Curbside Refuse and Recycling Collection - Be it resolved that the Council of the RM of Springfield award the work for RFQ-WWD RFP2020-01 Curbside Waste & Recycling Collection Program to Halton Recycling Ltd. (also known as Emterra Environmental) for a five (5) year term; Operating Years 2021 – 2025 with an anticipated annual cost of \$728,000 plus applicable tipping fees and taxes and Be it Further resolved that the Council of the RM of Springfield grant authorization, subject to budget constraints, to incur extra expenditure for the additional "flowthrough" Waste Tipping Fees and Recycle Processing Fees for the Operating Years 2021 - 2025 based on the estimated fees provided by Halton Recycling Ltd. (also known as Emterra Environmental). **NOTE: I find this resolution gives authorization to unnamed staff to authorize expenditures not accounted for in the budgeting process and Financial Plan. To me it is very open ended.** Mayor Fell - Thinks she requires further discussion to make sure she understands the implications of this contract. Hasn't had all her questions answered re timelines, if program is to be expanded, how that will look for Springfield and unless further explanation provided, she will abstain from the vote. Councillor Williams agrees that it is a complicated issue and there are a lot of variables and Bredin agrees with him, while Councillor Ralke asked if there was not a deadline or timeline and that it needs to be done sooner than later. **NOTE: The deadline for bids was the beginning of November yet only now is this resolution on an agenda. Why was it left until the last minute? If the Mayor and members of Council had doubts about Emterra being given a 5 year contract for Curbside Refuse and Recycling Collection, why was this not discussed at one of the other November meetings as there was meetings on the 10th, 17th, 24th, and 26th, 2020 or called a Special Meeting.** Mayor Fell believed it had to be done by the end of the year but they had a little bit of wiggle room with regard to meetings. CAO Colleen Draper pointed out that the contract expires at the end of the year and December 15 is the last opportunity to pass a resolution. Expecting a 5 yr. contract which is a big project and might take more time to explain to be rolled out before the end of the year in detail might not be possible. Councillor Wilson could go either way, Councillor Ralke felt it had to be done and had really good discussions on it and have 6 months before it is rolled out & Mr. Phil Pawluk is present to answer any questions they have right now. Williams wants to defer, Bredin agreed with going forward provided they could work on it over time and he is kind of on the fence like Councillor Wilson, Mayor Fell has to reconcile in her head the tax increase that is going to come from this and is not looking for a full plan but would at least like to see what the plan is over the next 5 years in regards to rollout dates for expansion of the plan, changes to the plan, um. She would like to meet with Emterra and see how they could accommodate those requests before she is comfortable voting on this. She thought they were going to have the ability to meet with Emterra to have them explain how an expansion of the Program could work before it went to the vote with these type of tax implications. Councillor Ralke is concerned about the timeline and thinks they had a good discussion saying "it was irrelevant whether we could afford it or not" or how they were going to do it because the fact remains that this is what the quotes came in as. "This is where the tenders came to resolve to the result that we're in. Um it

still showed that everybody went up, it showed up that we don't have a choice, it's not like we can turn around and say we're not going to do this because then we're not going to pick up garbage if we don't enter into an agreement and as I understood it, then again Mr. Pawluk if you could give me some clarity, Emterra's not willing to engage or entertain another 6 month extension. It's either we do this or we don't and we just back out of the whole thing and then that leaves us in a worse situation so uh I think it's almost irrelevant to what it's going to do to the budget or whether it puts up taxes or whatever it's going to be the fact remains that it's going to happen one way or the other from our discussion or what I can understand it to be so if I'm completely wrong then please make me clear on that um but it's not like we had a better offer from somebody else." **NOTE: Mercifully Councillor Ralke finally paused to take a breath. However she does have a point. November 3rd. was the closing date for the RFP and yet it is only now on the agenda of the December 1st. meeting. Why has it taken a month for it to be discussed at a COW or Council meeting? Further it is now so close to the end of the year, there is little opportunity for further investigation or discussion. The previous contract had concluded and the Waste and Water Department was in chaos due to the loss of Santokh Randawa Singh and other key staff. Emterra was gracious enough to grant a 6 month extension. Now Mayor Fell is suggesting that perhaps they could get another extension. In short, if it is a subject she wishes to avoid, she is all for deferral of a decision. However it is understandable that Emterra, who has already been without a contract for almost a year, would not be agreeable to yet another extension.**

