

**RM of Springfield Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

WITHOUT PREJUDICE (E&OE)

NOTE: CANWHITE SANDS SILICA SAND PROCESSING PLANT AND SUBSEQUENT MINING PROPOSAL - Attached to these notes is a letter from a renowned scientist praising the validity of a report on this proposal and the inadvisability of the enterprise prepared by Dennis LeNeveu (Attach 1). Also attached (2) is a recent publication by Trevor Broesky of Our Line in the Sand.

NOTE: THIS MEETING LASTED 18.05 MINUTES AS IT DID NOT START UNTIL 1:03 P.M.. I FOR SOME REASON WAS UNABLE TO JOIN UNTIL THE LAST FEW MINUTES MUCH AS I CLICKED ON THE LINK. I WAS IN WAITING FOR THE HOST TO LET ME INTO THE MEETING WHEN MY SCREEN LOST THE FEED AND WHEN I TRIED CLICKING ON THE ZOOM LINK ON THE AGENDA AGAIN, NOTHING HAPPENED UNTIL THE VERY END OF THE MEETING. VERY STRANGE!!

AGENDA - Be it resolved that the agenda be amended as follows: Add to New Business: Springfield Heritage Housing Inc. subdivision and to rename 9.1 from Springfield Recreation Commission Terms of Reference to Springfield Community Rec Centre Fund Raising Committee Terms of Reference.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT - NOTE: As of 11:30 a.m. March 2, 2021 the only ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS on the agenda posted on the Web Site were Councillors Fuhl, Bredin, Wilson, Williams and Ralke. Mayor Fell had not as yet posted her report and she has not reported since January which covered her December 2020 activities. According to their own Procedural By-law all items to be placed on the agenda of the next regular meeting of Council must be provided to the CAO at least 96 hours prior to the scheduled time of the meeting. It is a simple matter to keep a running record of one's activities. The CAO had even, when I was on Council, prepared a form for keeping a record of activities. The following is what Mayor Fell posted on the January 19, 2021 meeting: 12/01/2020 Working Group meeting 12/01/2020 Council meeting 12/03/2020 Meeting with Developer 12/08/2020 PUB update meeting 12/08/2020 Waste/recycling meeting 12/10/2020 MARR 12/10/2020 Ward Boundary Meeting 12/11/2020 Fire Service Interview 12/11/2020 WMR Board Meeting 12/15/2020 Council meeting 12/17/2020 HR meeting 12/17/2020 Planning Meeting. She has not yet reported any activities for 2021. Note she actually reported activities for only December 1, 3, 8, 10, 11, 15, and 17th. , a total of 7 days in one month, approximately 56 hours, or multiplied by 12 months, 672 hours or 84 days out of 365 days per year. SOME OF THOSE 7 DAYS WOULD NOT HAVE INVOLVED 8 HOURS OF ACTUAL WORK BUT I USED AN 8 HOUR DAY IN MY CALCULATION. Considering that she is earning approximately \$50,000. per annum, possibly more, I don't think ratepayers are getting good value for their tax dollars. THESE REPORTS SHOULD NOT BE APPROVED BY COUNCIL UNTIL THEY CONTAIN REPORTS FROM EVERY MEMBER OF COUNCIL AS THEY ARE INCOMPLETE. THEY SHOULD BE DEFERRED PENDING COMPLETION. THIS WOULD HOLD EVERY MEMBER OF COUNCIL ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR POSITION. PUBLIC SHOULD NOT BE THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING THIS TO THE EVERYONE'S ATTENTION.

QUESTION PERIOD - No one took advantage of it. WHAT IS THE POINT? NOTE: Concerned citizens that have in the past posed questions which now MUST be directly related to items on the agenda are not given answers but are directed to put their questions in writing to the CAO and they will get their response at some future point. The answers should be available at the time of the meeting and both Council and the CAO should have done their due diligence and have sufficient information available at hand to be able to respond during the public meeting. Further if a complete answer is not immediately available, the matter should be added to the agenda of the next meeting and a complete response should be given at that time. THE ANSWER MUST BE PUBLIC.

