

## RM OF SPRINGFIELD COUNCIL MEETING July 16, 2019

### WITHOUT PREJUDICE

DEMOCRACY no longer exists in the RM of Springfield, it would appear. Healthy, respectful, open debate of issues is mandatory in a democracy and this evening's meeting was proof that no such thing is allowed by Madam Mayor and her Council. In fact, they are not in compliance with their own rules as posted on their own website right beneath their smiling faces. Council Delegations Delegates will be required to submit presentation material to the administration office the Friday prior to the meeting date for inclusion in Council's agenda packages. If information is not available prior, 8 copies of all written materials will need to be provided at the meeting. Our Mayor and Council, and as you can see from my last set of Committee of the Whole minutes, the lawyer the municipality pays large sums to justify their actions, seem to think they have the ultimate authority to interpret the Municipal Act and Planning Act as they see fit and supreme power to make decisions, right or wrong, that affect the quality of life of the residents that elected them without public discussion, without their independent research, against all informed advice to the contrary and without recourse. What we have here is authoritarianism, the most extreme example of which is totalitarianism which in Wikipedia is a political concept of a mode of government that prohibits opposition parties, restricts individual opposition to the state and its claims, and exercises an extremely high degree of control over public and private life. Political power in totalitarian states has often been held by rule by one leader which employ all-encompassing propaganda campaigns broadcast by state-controlled mass media. Perhaps you may think my opinion is a little over the top but not if you attended this Council meeting. Mr. Zerucha of the Clipper was sitting in the front row with his laptop during the entire meeting, his recorder was sitting right on the Council table, and so I am sure he will accurately report everything that he observed and recorded.

AGENDA - There was one addition, September Planning Meeting.

### QUESTION PERIOD

**Darryl Speer** - While I was serving on the Aggregate Task Force for three years with Councillor Wilson and Don Rocan and Hugh Arklie and myself, we advocated for a Strategic Environmental Assessment to govern activities on aggregate bearing properties as they recharge the aquifers we depend on. Now we are dealing with the RM aggregate property being sold as stated in the Minutes and on the agenda, I think 5.1 HD Minerals' mining activity in a crucial recharge area. What I want to know is, what is the status of the Strategic Environmental initiative that was promised at our May 1st Financial Plan Hearing? **Mayor Fell** - Darryl, we will not be answering that question. It does not pertain to the agenda. Those questions have to be to our current agenda, not the Minutes from a previous meeting. **Darryl Speer** - 5.1 is on the current agenda. **Mayor Fell** - Again, if you have a question about the SEA, please send it in to your Councillor or the Mayor or the CAO and we will get back to you. **Darryl Speer** - I would like to have Council rule on this question. It is definitely in order. **Mayor Fell** - Sorry, nope. Karen? **Darryl Speer** - Point of Order. Point of Order. I'd like to have Council rule on this question. **Mayor Fell** - I'm sorry, we've already talked to our solicitor about this. **Darryl Speer** - Point of Order. Point of Order. **Mayor Fell** - Darryl, if you don't stop, I'm going to ask you to leave. Karen, would you like to ask a question or make a comment? **NOTE: Refusing to respond to Mr. Speer's question and then his Point of Order is contrary to the RMs Procedural By-law #17-08 (16.3) "A question will be ruled out of order if speaking to matters of current legislation or legal actions against the municipality" ..... "All points of order and procedures not resolved by rules provided in the by-law shall be resolved by a majority decision of Council."** **Mayor Fell has been enforcing rules that do not appear to exist in the municipal rule book**. Mr. Speer's question clearly related to the issue of our potable water supply and the potential risks to our aquifer which are a concern wherever mining is being done. On Page 11 of the RM of Springfield's Strategic Plan under Strategic Goals it states: Protection of Sustainable Water and Natural Resources. In the Minutes to which Mr. Speer refers is the sale of aggregate land belonging to the municipality to Pineridge Hollow for commercial development as follows: 10.7 Sale of Land (SE 7-12-5E) Resolution No: 19-312 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the RM of Springfield agrees to the sale of approximately 12 acres within SE 1/4 of 7-12-5E in the amount of \$218,400.00 to 3641015 Manitoba Ltd. subject to the terms and conditions within a sales agreement to be negotiated and contingent on the property being re-designated, subdivision completed, and a re-zoning completed at the cost of the purchaser. Carried (6-0) Refusal of a Point of Order is directly contrary to Robert's Rules of Order and Procedural By-law

