

## RM OF SPRINGFIELD COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

WITHOUT PREJUDICE (E&OE)

**BE SURE TO READ TO THE END OF MY NOTES FOR MY COMMENTS ON "TIME TO FISH OR CUT BAIT" IN THE NOVEMBER 7TH ISSUE OF THE CLIPPER. THE FORMER CHAIR OF THE POLICE BOARD, MYSELF, WAS NOT CONTACTED BY THE REPORTER OR THE EDITOR FOR COMMENT. UNBALANCED JOURNALISM ONCE AGAIN.**

**NOTE: The Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for November 12, 2019 has been cancelled. This is not surprising as the last two have been of such short duration as to make it hardly worth one's while to attend. There is nothing of consequence on the agendas of the public portion of these meetings and while staff is present, they appear to be there for the Closed portion of the meeting only. THIS IS A DISTURBING TREND. C.O.W. meetings are the ones where the business of the municipality is discussed and the public has an opportunity to freely express their opinions and interact with Council to hopefully arrive at solutions of benefit to the majority of taxpayers. No formal decisions are supposed to be made at these meetings. The current Council holds token C.O.W. meetings, LISTENS BUT DOES NOT HEAR, and then goes into lengthy Closed Sessions where it appears that indeed decisions are being made which are then brought to the very next Council meeting to be adopted. Council decisions, of late, have not necessarily been of benefit to the majority of residents. In my opinion, this is not good government. We do not elect Councils to accommodate one area of society at the expense of the majority of others. MY OPINION: THIS COUNCIL IS TAKING AWAY YOUR VOICE AND THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE FAIRNESS FOR ALL IS TO DEMAND BETTER CONDUCT OF THE BUSINESS OF SPRINGFIELD. I think we should all be asking for a moratorium on spending and a forensic review of the way we acquire and dispose of municipal assets. The responsibility of every resident is oversight of how your tax dollars are being spent.**

The Mayor was absent for the **October 22** C.O.W. meeting and the **October 24**, 2019 Planning Meeting. When the Minutes of the **October 15**, 2019 meeting were being approved, she **ABSTAINED** as she forgot she attended that particular meeting. **If she was prepared for this meeting, and knew the agenda, she would have been aware that she did get to vote on the Minutes of the Meeting being approved. She realized that after the fact.** She complimented Erica Wood, the Assistant to the CAO, for alleged improvements to the RM web site. **QUESTION: Why would this not be a function of the IT person the municipality hired?**

### QUESTION PERIOD

**John Wright** - Two questions. If I were to go into a used grader lot in Winnipeg to price out a used 2015 grader, could I buy a grader at \$75,000?  
**Mayor Fell** - I don't think anybody could answer that question. **Councillor Bredin** - I will just comment that because that Volvo is obsolete, they don't build them anymore, the value of that would be less than it would be, in my opinion, than if you were trading something that actually had value....that could be the effect of that price because we were getting a lot of trouble with it, that was stated last time, and Volvo doesn't build graders anymore because they weren't doing a good job. **John Wright** - The reason I looked at it is because a new one is \$450,000. and a trade-in for \$75,000. ...that's why I asked that question. **Councillor Bredin and Mayor Fell** both tried to justify this because of the repair history and the fact Volvo no longer makes graders. **John Wright** - Question #2 Item 10.9. I was present when that last accident happened and I didn't see anything on the web site about what was going to be discussed. **Mayor Fell** - So when that accident happened along with other accidents that have happened, I received a lot of calls and e-mails even though both roads at the intersection are provincial jurisdiction to advocate on behalf of the safety of our residents. We've put through resolutions in the past asking for increased safety measures at that intersection. The province has said they will be doing a feasibility study, however we want to reiterate our position as a Council that we want increased safety measures there. We don't get to decide what they are. **John Wright** - I hear that it could be a roundabout or a set of lights. I'd like to see Springfield make a recommendation. **Mayor Fell** - We have. Our last resolution stated that Council supports a roundabout at that location. May 21, 2019 (Colleen Draper retrieved resolution) *Be it resolved that the Council of the RM of Springfield request that Manitoba Infrastructure investigate the benefits of a possible speed reduction on PR 206 and Garven Road along with the installation of flashing signs in order to improve safety. Be it further resolved that the Council of the RM of Springfield support Manitoba Infrastructure's proposal for a rotary intersection at PR 206 and Garven.* **John Wright** - A roundabout. Wow! Most people don't know how to use a roundabout. That's scary. **Mayor Fell** - Thank you. Is there any other questions? **NOTE: Mr. Wright's question about the low trade--in value is valid. Because used units of this vintage are selling for anywhere from \$142,000. to \$159,000. U.S., the used Volvo should have been advertised for sale by the Public Works department in order to receive the optimum sale price rather than using it as a trade-in. When dealerships give a buyer a trade-in for their old vehicle, it is always less than they expect to receive in return upon resale. Further, in my opinion, he is also spot on when it comes to a traffic circle. There is no real reason for the number of accidents at that intersection except for impatience. When I come down that hill on 206, I always slow down and when possible, check both sides of Garven for oncoming traffic before reaching the intersection. I am pretty sure the best mitigation would be traffic lights and flashing warning lights on 206 prior to the intersection such as on #15 highway east of the floodway and just before #207. Even then, the responsibility in large part for these accidents rests with irresponsible drivers, not the intersection.**