BY-LAWS - 7.1 By-Law 21-05 Cancellation of Taxes (1st Reading) - Be it resolved that First Reading be given to By-Law #21-05 being a by-law of the RM of Springfield to authorize the cancellation of taxes and debts owing to the Municipality. Carried 6-0 NOTE: In the interests of the public, there should be an explanation included with the report for each of the taxes and debts being forgiven as TRANSPARENCY IS ONE OF THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE RM'S STRATEGIC PLAN.

CONSENT AGENDA - 8.3 Age Friendly Manitoba - Councillor Wilson - To what extent is the RM engaging with the Age Friendly Initiative, the last item. Are our staff involved or are we in fact involved with Leslie Thompson and the Board to secure an initiative on that? Colleen Draper - So I know that Shawn does attend any meetings um on that. I can get more information. I don't think they're officially meeting as often as they used to but um the service to seniors coordinator and Shawn are involved with the Age Friendly Manitoba. Councillor Wilson - It just seemed to me that there should be a little bit more liaison with the offer of assistance and what not that they're putting forward there. I am fine with staff following up on it.

NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Springfield Recreation Commission (Terms of Reference) RENAMED Springfield Community Rec Centre Fund Raising Committee Terms of Reference - **NOTE: It is inappropriate to call this initiative "Community" as it is being initiated by Council, not the grassroots community. Council is elected by residents of the municipality to represent their best interests. There has been no recent move on the part of residents of Oakbank and its immediate surroundings, or indeed the entire municipality, to either initiate or fund raise for such a centre and it is not in keeping with the recommendations contained in the Springfield Master Recreation Plan that the previous Council ratified after extensive community involvement. Call it what you will, this is an initiative of Mayor Fell, motivated by who knows what or who, and shame on Council for seconding it. They will go down in history as one of the most ill advised in the history of Springfield and leave it with an untenable debt load. KEEP THEIR ACTIONS WHILE ON COUNCIL IN MIND IN OCTOBER 2022, THE NEXT MUNICIPAL ELECTION.** *Be it resolved that the Municipality of Springfield Council accepts the attached Springfield Community Recreation Centre fundraising committee terms of reference.* **Councillor Wilson** - My concern with the number of RM Staff time being dedicated to this single project um for example I would ask why the RM Finance Manager is proposed to be involved with this project um let alone to the extent indicated. **Mayor Fell** - You want to know why the Finance Manager is involved with fundraising? **Councillor Wilson** - As Treasurer of this um this "community" fund raising committee. **Mayor Fell** - Because it's a fund raising committee initiated by us, that's why. **NOTE: BINGO!!!! "By us"....not by the community! Thank you, Madame Mayor, I could not have said it better myself. IT IS NOT A "COMMUNITY" RECREATION CENTRE initiated by the residents of the community except perhaps, one ratepayer of the community, the one that would most benefit from a year round turf surface. One that is responsible for the Coyotes Soccer Club. Soccer in the schools is reserved for the months of the school year when soccer is played outdoors. In the winter, they have other types of sports programs, ones that can be played indoors in gymnasiums. Councillor Wilson already, last year, investigated the efficacy of indoor turf surfaces insofar as the revenue they generate as opposed to the cost of maintenance and upkeep and was told they are NOT COST EFFECTIVE.** But I will let Councillor Rakle and ...or give her comments. **Councillor Rakle** - Right, as I understand it that when we're in our own community club to have a treasurer or a link to the RM especially with the finances very imperative in order for us when to doc...donations and money in cash and all different manners of ..of funds came in, you needed to have a direct line to that and because it is an RM initiative, it's not a community initiative, the committee community liaison has to work in ca...I guess in unison with um with Shawn and Jody which could make sense to me so that you're getting those direct funds put into the direct location and I don't think there's a lot of time required. That Committee's going to do what they have to do, they're going to get together, they're going to run it, they're going...I mean I'm assuming from what I've read and then when uh you need some, I think it states, um to have conversations and/or to have uh ideas or to brainstorm , you're going to get ahold of Shawn, if you've got monies coming in you're going to get ahold of Jody, Jody would attend or be part of things only **when** it was necessary to do so but um again I think it's just a failsafe and it's really important to have all those players in place **NOTE: I would assume that weekdays Shawn Wilkinson and Jody Thiessen, being employees of the RM of Springfield and by extension, the ratepayers of the municipality, would be at their desks and available to provide expertise or whatever service was necessary.** because if you don't now you've got money coming in and you don't know where to put it, you don't have a direct stream. (takes quick breath) I don't want to say it's going to get lost but it's ..it may not get to where it needs to be as quickly as possible, that's my thoughts. **NOTE: I understand in past initiatives "money" did indeed get "misplaced" according to common local knowledge. Perhaps that is what Councillor Rakle is alluding to.** **Councillor Williams** - Um I would...I would agree that Jody in particular should be part of this Committee. There have been many, many examples of community uh recreation organizations where funds have been misappropriated because there was somebody on the committee that uh was thinking uh it would be easy for them to **cook the books.** I don't have that concern with Jody. **CARRIED 5-1 NOTE: I would hazard to say Councillor Wilson is the lone dissenter, in all likelihood being aware of the prevailing opinion of his electors.**

