

COUNCIL NOTES

March 19, 2019

Attached to this report is a publication of the Springfield Democratic Development Group which I feel contains valuable information for the taxpayers of the RM of Springfield.

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

AGENDA - The CAO read out three additions to the Agenda which were already included on the printed copy.

QUESTION PERIOD - **NOTE: Mayor Fell is still using her cell phone for a timer. I believe Council is there to do the business of the municipality and should be able to exist for a few hours without access to a communication device. She did not request Council to turn their cell phones off and remove them from the Council table. A simple inexpensive timer should suffice for timing both each speaker and the 15 minutes allotted to citizens to voice their opinions or ask questions.**

Karen Lalonde - Do you have a Planning Committee? **Mayor Fell** - We don't have like a Planning Department committee...we do have a committee that we want to create basically a service level document for planning items so that's kind of an ad hoc committee but it won't be around permanently. **Karen Lalonde** - My other question is the indemnity by-law. I tried to look it up today and you've got the outdated one there. I have to go through the agendas I guess to find the one that had been adopted. If my memory serves me correctly, I thought that community events and fundraisers were not an indemnity to Council in the new one. **Mayor Fell** - No that's not correct. **Karen Lalonde** - That's not correct? So you get paid for going to fundraisers? **Mayor Fell** - No, if it's in the RM, we do not. If it's in the RM, you do not. **Karen Lalonde** - Ok, then, I just kind of wondered why you had the motion to go to the Seniors' Gala Fundraiser. **Mayor Fell** - We are part of the committee and we feel it is something that we would like to support the community. **Karen Lalonde** - It's still a fundraiser, though, right? **Mayor Fell** interrupted, for the seniors, for the seniors as Karen Lalonde was trying to point out she also received an invitation and was going to go on her own dime. **Mayor Fell** said they talked about it at the Council Table and felt there was value to it so yes we did do that. **NOTE: If it was discussed at the Council table, it must have been in a Closed Session as the writer and others in the audience never heard the discussion. That is not transparency. These things should be discussed in public if they are using public funds.** **Karen Lalonde** concluded she felt it was against their own by-law recently passed. **Councillor Wilson** - Madame Reeve there might be a clarification here because the by-law is intended to...I thought it was just for indemnity work like hours spent outside the municipality...**Mayor Fell** interrupted and said it was **NOTE: A phone is heard on the RM recording buzzing....**speaking from Wilson and Fell....**Vince Bennici** - yes, any fundraising events, any social event, any funding announcement events are not qualified whether they are in the RM or outside the RM. **Mayor Fell** - We will not be charging hourly because that event is in the RM. When Mr. Bennici tried to add something, she said she was sorry, he would have his chance to ask a question. **Councillor Wilson** - But in this case it was an expenditure of funds for the tickets and that would require a Council resolution. **Mayor Fell** - That's right. **NOTE: When I was still on Council and under the old indemnity by-law, I and Councillor Fuhl attended a fundraising golf event (him for the golf and dinner and me just for the dinner), I believe it was for an A.R.M. Charity Event, and we were required to pay our own expenses, golf and dinner, and I can only speak for myself but I did not submit mileage or hours on my Indemnity for the month of August 2018.** **Karen Lalonde** - I am donating myself personally and I just thought it was a ...if you guys wanted to go, you should buy your own ticket. That's my opinion.

Heather Erickson - On 8.2 about the purchases for the Fire Department. The report on it was not all that clear so what I am asking is, does this mean that the regular supplier that they usually get cannot supply them right away so therefore they have gone to the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region to purchase? Is that what it means? **Mayor Fell** - No when I spoke to our Fire Chief about the WMR he said the price was the same so we are going to be going through WMR to support what they do. **Heather Erickson** - So the supplier they normally went to is not being used any more in favour of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region. **Mayor Fell** - I believe it is the same supplier. **Councillor Wilson** - I think that the intent of all that report was to say that this equipment is required this year and in order that they get it on time, get it this year to replace the equipment that is no longer going to be licensed...it is going to be expired...that there is some delays forseen so if we want that stuff this year we have to get it early so he's asking for a resolution of Council **(NOTE: Once again a cell phone is heard buzzing which must be right by the recorder.)** ...in order to ensure he can get that equipment this year because we need it to replace equipment that is, whose lifetime is expiring this year. **Heather Erickson** - Oh, so it is not the supplier that is changing? **Councillor Wilson** - Not necessarily, it is the needing of the equipment. **Mayor Fell** - I can't say for sure whether the supplier is changing, what I can say is the specs are the same or better than what we had before. He's asking for permission by resolution because he can't go spend from the 2019 budget when we haven't finished the 2019 budget yet. **NOTE: If the proper planning is being done, would the person responsible not have been aware in 2018 that this was going to be a requirement in 2019 and budgeted for the expenditure in 2018 in order to be in a position to purchase them at the end of the year or early in 2019. I believe the last Financial Statement presented to Council was the October 2018 one and this is March 2019. Would that be a responsibility of the Fire Chief or the Asset Management person?**