**Vic Gerbasi, Cooks Creek** - Why can't the Province, Highways be a little more consistent with their statements. Now you've got 100 down to 90, 70 to almost 50. Why don't you just go down to 90 at Garven right down to 70 and then you cross to 50 at the tracks. **Mayor Fell** - Again, that is MI's jurisdiction. I've been told when I asked that they have a formula that their engineers use to do speed changes but if you want the details on that, you have to contact MI to actually understand their rationale and process. **Vic Gerbasi** ... This is a money grab situation. **Mayor Fell** - Write Manitoba Infrastructure and your MLA. We can make suggestions but the decision is up to MI. **Councillor Wilson** - We have recommended speed changes and gone to the MI Board and in all cases it appeared the decision is made by the engineers. **Vic Gerbasi** - Just asking for consistency in the speed.

**Darryl Speer, Oakbank** - Referring to the Public Works report a tender to Nelson River Construction for 40,000 cubic feet of gravel for the 2020 season. Can you tell me how much that will cost the RM? **Mayor Fell** - Sorry, which section are you looking at? **Colleen Draper** - I can get that information for you. **Mayor Fell** - We can bring this forward to the next Committee of the Whole meeting next week and give you your answer. **Darryl Speer** - Has the tender not been approved? **Mayor Fell** - I don't have that information with me. **Darryl Speer** - The CAO should have that information. **Mayor Fell** - She does not. **Colleen Draper** - I do not have it in front of me. I will get it to you. **Darryl Speer** - How much gravel did we crush in 2019? **Mayor Fell** - We will talk to our Director of Public Works and get back to you. **Darryl Speer** - Ok because in November 2018 the report to Council was 28,500 yds. were crushed with one crusher and that same report purchased a new primary crusher and throughout the whole period from December to today.... **Mayor Fell** - Darryl, I am sorry to interrupt but what agenda item is this referring to, the report from 2018? Which part of the Public Works report is referring to the 2018 gravel crushing? **Darryl Speer** - It would be the seventh item under Recent Accomplishments, November 2018. **Discussion on Council as to where it is on the current agenda.** **Mayor Fell** - Darryl, if you have other questions unrelated to this agenda, please send them to our CAO or the Director of Public Works. **Darryl Speer** - I would also like to comment that Reeve Bodnaruk is in very poor condition in hospital which you may or may not know. He was in for surgery and was recovering, however he had a setback and is in intensive care at the Grace Hospital. He had two heart stoppages and they have him under very strong sedation and surveillance for his condition. **Mayor Fell** - Thank you for letting us know. Is there any other questions from the gallery? **NOTE: There is a deliberate attempt, it seems apparent to me, on the part of the Mayor, with the backing of Council, to curtail any criticism of spending, purchases, and any other question that highlights them in less than a positive fashion. The crusher we purchased last year for almost a quarter of a million has, to my knowledge, as yet never been operational. That is completely unacceptable. In fact, on Thursday evening, November 7, 2019, Council held an Open House at the RM Administration Building Celebrating their One Year Anniversary and showcasing their accomplishments. The e-mail announcement advertising this event was sent 2 days prior to the date of the event. It is therefore understandable that they had a very low turnout. However no expense was spared as a lavish spread of dainties and sweets from a local caterer was provided for guests. As someone that was on Council for a term, I see no need for this expensive display. Had I been on Council, I would have suggested that those that felt it necessary should pay for the employee overtime and caterer out of their own pockets. Remember, they granted themselves a 20% wage increase shortly after being elected. In fact, Deputy Mayor Ralke was even honest enough to state publicly that she would not have run for office if she thought she was going to earn less than the previous Councillor. As is, if you look at the end of the monthly financial reports, you will see that she has already earned considerably more than the Councillor that preceded her and it is not yet the end of the year. While I know the majority of residents lack knowledge regarding municipal politics and how their Council works and reports, it might be a good idea to set aside a few hours a week to familiarize oneself with the spending habits of Council as ultimately this is what causes tax increases and nobody is fond of seeing their property taxes rise. Further when voting in a municipal election, taxpayers should ensure, by questioning potential candidates, their choice has consistently taken an interest in municipal politics over the years and is knowledgeable as to the issues and concerns of residents that may require decision making during their term of office.**