**#17-08 (16.3). If Council and the CAO were doing their "due diligence", they would have brought this to the attention of the Mayor.**

**Karen Lalonde** - My comment, I was just wondering, um in the past Council had looked at, can you hear me, in the past Council had looked at what could be done with the leaves and the grass clippings and so forth from the urban area and they were looking at a place it could be taken rather than going into the, taken to the dump, transfer station. And with this fee by-law coming up, I was wondering, I know uh I compost but uh there is no way that I can compost all my waste, you know my household waste .... **Mayor Fell** - So Karen, I don't mean to interrupt but unless this has to do with the specific agenda, we won't be answering your question. **Karen Lalonde** - Well, it has to do with the Transfer Station and the fees, I was just wondering if we are going to be charged for all of our waste which means leaves and grass and so forth. **Mayor Fell** - As we went over in the last Council meeting, I don't know if you were here, we're actually going to be going out to the public with a number of options, we don't have that answer yet. We'll be doing some open houses as well so those type of questions and comments can come out during that time. **Karen Lalonde** - I just have another quick question about it too. If we have an old chesterfield and we live in an urban area, can we take that to the dump? Will we have cards whatever .... **Mayor Fell** - You will be able to take it to the dump. We'll be dealing with that too. Those transfer stations are open to all residents of Springfield.

**NOTE: Mayor Fell seems to try to defer answering any questions by saying they are not related to the current agenda. Personally I don't see why during Question Period one could not ask any question, related or not, because that is the only opportunity they have to inquire of Council other than by Internet and as one resident commented, often their questions via that method go unanswered except perhaps for acknowledgement of receipt. I myself sent an e-mail to all of Council and the CAO on June 10, 2019 requesting two resolutions that are not appropriate regarding "peat moss" be rescinded. I sent a follow up e-mail to Ms. Draper, the CAO on July 3, 2019 inquiring as to when I might expect the same two resolutions, 19-155 and 19-195, to be on a Planning meeting agenda as peat moss has not been reclassified as an agricultural product according to provincial officials, when I inquired, and it should not be in the Zoning By-law as such. To date I have not even received an acknowledgement of either e-mail. I think a month is more than enough time to respond to my e-mail. As for the Police Board, I e-mailed questions to the Chair, Anne Wowchuk, four months ago and she has not yet provided me with answers to my questions. Judging by my own experience, I would think e-mail is not an effective way of getting answers from Council and the CAO.** Are there any other questions from the gallery?

**Vic Gerbasi** - The first question is to why the Police Chief has to get a vehicle from Alberta. We've got over 500 dealerships in Manitoba. Wouldn't it be prudent to buy it locally? And then, how does it get from Canmore, Alberta to here? **Mayor Fell** - So if Council's alright, I'm going to ask the Police Chief to answer this question cause I don't know the details why it was purchased from Alberta, is Council alright with that? **NOTE: Did she not read the report attached to the agenda? And when making a purchase of this nature, is not the Mayor aware of what is transpiring?** **Chief Kane** - An RFP went out and it came back from all the dealerships here, it was \$40,000. over. This vehicle is FCA which is the group who demonstrate the vehicles for this brand and this is where this vehicle ended up, it was registered in Ontario and this is where it ended up after being shown to all and it's a one off deal. It's a unique purchase and it saves a lot of money and brings us under budget for the purchase of the vehicle. **NOTE: If the purchase of this vehicle was such a unique opportunity, why would one of the Alberta city Police Services not have purchased it by now. It is a 2017 vehicle.** **Vic Gerbasi** - The second part to that, if I may, how many police cars do we need. We have 2 officers per vehicle and we've already got 3 vehicles and how many police officers do we have? **Mayor Fell** - So if you have logistical questions about the police force, you need to e-mail the Police Chief and the Police Board. **Vic Gerbasi** - I have tried that before and got zero answers. **Mayor Fell** - So again, this Council's not going to answer. We can't answer logistical questions about the police force. **NOTE: The Police Chief was right in the room. Why would he not be able to answer that question as to how many police officers we have? That is something Council themselves should be able to answer. Just because the Police Board has administrative oversight of the Police Service, that does not preclude Council from advising the public how many officers the taxpayers are supporting financially and that are serving their interests in the community.** **Vic Gerbasi** - Ok, then the second part of mine would be on the refuse and pick-up. I sure would like to see everybody treated equally here rather than just those on Garven, #15, #212, #206 and #207. They get pick-up. Everybody else doesn't out in the rural areas and I guarantee that there's going to be a fee for everybody eventually. Let's start it off neutral. You either pick up everybody or you don't pick up from anybody. **NOTE: This is a legitimate question and the Mayor should have at the very least said that that subject could be added to the next Committee of the Whole for discussion or perhaps**