Pawluk - "I would agree with you Councillor Ralke. I think the intent of the report was to move forward to work with Emterra to get them engaged to move forward for the next plan. We know that the first 6 months we're going to be on a manual collection while they roll out uh the cart option um again time is of the essence to move that forward but the numbers sort of give us that operating budget to move forward. Perhaps we could have written the recommendation with a bit more detail to show the base line of working on the first 6 months with the um the manual collection and moving to the cart based system while at the same time negotiating and working the 5 year plan with Emterra. Um that's kind of how we saw it roll out. We've sent the questions to Emterra. A few of them to start so at least we could get them to begin the process and we're trying to schedule a date that works for Council and Emterra to meet to discuss in person but we uh the Water Waste Department wanted to have some official directive to move forward with Emterra based on our review of the proposals in that fashion." **NOTE: The Head of Water & Waste, having done his due diligence, could have summed it up in one sentence, i.e. Based on the proposals received, it is my recommendation that we accept the proposal of Emterra for Curbside Waste & Recycling Collection Program as outlined in my report and the resolution submitted for Council's vote for a period of 5 years.**

Mayor Fell said she is not against the proposal but there are several options that they "could go forward with funding, it's not all in or all out" but she just needs more information and she feels there is still a few weeks to get the information that would make her more comfortable saying "yes". She knows this is an essential service that they have to provide. She would like to speak with Emterra to see what their thoughts are about changes to the program or expanding, even filling in those gaps that exist right now. **Councillor Fuhl** wanted to defer and have the discussion with Emterra. **Councillor Ralke** wanted to move forward. Doesn't mean to be rigid. **Pawluk** responded to her that the questions went out that morning and that there may be more questions from Council. **Colleen Draper** stated they'd want all the contracts signed and in place before January 1, 2021 and answered her question by saying the Administration takes a break between December 24, 2020 and January 1, 2021 and therefore it has to be decided at a meeting before December 24th. **Councillor Ralke** is of the opinion there is nothing more that can be done now. **Mayor Fell** doesn't want them to sign something suggesting an amount and then if it is expanded and the price goes down, they're locked into that figure. She wants an assurance from Emterra that if the program expands and the price is therefore reduced, they are willing to consider the change in price. **Williams** still wanted opportunity to question Emterra and Bredin agreed as did Wilson. **Mayor Fell** said if necessary they could call a Special Meeting and in the meantime would like to meet with Emterra to get a clear understanding of the contract. She is assuming because we have dealt with this company in the past, they would understand. **Pawluk** - Suggested they could provide a Letter of Intent to Emterra to provide for a continuity of service and that a contract would be arrived at in the near future and that service should continue until January 1, 2021 in order to allow further clarification of the details to the satisfaction of all parties. He just wanted a resolution in hand to enable him to enter into negotiations with Emterra based on their proposal. **Councillors Fuhl, Williams, Wilson, and Bredin** were ok with deferring vote for another few weeks but **Councillor Ralke** felt another few weeks would not change anything. **DEFERRED** **NOTE: More than once, people in the community have expressed to me their fear that our current Council is planning to charge on deliveries to our transfer stations. I now must agree that does seem the direction in which Council heading. What is IMPORTANT TO NOTE is that at the top of Page 2 of the report included in the agenda, it states 2 condominium complexes are included in this contract. That raises several questions, 1) Why only 2 condo complexes? 2) Which condos, why should we be providing this service to private properties, and why has that not been mentioned previously in the services being provided to condos, from their own minutes: 1. Watermain Flushing and valve exercising 2. Sewermain Flushing 3. Hydrant Testing 4. Street Sweeping 5. Excess Snow Removal 6. Maintenance and Replacement of Lighting 7. Street Light Hydro Costs 8. Sign Replacement.**