**Melinda Warren, Poplar Road** - I would just like to go to Elected Officials. I would just like to thank the ones who I e-mailed and who responded and I thank **Mr. Wilson**, and **Mr. Williams** and whoever else contacted the Cooks Creek Conservation District because the drainage is awful, the road conditions were awful, **Mr. Bredin**, thank you. We've talked and talked and talked. It's just, living where I live, the Cooks Creek Conservation is there, the elevator is there, your wells are there, that's fine but I (voice breaking) have to live there. I have pictures to show you and then I am leaving. **Mayor Fell** - Could you pass that to Erika here, please. **Melinda Warren** - This would be the Parrish and Heimbecker site totally under water because they are below the flood line next to my house. Have a good night. **Councillor Wilson** - When was this taken? **Melinda Warren** - Right after all the water came. So if we were to have a flood like in the 90s or another big snow storm before the spring thaw, that's what we all get to look at. The drainage needs to be done. I know it takes time like you say. I understand that. But seriously, I live there. (Tearfully) In your proposal, Madame Mayor, your well doesn't exist. **Mayor Fell** - Council needs to pass that on to the Conservation District. **Councillor Bredin** - I believe we did talk to them right after... we brought it up right after it occurred. **Mayor Fell** - Oh, great, so the Conservation District is working on it. Thank you very much. As there were no further questions, she closed the Question Period. **NOTE: Just to be sure everyone is aware of the issue here, Ms. Warren is the daughter of Garry Brown. There are 3 residences near the corner of Poplar and Suthwyn Road, south of Hwy. #15, where the Browns have resided for many years. The decision to move the municipal wells to the Poplar Road from Meadowvale Road caused untold hardships for Garry Brown and his brother insofar as their wells and water supply and indeed, they were without water for 4 days or in one case weeks. Further their quality of water has deteriorated "big time". The last update on the municipal wells situation was held at the last COW meeting where, as in my notes, they taped paper over the window so residents could not see the presentation. TRANSPARENCY????? To make matters worse, Council or at least their Planning Department but I cannot believe Council was not aware, approved a building permit for an elevator within the same mile on Poplar Road. This has had a detrimental**

effect on the new highway surface because now there are ripples from all the gravel truck traffic because of that P&H site preparation. For now, a Stop Work Order has been issued by the Province pending an environment review. I think not! Poplar Road is not suitable for heavy truck traffic and there is no off ramp provided when that could easily have been done while the Province was re-surfacing the highway. *I am afraid no amount of dainties and story boards can do much to mitigate the negative effects of Council and Staff's decisions on it residents.* Just ask Natasha who recently did a presentation on the Silica Sand mining situation in Vivian and who has now sold their home and moved out of Springfield.

**Councillor Wilson** - With respect to the Engineering Report, I note the amount of water to the lagoon sewage wise is double the amount piped from the complex and if that's the case, I would like to have that whole situation put on a Committee of the Whole meeting with a report on the issue and possible solutions as that is "grotesque, quite frankly" that that much run-off is going into our sewer system. **Mayor Fell** - I believe Santokh was supposed to be here, he couldn't, so I agree that we should probably put that on a Committee of the Whole before we direct him to do a report because he may know the reason and if not, then he can be directed to do a report.

**Items 10.2, 10.3, and 10.5** - Purchase of 2018 Schulte SDX-102 Snow Blower from Keystone Agri-Motive Inc. for the sum of **\$9,500. plus applicable taxes** budgeted for replacement in 2019 and over budget price by \$223. and not lowest bid; Purchase of one new 2019 Motor Grader although the resolution approving it refers to it as "one new 2018 John Deer Motor Grader 772G with additional items and attachments for the sum of **\$351,638. plus applicable taxes**" in the attached report from Brant Tractor. There is no other suppliers listed in the report, the money from the budget being used for the purchase was originally allocated for purchase of a fire truck (from Florida) which apparently will now not be delivered until early 2020, and the price quoted in the resolution is after the deduction of \$75,000. trade-in for the Volvo grader, approved by both the CAO and Manager of Finance. Money for the fire truck will now be allocated in the 2020 budget discussions.; Community Futures Winnipeg River renewal of a 3-year regional buying opportunity with Townfolio, a Saskatchewan based company that helps communities market and connect with potential investors through their Canadian Community Profile Network for the price to Springfield of **\$1,500./year x 3 years**. **Councillor Wilson** wondered if we had any statistics on the number of hits on the site or positive commentary but the CAO had nothing definitive on it. **10.7 Red River Basin 2020 Conference** - Deferred at Mayor's request as she wished to discuss it with the CAO. **10-11** Councillor Ralke was re-appointed Deputy Mayor for 2019-2020, 2 issues after it was reported in the Clipper. **All the above motions were CARRIED 6-0.**