that it would be referred to the Water and Waste Department for consideration. Mayor Fell - Thank you for your comments. Are there any other questions from the gallery? Then I will close the question period.

7.1 Purchase of Police Vehicle (\$58,782.36 and they never did answer Mr. Gerbasi as to how it will be coming here from Canmore but as the Police Chief still does not have permanent residence in Manitoba and commutes back and forth to Calgary on his days off, one could reasonably surmise Council will authorize and remunerate him for flying to Alberta, picking up the vehicle in Canmore and driving it back to Winnipeg), 7.3 Curbside Pickup Special Levy and Transfer Station User Fee By-Law - (Awarded to WSP at a cost of \$55,230.00 plus GST), 7.4 Back Up Water Well for Anola Water System (Awarded to Friesen Drillers at a cost of \$143,500.00 plus GST), and 7.5 List of Accounts - June 2019 - Whereas disbursements have been reviewed for the period of June 15th to July 12th, be it resolved that all accounts listed on the attached printout from cheque 147682 to 147950 totalling \$2,155,231.58 and the following EFT entries be approved for payment: Western Financial AMM Health Plan \$12,326.48, RCAP leasing \$298.32, Super Pass \$210.46, RBC Visa \$30,175.11, and be it further resolved that June payroll in the amount of \$429,091.92 be approved. **NOTE: Without virtually any discussion or commentary from Council, the foregoing were approved 6-0, expenditures totalling almost \$3,000,000.00 (three million dollars). The monthly expenditures alone accounted for over \$2 million dollars while payroll accounted for almost half a million. On the Anola Water System one, Councillor Ralke made the following comment: "I'm really glad that we've taken the time to do our back up and due diligence for our community and for our village of Anola so thank you for that."** This is noteworthy because according to their own report attached to the agenda, "The Department is satisfied with Friesen Drillers proposal and recommends award of work...." which to me means Council is passing this resolution solely on the advice of staff. I would ask if she is speaking on behalf of Council because I see no evidence Council did any independent investigation or had any involvement other than to accept the recommendation of Staff, probably listen to presentations by Friesen Drillers and Landmark Planning, and pass the resolution. Apparently Friesen Drillers was the only response to the RFP. I would want Council to ask Staff to which companies the RSP was circulated that would indicate at least some measure of due diligence? Without that information, what evidence does Council have that this was not a case of sole sourcing?

7.2 Traffic Advisory Committee Recommendations - Be it resolved that Council give authority to the Designated Officers within their respective areas to approve all municipal regulatory signage required or as deemed necessary within the RM of Springfield. **CARRIED 6-0**

7.7 2019 Climate Change Conference & FCM Gala Dinner - Conference Tickets \$25/each, Gala Dinner Tickets \$40/each - all of Council delegated to attend at the Matlock Recreation Club. **7.12 AMM Workshop** - Designed to guide elected officials through making informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk, engaging with the community and other stakeholders to ensure robust local public accountability, defining and delivering quality service for the community... in a timely, open, honest and accountable manner. \$200 plus GST per person. - all of Council delegated to attend. **BOTH CARRIED 6-0** **NOTE: Whatever happened to that inaugural promise of reduction in Council expenses by sending only one or two to every event and having them report back to Council? Three people on the current Council had the benefit of breakout sessions at conventions, courses, and a retreat to come up with our Strategic Plan that dealt with all the areas mentioned above and they should not need a refresher course, having had 4 years of experience prior. They all attended George Cuff's Boot Camp, some twice. I am definitely not saying they do not all NEED to attend the course judging by their behaviour of late but after they have, I would hope to see a dramatic change in their style of operating or to my way of thinking, \$1,200.00 plus GST will have been wasted.**