8.8 Waste Transfer Station Refuse and Recycling Hauling Tender - *Be it Resolved that the Council of the RM of Springfield award the work for RFT-WWD 2020-01 Waste Transfer Station Refuse and Recycling Haul and Processing Services to Omar's Environmental Ltd. for a three (3) year estimated base cost of \$186,900 (2021), \$189,900 (2022), and \$197,833 (2023) plus taxes and Be it Further resolved that the Council of the RM of Springfield grant authorization to incur extra expenditure for the additional "flowthrough" Waste Tipping Fees, Recycle Processing Fees, and Glass Tipping Fees for the Operating Years 2021, 2022 and 2023 based on the estimated fees provided by Omar's Environmental Ltd.* **CARRIED 6-0** **NOTE: This is the same type of issue as the previous item and yet there was absolutely no discussion. Again authorization is being granted to provide for extra expenditure not budgeted in the Financial Plan. Further attached is page 3 of the Report to Council in this regard which can be accessed through the RM of Springfield web site, Mayor & Council, Agendas for this meeting. Why does this resolution not include the actual totals of the estimated costs for the 3 year period which include the estimated tipping fees and are, for Omar's Environmental Ltd., \$371,855.00 for 2021, \$379,191.00 for 2022, and \$385,527.00 for 2023, which is a mere \$6,444.96 lower than the next closest bid (SEE ATTACHED COPY OF PAGE 3 OF THE RM'S REPORT). On page 4 of the Report is a line which reads: "The Water and Waste**

Department recommends awarding the three (3) year term to Omar's Environmental Ltd. and negotiating the proposed recycle tipping fees to reduce program costs." Is this the reason the total cost is not being reflected in the resolution, to allow for bargaining to reduce the tipping fees? THIS ENTIRE "WASTE" ISSUE, TO ME, IS JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY, FAIRNESS AND INTEGRITY, LEAD BY EXAMPLE, AND PUBLIC SERVICE MENTIONED IN THE RM OF SPRINGFIELD STRATEGIC PLAN.

8.9 Letter of Concurrence - *Be it resolved that the Development Officer be required to provide the necessary correspondence relating to the letter of concurrence for the Bell MTS Communication Tower located at 747 Gunn Road within part of the SW quarter of 16-11-4.* **NOTE:** The resolution is not as comprehensive as suggested in the report included in the agenda which reads: WHEREAS Bell MTS ("Bell") proposes to erect a wireless telecommunication tower and accessory structure on private land located on Lot 16 Block 2 Plan 1799 WLTO Exc. out of the N ½ of said Lot 16 all mines and minerals vested in the Crown (Manitoba) by the Real Property Act in SW ¼ 16-11-4 EPM Instruments Numbered 3576996/1 and 4459941/1 are registered against the above Certificate of Title at 49.916453, 96.991799; AND WHEREAS proponents of telecommunication towers are regulated by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), formerly Industry Canada, on behalf of the Government of Canada and as part of their approval, ISED requires proponents to consult with land use authorities as provided for in CPC-2-0-03; AND WHEREAS Bell MTS has consulted with the Rural Municipality of Springfield and the Rural Municipality of Springfield has no objection to the proposed telecommunication tower; PDD 2020-46 –Bell MTS – Letter of Concurrence (SW 16-11-4) 2 AND WHEREAS Bell MTS has consulted with the public and has provided 30 days for written public comment; AND WHEREAS there are no significant land use issues identified by the consultation; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: 1. The Clerk be instructed to advise Bell MTS that: a. Bell MTS has satisfactorily completed its consultation with the Rural Municipality of Springfield; b. The Rural Municipality of Springfield is satisfied with Bell MTS' public consultation process and does not require any further consultation with the public; and c. The Rural Municipality of Springfield concurs with Bell MTS' proposal to construct a wireless telecommunications facility provided it is constructed substantially in accordance with the plans submitted to the Rural Municipality of Springfield. Councillor Wilson would like ISED confirmation that no other tower is available to provide this service. CAO Colleen Draper responded that she believed that they were required to comment on that in the correspondence and she can just add a line in there. She believes it is commented on there. **CARRIED 6-0** **NOTE:** As has happened before, Council votes on a resolution that is going to be amended after the fact. What kind of responsible government is that? If resolutions can be altered after a vote is taken, how can ratepayers trust what is recorded in the minutes when it does not correspond to the audio file and to what actually took place.