Vince Bennici - The 5 page glossy flyer that you had as an insert into the Clipper, who printed that and what's the cost? **Mayor Fell** - The Clipper. **Vince Bennici** - So there was a cost of distributing and a cost of printing. **Mayor Fell** - Yes. **Vince Bennici** - Not everybody received the Clipper in this RM. **Mayor Fell** - There is a part of Ward 1 that doesn't but what the Clipper has done is that they have put boxes out beside the mailboxes so we put stacks in there for the people that wouldn't get it delivered because they're part of a Winnipeg postal code. What is changing though in September is Canada Post is coming through and completely changing our addresses and so starting September where the Clipper delivers it will be actually everybody in Springfield. **Vince Bennici** - What was the cost? **Mayor Fell** - The cost was \$1,710. **Vince Bennici** - Including printing and paper? **Mayor Fell** - That was printing and paper. **Vince Bennici** - And the insert cost? **Mayor Fell** - I am going to say off the top of my head I believe it was in and around \$400. **(NOTE: Would this not have been costed out beforehand and would the Mayor not have approved the requisition for payment and signed the cheque?)** It was cheaper to insert it in the Clipper than go through

Canada Post cause we checked both those prices and we also checked on pricing to print it out outside of the province and inside the province and we got a really good price quoted in Ontario and the Clipper matched it.

Janet Nylen - Yesterday I e-mailed you about my concerns regarding the proposal for Jan Regehr to purchase 11 acres from the RM and expand the business, Pine Ridge Hollow and that applied to tonight's agenda #8.8. In very short order I received a phone call from one of you indicating that my tone in the e-mail was not appreciated and it inferred that Council did not know things that apparently they do. Those things that I mentioned in the e-mail relate to the lengthy planning steps that would be involved to subdivide and rezoning of the land in question and I wrote to Council because I very disheartened by the way you decided to conduct meetings and limit opportunity for citizens to participate by comments and suggestions other than the strictly followed 15 minute question period which is shared by an unknown number of other ratepayers and that is instead of what we used to do which was to participate during the actual debate on an agenda item and we would have the opportunity to hear any new information, Council's thinking on issues, and any future or subsequent action you might take. But back to my e-mail. I was told yesterday that the aggregate assessment of this Council's first step in determining if they will sell the land and if there is a significant aggregate deposit then they won't sell it. If there is insignificant gravel value, then they will use that to determine a price and that then Mrs. Regehr may or may not accept that price. So after all that then the rest of the sale and the necessary planning steps will occur. So my question is how was the public to know that? **Mayor Fell** - Well, it is on the agenda tonight for resolution. We discussed this with Jan Regehr. We wanted to see what her plan was. That report was not public yet. This new Council had to review it. We discussed some details in Camera and then we put it on to this meeting because it requires a resolution for action. **(NOTE: Item 8.8 reads Aggregate Resource Assessment SE-7-12-5E. I would surmise not many people in the municipality would read that and equate it to a decision regarding the sale of land to Pine Ridge Hollow for expansion.)** **Janet Nylen** - May I suggest in future that if somebody comes along and they make a proposal that you would say these will be the steps that we will be looking into following and kind of list...determining land value, any necessary past practice, survey and planning steps that are needed because the way I was understanding things is that it was a Council action to try and expedite this in any way that they could and I guess my intent with the e-mail was just to caution you to say, oh, you are not going to be able to do this in about a year...you know it is going to take a length of time and not misrepresent to Ms. Regehr or to the public. So that was my intent of the e-mail but if I could just end by saying the statement that you're a relatively new Council and the general public to say the least is getting used to a number of changes and styles and procedures that you are implementing and I might add that some of us are not always comfortable or supportive of them but most of you did run on a platform of openness and transparency and you have to remember that are not mind readers. We don't know what the internal discussions are or behind the scenes things that you intend to do so to give us a sense of comfort I guess I would ask in future that you kind of think of that as your laying out what your next steps will be and so if we question and if we write e-mails and even if we strongly disagree at times, I think it is all part of the democratic process. **Mayor Fell** - Just to address the openness of Council, our Council does allow a 15 minute question period, we're one of the few communities left in Manitoba that even offer a Question Period. Committee of the Whole we ask for anybody in the gallery for input after every agenda item...that's open during Committee of the Whole so people can have their say as well because it is more of an informal meeting and then our Planning Meetings obviously follow the Planning Act but I believe that this Council is having a lot of dialogue with the public and everybody is welcome to come and partake in the 15 minute question period or committee of the whole after every agenda item. They can ask as many questions as they want. We haven't limited that for the public. **Janet Nylen** - The last meeting that I did attend and I do understand and you made reference several times to what the by-law said when somebody wanted to comment and maybe not at every issue or on a regular basis but I think there are some important times that Council...that you as Chair can waive procedure and ask for the consensus of Council to hear an unscheduled delegation....I believe that is in your by-law and also Council, if they wanted, they can waive procedure or any of the rules in the procedural by-law by a vote. So I am just kind of hoping as you move forward that you will keep that in mind when considering some of the pressing issues that come before you. **NOTE: Mayor Fell remarked that we are one of the few communities in Manitoba that even offer a question period. The question is, how many municipalities have been contacted in this regard by herself or her staff to verify that statement? Further does the seemingly poor governance and inclusivity of one or several councils justify that of this Council who ran on a platform of openness and transparency and willingness to listen to constituents? There is a wealth of knowledge in this community, specialists in all sorts of areas, and surely Council would like to hear their opinions and input to enrich their knowledge and inform their decisions. Just my opinion.**