7.9 Manitoba Metis Fall Supper - Councillor Ralke donated \$500. toward this. "They are doing it all on their own, their own donations and um and uh finding it very hard to make ends meet and they want to start new programs within that Fall Supper so they want to have some bead making, bracelets, and um there's bannock and other kinds of traditional things that they want to present so they have invited all Council to please attend their supper. They will also give you a formal invite closer to the date and they had said if there is any way anybody feels that their kindness of the heart that they have any room in their ward appropriation budgets, they could use help with the rentals that they are paying to have their meetings. I think they have them once every two months or so but they are being charged." **NOTE: I believe the Springfield Library has a room to let residents use free of charge. Alternatively, perhaps Council could allow them to use the Chamber for their meetings. I believe there is a close association with a member of Staff and this organization who could facilitate this.**

7.13 September Planning Meeting - Rescheduled to September 19th re FCM Conference.

**NOTE:** The majority of this agenda, with the exception of the delegation to follow, was conducted in 27 minutes. In other words the expenditure of over \$3 million of your taxpayer dollars was approved by Council with virtually no public discussion or debate. It makes me wonder what is the purpose of having a Council consisting of 6 people who, it has been demonstrated, do not read their agenda packages in any detail, do not do independent research on recommendations of staff, and do not question expenditures. Perhaps the running of the municipality should be delegated entirely to staff, thus saving taxpayers the cost of the Council which is significant. That seems to be the trend that this Council is on. Similarly the Police Board has just delegated much of their responsibilities to the Chief of Police.

## DELEGATION

**Mayor Fell** - Can I have Natasha come forward please. Tangi, you will not be allowed to join her at the table unless you registered as part of the delegation which you did not. The only people allowed to be part of the delegation is when you register to be part of the delegation. **Tangi Bell** - Can you make an exception in this instance. This is Natasha. She hasn't done this previously. She requested me to sit down with her. I've been part of it. **Mayor Fell** - But you will not be allowed to be part of the speaking delegation but you are welcome to sit there. Uh, Natasha, before you begin, um I just want to reiterate the rules of the delegation um so you have 15 minutes to speak. If Council has questions, we will ask you questions. We will not accept any documents from you or a petition or anything that you bring in, we cannot accept that, it had to be submitted by Friday and that was sent to you via e-mail and other than that, you have 15 minutes. I will set my timer and we'll go from there. SHE READS OUT THE E-MAIL TO NATASHA (See attached original). Tangi Bell tries to protest and says it contains material that might be helpful to Council but Mayor Fell says the delegation is for Natasha and she is welcome to begin whenever she is ready. **Darryl Speer** - **Is there not a Point of Order** here. Can't Council agree to accept this? **Mayor Fell** polls Council who do not agree to accept. She says, Nope, Nope, you cannot, that's the rules for delegations. **NOTE: Council Delegations Delegates will be required to submit presentation material to the administration office the Friday prior to the meeting date for inclusion in Council's agenda packages. If information is not available prior, 8 copies of all written materials will need to be provided at the meeting. This is on the website right under their smiling picture. Nowhere does it specify who can participate in the delegation and it clearly states that information not available prior to the meeting will be accepted at the meeting providing there are 8 copies. Further I can find no reference to petitions not being able to be presented at the time of a delegation.** **Heather Erickson** - **Point of Order. Point of Order.** Madame Mayor, I have sat through many a delegation where material was presented at the time of the delegation. When the CAO or whoever sends out the e-mail and says if you have anything you want to present to the Council prior to the meeting, please have it in by Friday but that does not negate the possibility of materials being handed out at the time of the delegation and it's happened again and again. **Mayor Fell interrupted while I was speaking.** We will not be accepting the material. An e-mail was sent out before, Natasha. **Darryl Speer** - Please may we have a ruling on the Point of Order. **Mayor Fell** - Again I will go around the table. Councillor Wilson was the only one that vote "yes" to accept the materials. **NOTE: I would suggest to those that voted "no" to read their own rules and reflect on who elected them to these positions and how their actions impact on any future aspirations they may have if they do not remember that they were selected to represent the best interests of their residents who also, may they be reminded, vote during elections. Perhaps they should do some inner soul searching to ask themselves are they really giving 100% to the job, are they doing independent research, are they reading through Acts and Regulations and reading related material, are they reaching out to more seasoned officials in other municipalities for advice and perspectives, are they standing up for those that elected them, or are they mindlessly accepting the word of the Head of Council and Staff and pocketing their 20% increase. It is my personal feeling that they are not, and I myself sat on Council and fell into these ruts before I finally felt confident enough to speak out. It is easy to be led down inappropriate paths. The real work comes in branching out on one's own and seeking advice from those in the municipality, experienced elected officials in other jurisdictions, specialists in various fields, anywhere where information can be found and then evaluating the material derived from these sources to enable an informed decision on their part in order to perform their jobs properly and better serve their constituents.**