9.2 Dugald Water Supply Upgrades - *Be it resolved that Council of the RM of Springfield authorize the CAO to execute an electric service agreement with Manitoba Hydro in the amount of \$96,922.35 plus applicable taxes to service the Dugald Raw Water Well Supply Field.* **CARRIED 6-0 NOTE: These are the costs not talked about when discussing the advisability of sinking back up wells to provide water to Dugald and Oakbank. It might have been better and more cost effective to enforce the safeguards to prevent encroachment by aggregate operations on the existing wells on Heatherdale Road to eliminate the necessity of back up wells east of Dugald in an agricultural area not well serviced by Hydro and known to be an area of questionable water quality.**

9.3 SCADA Capital Purchase - *Be it resolved that Council of the RM of Springfield authorizes the capital purchase of the SCADA server from Selko Automation in the amount of \$13,706.77 plus applicable taxes and fees.* **CARRIED 6-0**

9.4 Transfer to Reserves - *Be it resolved that Council of the RM of Springfield transfer the following: \$900,000. to the General Revenue Reserve, \$31,000.10 General Reserve, \$160,000. Capital Requirements Reserve, and \$3600. Recreation Reserve.* **CARRIED 6-0**

9.5 Procurement Policy - *Be it resolved that Council of the RM of Springfield approve the Procurement Policy as presented.* **Mayor Fell** - I know we discussed this in the Committee of the Whole and there was a couple of changes um so we've reflected those in the new draft here. **CARRIED 6-0**

9.7 Night Hunting Petition - **Colleen Draper** - So we were forwarded a copy of correspondence from the RM of Riding Mountain West asking...or just providing information on a letter they sent regarding night hunting to the Hon. Pallister and so at this point this could just be

for information or if Council wants us to provide a support letter uh following suit we could do that as well. Um I feel like our changes to our by-law address our concerns for Springfield but um....if we want to lend support to this, we can do that as well. **Mayor Fell** - I think my preference would be just take it for information um right now. **Councillor Ralke** - Does our current by-law that we just done address night hunting? **NOTE: Are we paying an indemnity to Councillor Ralke to not prepare for meetings of Council by pre-researching the items to be discussed on the agenda which is posted the Friday previous to the meeting? Shouldn't Ms. Ralke be doing her job, the one for which she is being paid? It is a simple enough process to Google Manitoba Provincial Hunting Guidelines. I have done it several times myself.** **Mayor Fell** - Well there's Provincial regulations for it. **Councillor Ralke** - So no it's just Provincial? Ya, so there you go, it's completely different. **CAO Colleen Draper** - We follow the Provincial Guidelines. **Councillor Ralke** - That's right so I .. they are too as is everybody else so I...this is above and beyond whether we just let it go so I guess I would support that because there is citizens and maybe my area that's more rural that do have concerns with individuals hunting on Crown Land at night so. **Mayor Fell** - But you're not..I believe night hunting is not allowed now. **NOTE: Again, did Mayor Fell not prepare herself by researching the items to be discussed on the agenda?** **Councillor Ralke** - No it was going to be taken away and then it was brought back again that that's the issue is that uh individuals, First Nations are saying that it's their right TO HUNT AT NIGHT and that's why this RM has come forward to say, we understand the right but we're not interfering with that but this, this particular aspect is UNSAFE so. **Mayor Fell** - Ok I was not aware that they, that they went back to allowing night hunting. **Councillor Ralke** - And they can't stop it because it's the First Nations right. **CAO Colleen Draper** - So I felt our new by-law addresses somewhat that concern that it doesn't allow you to within so many feet of an occupied building so this, their concern is for smaller Crown Land property that's close to residents and if they're allowed to hunt there the proximity to residences that our by-law doesn't allow that in any situation but uh we can look into it further and maybe come back with some suggestions. I don't know a lot about hunting so I would have to do some research but..... **Councillor Ralke** - Ya, I agree and it's all to do with Crown Land. It's like that's all it is that they're asking for is that you don't be ...cause all the other laws and rules and regulations are in place if you're within a certain meters of a residence or uh a development or anything like that so that's all in place. That's all there um but if these Crown Lands that might be bordering somebody's property and how far a bullet can stray and things like that on that Crown Land that is closest to those residential areas. I too..I do not know if we have lots or any in Springfield that have Crown Land that butts up against somebody's property and how many exact meters it would be from their home or their livestock or their children or their dogs or whatever **NOTE: Curious her order of priority...home first, then livestock, then children, then dogs, and I am assuming whatever includes the spouse. Seems it might be based on monetary considerations...homes and livestock are investments, children, dogs and whatever are not revenue generating, thus not quite as valuable.** um but just wanted to address that I know there's citizens who have called me and spoke to me about the request to do something more. **NOTE: Is Councillor Ralke for real? Is she not aware of the Crown Land in the vicinity of Vivian?** **Mayor Fell** - So maybe we can take this for information but just have a look to see if we address this correctly and then if there's something we need to discuss further, then well we have to bring it back.