Darryl Speer - Just a follow up on what Jan was saying, at the last meeting when we had KGS making a presentation, they included both us and Council in the presentation and Councillor Wilson brought forward some important information, I was disallowed to speak to it even though we were included in the discussion, in their presentation I should say and I think that is not a prudent thing to do particularly on a matter like this when we don't know what the different aspects of the discussion that happened between KGS and people at the Council table. I wished to confirm some of the points that Rick Wilson made, the fact that they have in my view missed some of the key points of the Hillside dump disposal site, there is refuse in the water table ...they don't seem to be aware of that and what also is the case is that Council approved the planting of trees on the cap which is a no-no and they seem to have missed that aspect as well. **Mayor Fell** - Thank you for your comments. I would also like to tell and remind you that you are welcome to send an e-mail in if you would have liked to have stated that. It was on the agenda on Friday. You also attended that meeting so you are more than welcome to send an e-mail to all of Council stating your concerns or to confirm what Councillor Wilson said and I didn't see anything so thank you. **Darryl Speer** - Just a minute. I am still here. The point is I would like to reinforce what Councillor Wilson said as he said it and I had no prior knowledge of what he was going to put on the table. **Mayor Fell** - I appreciate that but again, you could have sent an e-mail in after just to confirm to Council what he said if that was your opinion. **Darryl Speer** - This would be for the benefit of the Council and the people in the gallery. Now I have a further question. There was a commitment in the matter of the indemnities with the new regulations coming out and they were going to be reviewed, can you tell me where that review is at. **Mayor Fell** - Well, our Finance Manager is not here right now but I am sure when she's come back, she'll be reviewing that and letting Council know if there is anything that effects our financial situation. **Darryl Speer** - Do you have someone else you can draw upon for that purpose? **Mayor Fell** - No. She's our Finance Manager. That is the appropriate person to talk to about something like that.

Vince Bennici - Have you talked to other municipalities about what they have done? **Mayor Fell** - With their indemnities? **Vince Bennici** - With regard to the new tax laws coming down. Have they looked at them...reviewed them? Have you got an opinion from another CAO because you have friends out there all over the place? So I am just wondering ..at that point you must have had discussions. **Mayor Fell** - I haven't had a

discussion about the new tax laws. I know quite a few people have increased their indemnities but we haven't heard anything about the tax laws and actually today we were at a conference for AMM and they didn't speak about that either. **Vince Bennici** - And nobody asked the question? **Mayor Fell** - Nobody asked the question. But we will follow up with our Finance Manager. She will be the appropriate person to ask that question to.