**Natasha** - Good evening Councillors and Madame Mayor. Thank you for your time in hearing me out today. My name is Natasha and my husband and I Jason own a property in Vivian, Manitoba. The group I represent chose the settlement of Vivian to live and raise our children as it was a peaceful, quiet hamlet where our children could play in a relatively safe environment,

surrounded by the forests and as many people here know the nature and the wildlife that we enjoy so much. Without warning, our health and safety are now at risk from a potentially large silica mine project, 200 feet below the ground, into the sandstones of our aquifers. The exploration has now turned into a testing site, just south of the railway tracks in Vivian, within walking distance. Mr. Trevor Martens, the communications representative for Evolve Surface Solutions was quoted as saying in the Steinbach news article dating back to April of 2019, "What we don't know here at this time and what we're still going through with all of our testing, is we don't know how to do it yet". In other words, they are not sure yet how they are going to extract the deeply buried silica sand. Currently Landmark Planning, Friesen Drillers and Hydrea are south of the CN railway tracks drilling holes with equipment and pumps. We have recently taken photographs of this. Hydrea water services is a company out of Alberta working with the oil and gas industry in the fracking sector.

While not the only concern, draw down on the aquifer in the region is a very real threat as large volumes of water can be used in silica sand mining and processing operations. The aquifers provide water to public and private wells in Springfield as far west as almost Dugald, Reynolds, and even Brokenhead, as you know and acid mine runoff associated with sand wash ponds adjacent to silica sand mines contains such heavy metals as arsenic, cadmium, aluminum, lead, manganese, and copper which can leach into water supplies at toxic levels rendering our clean water supply useless and a health hazard and this is based on academic, scientific research that has been peer reviewed.

Some of us have done extensive research since I heard of this activity and we are very concerned and troubled to the point of you know how potentially this will be a health risk in our area and for all the people that live around us because prolonged exposure again according to evidence to wind silicosis, posing a risk to residents living near mining sites, particularly children and the elderly, who are much more susceptible. Such exposure has also been linked to other lung ailments and autoimmune diseases such as emphysema, bronchitis, scleroderma, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic thyroiditis and hyperthyroidism and to kidney related diseases.

Protection of potable water aquifers and health risks are the obvious problems with silica sand mining but less obvious is the destruction it will cause to the more intrinsic features of life in Vivian, the natural habitat areas that contain many species of birds and plants, many of which are endangered, I'll give you examples of yellow and pink lady slippers, the red-headed woodpecker, all of which surround us in our area and are very close and in imminent danger within close proximity to the site right where they pick on excavating into our forest.

As reported in the Steinbach Carillon, the location of the proposed mining site is to ship the silica sand via rail and this will require a spur line to be constructed, and increase rail traffic on the line which is already quite significant. There will undoubtedly be noise associated with the loading and shipping activities which will disrupt the peace and quiet of our community. The impact has been seen in Wisconsin where one train a week has increased to two to three trains a day. Furthermore, three states in the US have banned this type of fracking and sand extraction and others are continuing to do so. For example in Sumner Town, Wisconsin the Board was asked by a Canada based energy sources service that wanted to dig into the groundwater for high quality sand as they found high quality silica and they flat out refused them as they said that that was very risky and they were not prepared to take that gamble and that is from a Wisconsin news source. One of the things we have also found in our research is in these type of sand mining operations they can draw from 20 to 95 million gallons of water per year per well. Above all, the communication about this huge operation to us residents has been next to none.