9.8 Springfield Heritage Housing Incorporated - Mayor Fell - Um it's for the land around Dugald Estates. I'm going to get a mover and seconder. *Whereas the RM of Springfield is the sole member of the Springfield Heritage Housing Inc. and whereas SHHI requires land to construct an assisted living building in Dugald to provide a range of safe, affordable, and quality housing to encourage residents of the RM of Springfield to remain in their community to enable seniors to age in place and to stimulate economic development, and whereas SHHI requires land that is titled to facilitate mortgage financing and whereas SHHI desires to develop a range of senior housing options within an aging in place campus approach, and whereas SNSSNHC as has developed an independent seniors housing building on Lot 1, Plan 55985 adjacent to Lot 2, Plan 55985 owned by the RM of Springfield that is suitable for development of an Assisted Living Building to be an Aging in Place Campus consistent with the vision of SHHI, therefore be it resolved that the RM of Springfield support the amendment of the petition by Springfield Seniors Non Profit Housing Corporation to surrender a portion of Lot 1, Plan 55985 to Lot 2, Plan 55985 owned by the RM and further be it resolved that the RM of Springfield create a leasehold title for Lot 2, Plan 55985 and grant the leasehold title to SHHI for a 50 year period to construct an Assisted Living Building to create an Age In Place Campus in Dugald as SHHI's first project in the RM of Springfield.* **Mayor Fell** - This is actually necessary so the group can get the financing for the building uh which we are hoping that will start construction in Fall. Next week on the Committee of the Whole meeting ..I believe it's next week, um Lesley Thompson and Gordon Damon who um are involved in that Committee are going to give a full explanation of the project that's going on in Dugald um so they will be able to give an outlay of what's going to be happening within the next few months. All those in favour. **CARRIED 6-0** **NOTE: In the Resolution as read out by the CAO, following the fifth whereas, she incorrectly refers to SNSSNHC when I believe it should be SSNHC. The entire resolution is suspect. JUST EXACTLY WHEN, AT WHICH MEETING OF COUNCIL, DID THE SPRINGFIELD SENIORS NON PROFIT HOUSING CORPORATION EITHER ORIGINALLY PETITION OR SUBSEQUENTLY PRESENT AN AMENDED PETITION TO COUNCIL TO FORM A CORPORATION TO TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS HOUSING VENTURE? Incorporating is the process of legally declaring a corporate entity as separate from its owners. First this resolution states that the RM of Springfield is the "sole" member of the Springfield Heritage Housing Inc. ????** When was the public asked for permission for our Municipality to become a corporate entity and why is the RM the sole owner of the corporation? When did the vision of this municipality being involved in the business of providing aging in place senior housing to residents happen? Why is the RM being the corporate entity responsible for Aging in Place senior housing necessary to obtain financing? Would that not imply they would be liable should anything happen, or at least their corporate entity would be? Municipalities do not have money of their own. Their financing comes strictly from taxation of residents so indirectly they are involving all ratepayers in a corporate entity? In the first project, it was the Springfield Seniors Non Profit Housing Corporation that assumed that responsibility, i.e.