Manitoba Minnesota Transmission Project: Community Benefit Program - A letter had been sent to Council advising of the "unfortunate cancelling of the benefit program" and Council requested a spokesperson attend Council as a delegation to explain. **Councillor Wilson** asked WHY. **Maggie Bratland** answered that "the Government of Manitoba has the opportunity to offer policy directives to Crown Corporations that we then must follow. The Program has fallen under a recent policy directive issued by the Province of Manitoba that has required us to cancel the program." Cannot be done without approval of government. **Wilson** asked if any existing programs were effected and **Bratland** responded that if he was referring to the Community Development Program under Bipole, it should not be affected. Existing agreements will not be changed. **Wilson** hoped that Hydro would be open to working with municipalities on other initiatives that involves consensual use of hydro rights of way for trails such as the Trans Canada Trail between Oakbank and Birds Hill Park rather than adjacent to a road. **Bratland** said they would be open to that sort of opportunity. She gave a brief update of the project and said she would continue to keep us updated. Although Councillor Wilson brought up the subject of use of Hydro properties for trail purposes, Mayor Fell told Ms. Bratland that the CAO, Colleen Draper, would be the contact person.

BY-LAWS - 19-04 Recreation Facilities Maintenance Reserve Fund and 19-06 Tax Cancellation - 2nd and 3rd Readings resolutions carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department Capital Purchases - Chief Hudson responded to questions from Council. Evidently while the equipment will no longer be viable for use by the Springfield Fire Department, Hudson said he has received requests to purchase the obsolete equipment from Fire Departments in smaller fire departments that are unable to keep up with the standards so it has residual value. There are extended wait periods for this equipment and he wanted to get a jump on it. They have a 10 year life cycle to be certified. Once no longer certified, firemen wearing outdated equipment are not allowed on the fire ground. **Be it resolved that Council of the RM of Springfield authorize the following 2019 capital purchases from ABC Fire and Safety to be paid out of the Vehicle and Equipment Reserve. (1) 8 sets of fire gear - \$22,000.00 (2) 6 G1 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus - \$56,700.00.**

Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority Family Medicine Resident Retreat - Request for Financial Contribution - Want a donation, and it is suggested for larger municipalities \$2,000.. to host a retreat for 100 Family Medicine Residents and their families to encourage graduating doctors to locate in Interlake-Eastern Region. According to our CAO, there has been such a request made in the past but no donation was made available which could be due to our proximity to Winnipeg and if we contribute, one or possibly two council members can attend as well to give out gift baskets. **Councillor Rakle** who represents Council on this file advocated for this initiative and felt it could encourage newly graduating doctors to practice or live in our area. She said Blair Skinner, Mayor of Pinawa indicated Springfield has not been involved in the past and doesn't know why. Judy Dunn apparently sits on the Board and Springfield was discouraged from nominating a Councillor to sit on IERHA Board although they were free to attend meetings. **NOTE: One question I would have is of the 12 that they have been successful in recruiting for the region, what is the retention rate? In other words, how many of the 12 have remained for any significant length of time.** **Councillor Wilson** was concerned that this is another example of the Province downloading costs to municipalities. **Mayor Fell** wanted to know if our representatives would only be involved in handing out the baskets, not attending the retreat and tends to agree with Councillor Wilson that that is a provincial responsibility. **NOTE: While Councillor Fuhl seems to feel we need them to come as a delegation because there is lack of information, as a former Councillor I have sat through countless meetings and forums where Blair Skinner gave reports on the issues facing communities in his area and the initiatives they have undertaken, at which Fuhl was in attendance.**

Springfield Women's Institute - AGM in CanadInns in Portage la Prairie - Seeking financial support to send members of the Springfield Women's Institute to that. **Be it resolved that \$500. be provided to the Manitoba Womens' Institute on behalf of Springfield Women's Institute from the Mayor's ward appropriation and Ward 4 each. Carried 6-0**

List of Accounts - February 15-March 15, 2019 Payroll \$379,929.12.

Motion to Reconsider Resolution of Council No. 19-080 - Rural Economic Development Agency - Whereas Resolution of Council #19-080 was passed on February 19, 2019, be it resolved that Resolution of Council 19-080 be hereby rescinded. Carried 6-0. CAO Draper said the motion was in response to a request for a support letter for a Rural Economic Development Agency to be located in Beausejour. When the motion was defeated, the CAO was contacted by Anna Mondor with Rural Economic Development in Beausejour for information and was told it was being reconsidered. She added Sharalyn Reitlo of Community Futures is coming to the next Committee of the Whole meeting to give a presentation. She is looking for direction from Council and wondered if they would like Anna Mondor to give a presentation as well. Council generally appeared to be in favour of going ahead with the resolution while **Mayor Fell stated she had already voiced her concerns before which mainly dealt with the location, as I recall.** **Be it resolved that Council of the RM of Springfield provide a letter of support regarding the creation of a Rural Economic Development Agency in the Town of Beausejour. Carried 6-0**

