

ADDENDUM TO DECEMBER 4, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

I have now had an opportunity to listen to the recording posted on the RM web site Friday afternoon. I am offering the following additions to my notes previously sent. One comment I would have here is that it is often quite difficult for the audience to hear individual councillor's comments and what the Assistant CAO is saying except when she is reading resolutions and this is also true when listening to the recordings of the meetings.

There were 3 Additions to the Agenda:

Public Utilities Board hearing December 6

RM of East St. Paul Conditional Use Hearing

Staff Hiring

The current Procedural By-law of the RM of Springfield requires that Council be given 96 hours notice of items on the agenda. When additions are made the evening of the meeting, Council members and the public are not given the opportunity to prepare and educate themselves on these issues. At least in the case of the first two additions, one would think that information would have been available on the previous Friday when the agenda was posted.

The Reeve then announced that the **Question Period will be at the beginning of the meeting** after adoption of minutes and before reports in an effort to keep council meetings efficient. The writer is of the opinion that taxpayers interested enough to attend the meetings would prefer to speak to the specific issues on the agenda as they are being discussed. This was allowed at meetings of the previous Council, and those condominium residents raising their hands during the December 4th. meeting were allowed to speak to that issue.

Consent Agenda - It was Councillor Wilson that asked the Reeve if an audited Financial Statement from the Library is still required. The CAO will presumably report back to Council once he has spoken with Municipal Affairs in this regard and as to a number of other changes. Council Code of Conduct also needs to be reviewed in light of Bill 2.

Note: In the current Procedural By-law the agenda items are listed. Immediately following Delegations is the item Unfinished Business. This is on the agenda but to my knowledge has rarely been used. The 2 items listed above could be included there for a subsequent meeting.

Credit Cards: CAO comments: Saves writing purchase order and issuing cheques subsequently and also get points on the cards. The IT Manager's is \$10,000 as that position has "the role of acquiring larger properties from time to time" Economic Development Officer is \$5000. for incidentals, costs attending conferences, or lunch expenses.

Condominium Delegation: Administration will prepare a report for the Committee of the Whole meeting in January 2019.

9.1 Financing for Acquisition of 686 Main Street - CORRECTION A resolution was passed on this issue as follows. *Be it resolved that the Council of the RM of Springfield approve \$50,000. from the Public Building Reserve as a deposit for the purchase of 686 Main St. and be it further resolved that Council authorize that the funds for the purchase and renovations of 686 Main St. come from Reserves and or Surplus funds.*

9.9. Dugald Water Treatment Plant Upgrades - A resolution was passed awarding detailed design to WSP for \$111,815.52 to WSP who scored the highest according to the RM method although they were the second lowest bid. The explanation was that they scored higher on the technical side because of level of effort, i.e. number of hours proposed.

9.12 Hiring Freeze - The RM of Springfield passed a resolution implementing a two year freeze on the creation of any new positions excluding fire fighters and protective service employees effective January 1, 2019.

Update on Fracas: The fracas is not on the recording posted on the web site while the motion to go into closed session is and the motion to reconvene and adjournment are. **Mr. Bennici was discouraged from pursuing the matter by the Springfield Police Service Chief** and therefore decided to report the incident to the R.C.M.P. He was accompanied by two of the four people who agreed to sign affidavits testifying to what they had seen happen in the Council Chamber. Mr. Mohammed clearly seemed to be bent on confrontation with Mr. Bennici in their opinions. **The R.C.M.P. took Mr. Bennici into the interview room to take his statement but refused to accept any statements from the two witnesses who accompanied him.** They said they would be in further contact with Mr. Bennici but as of this writing, there has been no further contact. All they said at the time was that they had opened a file and provided a file number to Mr. Bennici. **It should be further noted that the reporter from the Clipper, Mr. Zerucha, was present when Mr. Mohammed confronted Mr. Bennici when the 5 minute break was called.** The only reference to this in this week's Clipper is a report from the RCMP on the Crime Scene page. It would appear there is a concerted effort on the part of the Springfield Police Service, the R.C.M.P., and the media to downplay unacceptable behaviour on the part of Reeve Fell's husband during a Council Meeting which could have escalated into a physical altercation had not the two permanent Springfield Police Service members been in attendance outside the doors of the Council Chamber.