those that chose of their own volition to participate by putting up their own funds into the project. To me this corporate entity is not an appropriate use of tax dollars. Housing is not an enterprise in which a government should be directly involved. Why has their methodology of raising funds for construction changed from the model of individuals interested in obtaining a place in the facility putting up their own private funds to involving the RM of Springfield as the guarantor? Perhaps that is because there has not been buy-in from the community at large in which case it should not proceed.

Closed Meeting - NOTE: While this item was on the Agenda after the 9.7 discussion and was not removed during approval of the agenda, Mayor Fell then asked for a motion to Adjourn. ADJOURNED

NOTE: Councillor Williams is heard saying at the end of the meeting, "THAT'S GOT TO BE A RECORD". And then a female voice saying "...guys...", probably alluding to the fact that the recorder is still recording. AN 18 MINUTE MEETING WHEN THERE ARE 7 ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS AS WELL AS FIRST READING OF A LENGTHY BY-LAW really speaks volumes, especially considering the longest discussion was on Night Hunting and there was no discussion at all on the fact THAT MAYOR FELL HAS DECIDED TO MAKE RATEPAYERS RESPONSIBLE THROUGH AN INCORPORATED ENTITY (Springfield Heritage Housing Inc.) for the addition of a Assisted Living Building (Aging in Place Campus) to Dugald Estates 50 year leasehold agreement. I have said it many times before, a Municipal Council should not be in the business of "COMMERCE". THE R.M. SHOULD NOT BE A MEMBER OF THE SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. The original Dugald Estates was a private initiative wherein interested parties put up, I believe, in the neighbourhood of \$75,000. each to participate in a housing cooperative. I believe Councillor Williams and his wife were quite involved in the enterprise at the time. I BELIEVE THE R.M. DONATED THE LAND FOR DUGALD ESTATES AND WILL BE DONATING THE LAND FOR THIS NEW INITIATIVE. Last year there was much controversy about the fact that Council was petitioned by Dugald Estates to take responsibility for snow clearing their property, street lighting, flushing water mains etc. In spite of the opposition to this proposition, this Council agreed to use municipal manpower and equipment to perform services on private property, Dugald Estates. IN MY OPINION, AND PROBABLY THE OPINION OF MANY TAXPAYERS, WE SHOULD NOT BE PAYING FOR SERVICES ON PRIVATELY OWNED PROPERTY. We are responsible for lighting and snow clearing on our properties so why should we be paying for the maintenance of private property. Councils have also allowed developers to download the responsibility for maintenance of the "lakes" that take the place of storm drains in housing developments in the municipality while the developers are in all likelihood paid more for the lots on the "lakes" but take no responsibility for their upkeep. THIS IS NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF MUNICIPAL RATEPAYERS AT LARGE WHO MUST FEND FOR THEMSELVES INSOFAR AS SERVICES SUCH AS GARBAGE PICKUP, SEWAGE, AND WATER. IF YOU FEEL YOUR INTERESTS ARE NOT BEING PROPERLY REPRESENTED BY THIS COUNCIL, I WOULD ASK THAT YOU E-MAIL OR SEND THEM YOUR OPINIONS IN WRITING WITH COPIES TO THE OMBUDSMAN AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, MANITOBA GOVERNMENT. ONLY RATEPAYERS IN NUMBERS CAN ACHIEVE CHANGE. NEXT YOU WILL BE PAYING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF A REC CENTRE THAT WILL BE OPERATED BY PAID STAFF, UNLIKE OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY CLUBS WHERE RESIDENTS HAVE A CHOICE OF DONATING VOLUNTEER HOURS OR A REASONABLE FINANCIAL EQUIVALENT THEREOF. IS THIS WHY YOU CHOSE TO LIVE IN A RURAL MUNICIPALITY?