In May, I received a call from a man named Rory, who was on the first day on his job, and who works for Evolve Surface Solutions, who stated that HD mining was conducting testing in our area, and if we would allow Friesens Drilling to place sensors into our wells, our private wells. He said he was calling 25 residents. He told my husband when asked whatever for would you be wanting to put a sensor and it's to monitor some sort of negative activity, could not specify what. When I asked what type of sensor would you be placing in the well and how far down, again he could not provide an answer. I then called Friesen Drillers and spoke with Jason who could also not answer my questions and told me that I should talk directly to the Head Civil Engineer of HD Mining also known as CanWhite Sands in Calgary. Her name is Laura Weedon. She called me the next week. I asked her a few questions and she said they're still trying to work on the way to do an environmentally friendly way without having to use much water and she said that there's a potential of a hundred years of work, that's how much silica, ok, not just in our RM but the RMs that are next to us such as the RM of Ste. Anne and of La Broquerie and also she said that fracking is not part of their vocabulary at HD Minerals, also known as CanWhite Sands. She suggested I email her boss, Mr.

Feisal Sanji, the CEO of HD minerals and former head of large mining companies in the U.S., who helped to bring about millions of dollars to the stock market. As you know, silica sand is a very huge commodity, all you have to do is look at the stock market and see. I emailed Mr. Sanji several questions to explain to us what even is this project and the methodology, could you give us some kind of report that he put forward to the, you know, province, anything about emergency plans, management plans, wildlife sustainability, and the list went on and he told me that he was busy with holidays and that he would hopefully get back to me this week. Again, nothing has been shared with us and it was also suggested to me by Mrs. Ralke for our issue to be taken to Closed Meeting. On the RM website it says twice, in the past month I believe if I am correct, Vivian Residents and it was Closed Session and at another meeting HD Minerals Discussion Legal Matter Closed. We have no idea what's going on. No one in our area has any idea. No one from your Council has shared any information with us and as many of you already know, the Reeve of the RM of Ste. Anne has publicly stated he also is deeply concerned about what type of mining and about the quality of the aquifer and the risks associated with potential mining in the RM of Ste. Anne. I followed up with the RM of Ste-Anne's CAO yesterday and she confirmed with me that nothing has changed and that their councillors have continued to be openly stating in their Council meetings that they do not get a response from the company that is clear, in their eyes it is not clear communication, and they are just telling people, sorry we don't know, we haven't started, we're not getting the answers that we need and from what I hear the RM of La Broquerie also has concerns. So that makes a few of us here.

Next, I just want to say that on behalf of retired University of Winnipeg Professor....no we can't submit... ok. Once an aquifer is contaminated there is no technology in the world that can repair it. You can find this if you look. You can look for scientific articles that will back that up. Water needs to be respected and protected because it is irreplaceable and our existence depends upon it. It is not a commodity, it is the very essence of life. And so people in our area are very concerned for the well being of our families, the value of their land, the well being of the animals and wildlife around us, the quality of life and we have a petition signed, many many pages of petition signed of people who are in opposition of this not just in Vivian but all over the RM of Springfield so if we must to book another delegation to present our petitions to you, then that is what I will do. **NOTE: By Madam Mayor and Council denying the submission of the petitions, that will give us more opportunity to obtain far, far more signatures and request another delegation.**

**Mayor Fell** - Thank you. Are there any questions from Council? **Councillor Wilson** - Yes, I was just wondering, you were talking about research or getting information about uh similar mining operations in the United States and I was just wondering if uh maybe some of those papers or that information might be available? **Natasha** - They are available to you on the Internet as well. **Councillor Wilson** - And, well, I am looking for a link. **NOTE: A great deal of research was done by more than one person and there are many links. My advice is that Council, since they were unwilling to accept the material that could have been provided, do their own surfing of the net and contacting of people in the know. On a matter as concerning as silica sand mining, one would think they would have done that prior to the meeting in order to be informed of the topic at hand. Failing that, they should have willingly accepted the material offered them by the Delegation which was in fact A PRESENTATION FROM THE EMINENTLY QUALIFIED AUTHORITY ON SUCH ISSUES, DR. EVA PIP, PREPARED SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS DELEGATION.**

**Councillor Fuhl** - So I'd just like to add to that, you are not allowed to submit it today because you didn't follow the set rules of the e-mail so I would submit, I would submit it, that to the Administration and let Council take a look at it. That is the reason why you are not submitting it today. There is rules that are set. **NOTE: Councillor Fuhl should, in my opinion, justify his 20% increase and examine the rules of his own Council and Administration that are right beneath his feet in the picture of Council on the website that states: Delegations Delegates will be required to submit presentation material to the administration office the Friday prior to the meeting date for inclusion in Council's agenda packages. If information is not available prior, 8 copies of all written materials will need to be provided at the meeting. THERE WERE 9 COPIES OF THE MATERIAL IN THE ENVELOPE THEY TRIED TO PRESENT. Councillor Fuhl perhaps can explain to the taxpayers and residents of the RM of Springfield that it is ok for the originator of the e-mail to neglect to mention that materials can be presented at the time of the delegation as long as sufficient copies are provided, which is to break the very rules posted on your website.**