**Item 10.9** - *Be it resolved that Council of the RM of Springfield continue to work with Manitoba Infrastructure in regards to safety options for PR 206 and Garven Road intersection; and be it further resolved that Administration prepare a letter to the Province on behalf of Council to request changes to be done at this intersection to improve the safety of all residents and travelers.* **CARRIED 6-0**

A Council meeting schedule was approved but 3 days later, the first meeting on the schedule was CANCELLED, the November 12, 2019 C.O.W. meeting as mentioned above.

**JUST PRIOR TO COUNCIL GOING INTO "CLOSED SESSION", THE CURRENT CHAIR OF THE POLICE BOARD, ANNE WOWCHUK, ENTERED THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND REMAINED FOR THE IN CAMERA. THE QUESTION IS, IF SHE WAS THERE TO DISCUSS THE SPRINGFIELD POLICE SERVICE AND THE FORMER POLICE BOARD, HOW IS IT THAT TONY ZERUCHA, THE ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF THE CLIPPER, WHO WAS NOT AT THE MEETING, WAS ABLE TO HAVE HIS ARTICLE IN THE NOVEMBER 7, 2019 ISSUE OF THE NEWSPAPER WHEN IT CLOSES TO GO TO PRINT AT NOON ON TUESDAYS. THIS COUNCIL MEETING WAS AT 6:30 P.M. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019.**

#### CLOSED SESSION AND RECONVENE

**10-13 Police Radios** - *Be it resolved that Council of the RM of Springfield award the purchase of radio equipment from Bell via Alcom Communications for the sum of \$65,781.81 plus additional expenses for programming and activation fees for the public safety communications service network.* **CARRIED 6-0**

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

"**TIME TO FISH OR CUT BAIT**" Page 13 of the November 7, 2019 issue of the Clipper. In the same edition of the Clipper, the Editor, Mr. Buss, on Page 4, The Opinion Page, outlines *The Clipper's Letter to the Editor Policy*, 16 rules. I particularly enjoyed #4 which prohibits organizations and politicians from using this forum for commentary wherein Mr. Buss states "*Their comments will be noted and used to formulate balanced reports.*" **NOTE: MR. ZERUCHA'S ARTICLE IS ANYTHING BUT BALANCED AS HE ONLY INCLUDED COMMENTARY FROM THE CURRENT CHAIR OF THE SPRINGFIELD POLICE BOARD, AND NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO OBTAIN A STATEMENT FROM THE PREVIOUS CHAIR.** Her commentary is not only inaccurate but also appears to be that of only her own, not the entire Board, and not at all objective but rather an attack on the previous Chair. "*They've been allowed to have this policing agency, it's been grandfathered in, but the fact is the RCMP has been the policing body of Springfield and always has been,*" ..."*Having two police services is not the norm, it's not how it should be. It's confusing to the public - they don't know who to call.*" **FACT:** A previous provincial government Minister of Justice granted the RM of Springfield this opportunity to have their own service while still maintaining the services of the R.C.M.P. On and off for over a hundred years, Springfield has had its own police service. This I have been told is verified in the archives of the municipality. **FACT:** In an emergency,