Aggregate Resource Assessment - SE 7-12-5E - CAO Draper stated this is in regard to the offer to purchase from Pineridge Hollow for an approximate 11 acre portion of this piece of RM land. She noted Mrs. Regehr did present at the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 26, 2019 which was a public discussion regarding the "flower situation, MX zoning, the process it is going to take". At that time Council was interested in getting information on what the land is worth so Public Works did an internal assessment of the aggregate on site...test holes completed...and that data was used to come up with an aggregate assessment. **(NOTE: If memory serves some of us correctly in the community, those test holes were done some time ago and only in that portion of the property that Pineridge Hollow currently leases for**

parking, only approximately 2 acres, not the entire piece of property owned by the RM. Private properties adjacent to this piece of land are currently being utilized for aggregate extraction.) Council also suggested appraisals be obtained in regards to just the market value. She wants a resolution from Council authorizing her to go ahead with that. **Be it resolved that Administration be authorized to obtain an appraisal in regards to the offer to purchase part of SE 7-12-5E Pineridge Hollow. Councillor Wilson** feels Manitoba Assessment can provide a fairly decent picture of the value of the properties in that area and staff could compile information on bare land assessments from their data. (Beeping heard at this juncture.) **Councillor Ralke** expressed concern such data might not be current. Decided Staff can investigate through a number of different avenues and provide Council with a range of values of the property based on Recreational, Aggregate, Bare Land etc. Resolution was not voted on.

Manitoba Planning Conference May 15 - 17 Brandon - Be it resolved that all of Council of the RM of Springfield be delegated to attend the Manitoba Planning Conference May 15 - 17, 2019 in Brandon at their discretion. Carried 6-0 **NOTE: It seems to me that early in the history of this Council, there was great discussion about the need to delegate all members of Council to attend conventions, meetings, conferences, etc. and it was decided it would be limited to a small number who would then report back on what they learned. What happened to that policy?**

North Eastman Community Health Committee - CAO Draper mentioned a meeting that is being held soon of this committee and Councillor Ralke wants to be delegated to attend. **The resolution was not read out but Draper worded it, she stated, to allow Ralke, at her own discretion, to attend any such meetings as required, and report back. Carried 6-0**

Springfield Agricultural Society - Be it resolved that Council approve a grant in the amount of \$1,000. to Springfield Agricultural Society for a full page ad in the 2019 Fair Book. Carried 6-0 Councillor Williams seems to be having problems hearing what is transpiring at the Council table as this is the second time he asked a question that had already been answered in the preamble.

MATTERS ARISING FROM CLOSED MEETING

New Directions - Be it resolved that Council approves the following interpretation of family in regards to residential zoning districts within the Springfield By-Law #08-01: A single housekeeping unit with up to 4 individuals as a permitted use. No Conditional Use application will be required. Carried 6-0 The following is the regulations of Residential Single Family Zoning District in Zoning By-law 08-01.

57.0 RS: Residential Single Family Zoning District

57.1 General Purpose

To establish a Zoning District primarily for serviced Single Family Dwellings and associated or compatible uses.

57.2 Permitted Uses

1) Home Occupation 2) Public Park 3) Single Family Dwelling

57.3 Conditional Uses

1) Bed and Breakfast Home 2) Child Care Service 3) Community Recreation Service 4) Institutional Residence 5) Planned Unit Development 6) Private Education Service 7) Protective and Emergency Service 8) Public Education Service 9) Public Library and Cultural Exhibit 10) Public Utility Service 11) Religious Assembly 12) Two Family Dwelling 13) Extended Medical Treatment Facility

52) **Family** means one or more persons related by blood or marriage or common law marriage, or group of not more than four persons who may not be related by blood or marriage occupying a dwelling unit and living together as a single housekeeping unit.

NOTE: It is my opinion that merely passing a resolution approving their interpretation of family in 57.0 is not legal. Family in the definition section already includes the provision of a group of not more than four persons living together as a single housekeeping unit. This could apply to four students renting a house while going to school as an example. The criteria in question is 57.3 #4 Institutional Residence which is what New Directions is. It is a group home under the jurisdiction of an institution. The distinction has been made between a social unit which can be a group of students as in my example as opposed to an institutional unit under the jurisdiction of a parent organization and the latter is a conditional use. Such a change, I feel, would require a Zoning By-Law amendment and a public hearing which is advertised to the public as such.

Personnel - Be it resolved that Council authorize the HR Coordinator to spend up to \$18,000. on consulting services. Carried 6-0 **NOTE: This is a large sum and there is no indication of the type of consulting services being sought. To be open and transparent, it should indicate the type, i.e. classifications, wage scales, employee assistance plans, job description writing, mediation, appeals, strategic plan, etc.**

Motion to adjourn.