**Mayor Fell** - Um, I'll address, I don't have, actually this whole Council doesn't have a lot of information. **NOTE: Given the serious nature of HD Mining's proposal to mine silica sand and the potential environmental harm such an endeavour can bring, one would think the minute Council knew that this was what two years of testing had discovered that was of value to the company, the six people we elected to Council would have immediately delved into the implications of such action from**

independent sources, not blindly sat and listened to the presentation from that very company without any investigation on their part. Further to accept information from Friesen Drillers and Landmark Planning who have obviously been engaged by this company to manage the drilling and testing is not arms length advice and there is perceived conflict of interest. From the size of that huge Hydrera pump on a trailer and the silo at the site, and considering that Friesen Drilling and Landmark Planning are now involved, it is a little difficult for me to believe they are just conducting tests. They're still in the testing phase so when people are telling you they don't know, it is because they don't know. This technology has never been used before, I'm speaking, Tangi, thank you, this is brand new technology, they told us, first of all they're testing got bumped because of the weather, so it was too wet, they couldn't get on the property. We haven't received an update cause they're not done their testing. They are not mining silica sand right now, it's a conditional use so if they figure out a way to do this where they believe, using their experts, like a hydrogeologist, that they can do it safely, they will bring that information publicly to Council. They've also said they're going to hold open houses further to their testing when they actually have answers to give. Um but we simply don't know right now. And that's what this Council is waiting for as well. They're still in the testing phase. And my understanding is silica sand mines are generally like aggregate pits. They're open to the elements. They're trying to avoid that. They don't want to open up the aquifer to the elements like what happens out on Garven Road. They're trying to find a different way to do that. They don't know if it's going to work. We haven't heard back yet. When we hear, the public will hear but they're simply not at the stage where they can give any answers yet. It's as simple as that.

**Natasha** - But what about the information or their proposed plan of the testing? What kind of emergency plan during the actual testing that's going on because, I mean, if they're going in and doing some of the testing and put sensors in our wells, what kind of risk are we at during the testing phase?

**Mayor Fell** - So when we did a well out on our well out on Highway 15, we did the same thing so the companies we hired Landmark and one other, went out and asked the neighbours within a certain radius, can we put a sensor in your well to see if there's any impact on your well as we're doing our testing. It is to measure the impact to see what happens. Sometimes there is impact, sometimes there isn't. They're doing their due diligence. That's what they're doing.

**Garry Brown** - You may as well throw me out. We're the closest ones to those wells you did. **Mayor Fell** - Garry, if you don't stop, you're going to be asked to leave. **Garry Brown** - Ok, fine, I will leave. You did not test the nearest five wells. **Mayor Fell** - Ok, I'm going to go to a break. You need to leave if you're not going..... **Garry Brown** - Well, why would you lie to these people? You did not test our five wells. **Mayor Fell** - Council, we're going to go on a break. **Garry Brown** - I will leave but you, don't be lying to these people. (Clapping and recorder is turned off.) But then he said that they can't even drink their water now. People we're saying things like - It's your water too. It's all of our waters. Why are we all not concerned here? You're supposed to be representing us. Where's the money? Who paid them to come here? We put the sensor in, we detect something, by then it's too late. **A SPRINGFIELD POLICE CONSTABLE DID ARRIVE IN THE FOYER BUT MR. BROWN WAS ALREADY OUT OF THE CHAMBER. HOWEVER IN THE CHAMBER WHILE THIS WAS HAPPENING, THE POLICE CHIEF, MARK KANE, WAS PRESENT IN THE AUDIENCE in uniform. ALSO PRESENT WAS TONY ZERUCHA, REPORTER FOR THE CLIPPER.** **NOTE: About a week ago Mr. Brown and his brother had their water tested from the new wells that had been drilled for them by Friesen Drillers after their wells failed during testing of the new Municipal wells and the independent laboratory that did the test concluded IT WAS NOT FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. You can certainly understand his consternation and utter frustration at what has befallen their families since the two municipal wells were installed and permission given for P&H to put up a storage facility just down the road from their residences. The crowd were not impressed with the conduct of the Mayor and Council and for many, this was the first time they had attended a Council meeting and they were there solely to support Natasha and the concerns of the community of Vivian.**