8.10 Ward Appropriations - Councillor Williams - I'd like to give the Springfield Curling Club \$1,500. They have a cooler in their facility that's been there since the building was started and they've been looking at milking it along for another couple of years but um they said there was a \$3,000. charge for a new cooler so I want to contribute to that. **NOTE:** If memory serves me right, The Springfield Curling Club hit me up for about the same amount when I was a Councillor. I am assuming that amount was provided from my ward allotment. I also have been trying to get the Dugald Community Club on their kitchen upgrade to provide me with some hard information but they have had to go out for more quotes but I am sure \$1,000. is going to be a significant contribution to that. Mayor Fell - They could use a stove, a commercial stove. Councillor Williams - And you've already contributed to that, yes. Councillor Bredin - I think I also want to use my last \$500. there for the hamper program. I think that's the Kinsman so we'll clean mine up by giving them \$500. as well. Mayor Fell - I also would like....Jody, I believe I have some ward appropriation left. Do you happen to know what that number is? Jody Thiessen - Ya, looking at it, \$2,550. Mayor Fell - Ok, so I will give \$1,500. toward the hampers, please, for the Kinettes and Kinsman and \$500. towards the um what is that, freezer/cooler for the Curling Club as well. Councillor Fuhl - I'd like to add \$500. to the Kinsman hampers and \$450. to the Dugald Community Club if they have other expenses there that Councillor Williams has mentioned...sorry. Councillor Ralke - And I'm looking at doing \$550. for the hampers, the Kinette hampers and then I have just 2 other locations I'm waiting for to complete for the next Council meeting. Mayor Fell said Ward Appropriations would be on the agenda of the next meeting. She asked for a mover and seconder and Colleen Draper said just to confirm the amounts that I've read out equal what you've asked for. *Be it resolved that Council approve the following ward appropriations: Ward 2 \$1,000. to the Springfield Food Bank, \$500. to the Kinette's hamper program; Ward 5 \$1,500. to Springfield Curling Club, \$1,000. to the Dugald Community Club; The Mayor \$1,500. to Kinette's hamper program, \$500. to Springfield Curling Club; Ward 1 \$500 to Kinsman Hamper Program, \$450. to Dugald Community Club; and Ward 4 \$550. to the Kinsman hampers.* **CARRIED 6 - 0**

8.11 Deputy Mayor Appointment - Mayor Fell - Just because of the situation we're in, I've kept the Committees the same and the composition of Council in regards to the Deputy Mayor, I am going to continue with the appointment that we have so can I have a mover and seconder. **NOTE:** I fail to see what COVID 19 has to do with preventing Mayor Fell from altering her committee appointments and deputy mayor appointment. They all have laptops (provided by the taxpayers) with ZOOM capability and the ability for Conference Calls via telephone. I do not think using COVID as an excuse for the actions of Council is valid. I believe having Ralke appointed as Deputy Mayor for 3 of the four years of their term is favouritism. *Be it resolved that Councillor Valerie Ralke be re-appointed Deputy Mayor for 2020-2021.* Councillor Wilson - While we're addressing positions for appointments, I would like to ask Council to reconsider appointing Councillors to the recreation commission. This is a long standing Committee that is a specifically identified recommendation in the RM's Recreation Master Plan which this Council has endorsed and has often been quoted as following um as the advice of this Committee to Council uh particularly in this time of COVID and our consideration of major new recreation infrastructure would appear invaluable. I would move that the present motion be amended to include appointment of two members of Council to this body. Mayor Fell - I think if we want to uh re..or bring back the Recreation Commission then this would be a conversation we could put on a Committee of the Whole. Would Council be ok with that so we can discuss um

and then Staff can have some time to do some research on that? Would that be alright, Councillor Wilson? **Councillor Wilson** said that sounded ok to him. **CARRIED 6 - 0 NOTE: Councillor Wilson is correct, having a Recreation Committee is a recommendation of the Recreation Master Plan and it should not therefore be eliminated. Further considering the size of Springfield and the proliferation of recreational facilities throughout the community, it is important to ensure co-ordination of the various facilities and opportunities available for recreation by having a committee assigned that responsibility. ONE GLARING OMISSION is mention of the Aggregate Task Force and/or a Committee to ensure continuing attention to review and potential amending of By-law 73-22 with respect to the extraction of aggregate and furthering of discussions with stakeholders insofar as enforcement of the provisions therein. Nothing in that regard has been done, with the exception of appointing a Chair from a far removed municipality, since this Council took office.**