**Mayor Fell** - Thank you, Natasha, for coming in. She was able to ask some more questions and we were able to give her some more answers. (This is because during the break Mayor Fell beckoned for Natasha to come up to the Council table and spoke at length to her privately, with Deputy Mayor Ralke at her side. There should have been no private conversation occurring in my opinion.) I'm going to go back to what I was saying to Natasha before, this Council knows that they're looking for silica sand and they found it. Um, this Council is not making a decision yea or nay, it has to come to a Conditional Use hearing, when we get the evidence and the data from what they've done from, they have a hydrogeologist among other very educated people working on this project. **NOTE: While they may well employ many very educated people, those people are promoting the cause of the company that employs them and their information should not be the ONLY information Council considers when**

making a decision. They should also consult independent experts in the field. Failure to do that is failure to do their jobs and we all know that Council is constantly remarking on how they do their due diligence. If they only get one opinion, and that is from the employees of the company with everything to gain, they are NOT doing their due diligence in my opinion. One example comes to mind. I understand the only appraisal done on the old Oakbank Credit Union Building was done by the owners, Sunova Credit Union, although the impression given to the public was that they had an independent appraiser.

When they come to us and present their project and the facts behind that project, Council in conjunction with the public will make a decision. There is no information to give right now so if you're hearing that this is going to ruin your water supply, there is absolutely no data to support that. Please when, please when there is, cause it's new technology, it's never been done before. (FROM A MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: So we're going to be the guinea pigs and ...) There's no questions. So I'm just letting you know, when the Conditional Use Hearing comes up, it will be advertised not only in the Clipper but in the area of where that proposed business would want to be if they so decide and you are able to come out and have a say at that time but I would encourage you to read everything that's there and make an informed decision. We are at the end of our Council meeting and we are now going into closed meeting.

**Heather Erickson** - Point of Order, Madame Mayor. The advertisement for the two Municipal Wells approval was not in the Clipper, it was not in the Winnipeg Free Press, it was in the Selkirk Journal and the Selkirk whatever. **Mayor Fell** - We were not talking about those municipal wells. **Vince Bennici** - That's why nobody knows what going on. They are purposely deceiving. **Mayor Fell** - It's a Conditional Use Hearing, you will get a letter in the mail if you live within a certain circumference and we will make sure that we .. **MALE VOICE IN AUDIENCE** - Advertise where the work's being done, not Selkirk or something like that. **ANOTHER MALE VOICE IN AUDIENCE** - Is this still up in the air? **Mayor Fell** - Nothing's decided. It hasn't come to fruition yet. **ANOTHER MALE VOICE IN AUDIENCE** - So why did they put sensors in our well, then? **Mayor Fell** - So the reason they put sensors in your well is when they're doing their testing they need to see the effects. **ANOTHER MALE VOICE IN AUDIENCE** - They're putting sensors in our well so it's done, that's what you're telling us. It's done. **Mayor Fell** - No, we did the same thing when we did our wells out on 15. You put sensors in the wells to see when you drill or do testing if there's an effect on the current wells in the area simply to gather data. LOTS OF BACKGROUND QUESTIONS. **Mayor Fell** - We're going into Closed Meeting so thank you. **THEY WENT INTO CLOSED MEETING TO DISCUSS LEGAL MATTERS AND MATTERS THEY ARE NEGOTIATING. CAME OUT OF CLOSED MEETING AND ADJOURNED.**

**CANADIAN PREMIUM SAND, THE COMPANY THAT ARE IN THE PRELIMINARY STAGES OF MINING SILICA SAND FROM THE HOLLOW WATER RESERVE IN NORTHERN MANITOBA , IS CURRENTLY BEING CHALLENGED BY ERIC REDER OF THE WILDERNESS COMMITTEE, AS IS THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT WHO ARE NOT ENSURING THIS COMPANY IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THEIR REGULATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU CAN SEARCH WILDERNESS COMMITTEE MANITOBA AND SEE HIS CAMPAIGN WHERE HE IS ASKING MANITOBANS TO THEMSELVES CONTACT THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES. ATTACHED IS A COPY OF HIS LETTER.**