8.12 Building Strong Communities: A Circular Approach - Be it resolved that all of Council be delegated to attend the WMR Building Strong Communities seminar being held on January 28, 2021 at their discretion. CARRIED 6 - 0 NOTE: This is costing ratepayers \$500. for Council to participate in and is supposed to assist leaders in dealing with such issues as the COVID pandemic, extreme weather events, management of water, waste, and infrastructure in economic and environmentally sound ways. Frankly, Council is already dealing with these issues without benefit of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, the construct of Colleen Sklar. I feel that the cost is excessive considering one can only participate via ZOOM and Ms. Sklar is capitalizing on the current situation to maximize her profit as there will be no cost for rental of a facility and the associated provision of meals and snacks that normally accompanies these events. This Council has already proven to me beyond a shadow of a doubt that they have no interest in protecting our potable water aquifers and putting the interests of ratepayers foremost as they have approved the Berger Peat Processing Plant on Oakwood Road, the Parrish & Heimbecker Bulk Fertilizer Plant on Poplar Road, and are deliberately allowing CanWhite Sands to operate without environmental approval in the Vivian area. None of these are environmentally sound decisions and are causing great distress for residents in those areas.

WENT IN CAMERA, RETURNED AND ADJOURNED

WASTE - As there were two items on this agenda dealing with waste, I thought I might draw the readers' attention to the December 3, 2020 issue of the Clipper in which the entire centre fold is devoted to the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and their Board of Directors which are comprised almost exclusively of the founding members. The current iteration of the Chamber was a construct of Shandy Walls and Nicole Chabot, one of whom is a Director at large and the other a Past President. Ms. Walls, a former Councillor and friend of Mayor Fell, recently commenced the business Garbage Girls 204 that, for a fee, collects household waste from residents of Springfield. Emterra, as discussed above, collects from the towns and along major Provincial Trunk Highways. The difference between the two is that the first is paid directly by the user and the second is paid through municipal taxes. Emterra is required to take the waste it collects to a transfer station outside the municipality, which cost is borne by taxpayers at large. However it services only urban centres such as Anola, Dugald, and Oakbank and the major Provincial Trunk Highways while Garbage Girls, on the other hand, collects from rural properties on municipal roads and is allowed to deposit its collections at our transfer station, I believe, using their personal Transfer Station Access Card and not pay tipping or other fees. When I brought this to the attention of Council and the CAO, I was advised that Garbage Girls 204 keeps detailed records including the name, address, and customer Transfer Station Access Card number and provides that to the custodian of the Transfer Stations which record is then retained in Waste and Water files. I requested a viewing of these documents to assure myself this is indeed being done but as yet, I have received NO REPLY to my request. THE DISTINCTION THE C.A.O. SEEMED TO BE MAKING IS THAT GARBAGE GIRLS 204, WHILE IN MY OPINION IS A BUSINESS, IS MERELY COLLECTING THE WASTE OF RESIDENTS AND SAVING THEM THE TROUBLE OF TAKING IT TO THE TRANSFER STATION, therefore it is the same as if the resident themselves were disposing of the waste using their assigned Transfer Station Access Card, while EMTERRA IS A BUSINESS THAT MAKES ITS PROFIT BY COLLECTING WASTE in bulk and is not a local company and therefore must take their collections to a waste disposal site outside the municipality. I TOTALLY DISAGREE. Both Emterra and Garbage Girls 204 are providing the same service to their customers, both are being paid for waste pickup, one by the municipality and one by users, and therefore they should both be subjected to the same municipal policy. The obvious difference seems to be the relationship between the owner of Garbage Girls 204 and the Council, particularly the Mayor. To me, this is FAVOURITISM and not in keeping with the FAIRNESS AND INTEGRITY guiding principle of the RM of Springfield Strategic Plan. I noted in the advertisement for the Chamber of Commerce in the Clipper, Garbage Girls 204 was the recipient of the 2020 Best New Business award from the Springfield Chamber of Commerce of which, by the way, the RM of Springfield is a member. I have mentioned before on more than one occasion that I feel the RM of Springfield should not hold a membership in the body that lobbies governments. It opens the potential for CONFLICT OF INTEREST.