people do know who to call...."911" ....and such calls are referred to the R.C.M.P. for a response. However as the gentleman who appeared as a delegation at the last Police Board regular meeting clearly stated, their response may be two days later and you have no recourse but to watch your quad being stolen from your property or take matters into your own hands at great risk. Further while the R.C.M.P. is the policing body in Springfield, this detachment is also the policing body for Beausejour and Brokenhead, a huge area, and the service is seriously understaffed country wide. Between 2014 and 2018 the R.C.M.P. co-operated with the Springfield Police Service and asked for their assistance when necessary. The Springfield Police Service members are qualified police but while they can deal with issues under the Criminal Code and the Manitoba Motor Vehicles Act, they are also responsible for enforcing the by-laws of the RM of Springfield to which the R.C.M.P. may not respond such as noise issues. During that 4 year period, I endeavoured to raise the visibility of the Springfield Police Service and sought the public's opinion in a series of public forums as to whether to have a municipal police service or by-law officers that could enforce only municipal by-laws. As the majority of participants wished to retain a fully qualified municipal police service, I ensured Police Board meetings were open to the public and members of the audience were free to voice their opinions and concerns. I did my utmost to ensure the service was retained. Chair Wowchuk has public Police Board meetings, but she discourages any participation by the audience. In fact, a meeting I organized was held in 2017 at which all stakeholders, Council, the Board, the members of the Springfield Police Service, and the Police Commissioner met and discussed what could be done to improve policing in Springfield. At the time, Council had, in a moment of complete transparency, been told by a member of "D" Division of the R.C.M.P. that their staffing shortages were not going to be improved for at least a period of up to 10 years. Having a local police service dedicated to Springfield that was capable of working in cooperation with the R.C.M.P. seemed, at that time, a good thing and still should be. *"Although I support this rural municipality in having their own police service to suit the needs of the community, I do not share the same means (??) or goals that the present board members or council appear to have,"* Wowchuk said in her 2016 resignation letter. *"During my tenure the board lacked vision, leadership and consistency."* Immediately prior to this statement, Mr. Zerucha writes "Her statement at the time foreshadowed issues she would inherit some 30 months later." To which issues is Mr. Zerucha referring....lack of vision, leadership and consistency or means and goals? In fact, during my tenure, a Strategic Plan was ratified and placed on the web site of the municipality, as well as a Communication Plan which has since been slightly altered by this Board but not to any significant degree, Annual Reports were completed, ratified by the Board, and posted for all residents to see, and there was a start on establishing Board policies shortly before my term as Board Chair ended. **FACT:** I left Ms. Wowchuk the Annual Report already completed for 2018 with the exception of her commentary and the minutes of the final quarterly meeting, something I was not mandated to do. Another point I wish to make is that Ms. Wowchuk resigned from that Board right after advocating for Paul LaPorte to become an Auxiliary Officer of the Springfield Police Service in 2016. He had asked for this in a presentation to the Board in order to deliver the D.A.R.E. Program in uniform as the R.C.M.P. no longer allowed their Auxiliary to wear uniforms. He did not remain very long in this position before the then Chief of Police cancelled the Auxiliary. Since becoming the Chair of the Board, under the auspices of former Chief of Police Kane who rather unexpectedly has since resigned and left the Province, Mr. LaPorte again became an Auxiliary Officer of the Springfield Police Service, as did Angela Temple, formerly the Provincial representative on the Police Board who resigned in October 2018, on the day of the Municipal Elections, leaving the Board non operative. **NOTE:** I would ask, since Ms. Wowchuk took on the duties of Board Chair, what has she accomplished other than her and her Board criticizing the actions of the former Chair. Has more cooperation with the R.C.M.P. been achieved, has there been less personnel changes on the Springfield Police Service, has this Board raised the profile of the Springfield Police Service????? I know what they have accomplished and that is that the budget of the Service has increased from \$393,000./annum in 2017 to \$565,000., they have spent almost \$150,000. on vehicles, half of a building has been purchased and refurbished for their use which equates to 3/4 of a million dollars and as noted in the resolution above, another \$65,781.81 plus additional expenses for programming and activation fees has just been approved for new radios. According to Mr. Zerucha in his article, Wowchuk "learned that while she was away the board has been presented with options by Manitoba Justice for SPS, which included transitioning it into a fully functional police service (and removing the RCMP from the community), eliminating it altogether, or transitioning it into a bylaw enforcement service." **NOTE:** While serving as Chair of the Springfield Police Board, my contact was always with Andrew Minor, Executive Director of the Manitoba Police Commission. In fact, I have two engraved "thank you for your service" mementos from this individual, a beer stein and a plaque. During my tenure as Chair of the Board, anything that was presented to me was shared with the Board and I have no recall or record of having been presented with the options suggested above. Any records I possessed were turned over to Colleen Draper, the now CAO, on the last day of my term as Councillor as I gave her the key to the Police Board files. I don't believe Manitoba Justice would ever arbitrarily present a Police Board with options. According to P8 of the Manitoba Police Board: Policy and Procedure, the Manitoba Police Commission is an independent agency that provides advice to the minister on policing related regulations and standards...is responsible for developing a code of ethical conduct for police boards, developing a policy and procedures manual for use by police boards and for arranging training for local police boards. The Director of Policing, Manitoba Justice, is, under the direction of the Minister, responsible for the oversight and supervision of police services in Manitoba, assessing policing requirements in Manitoba and coordinating policing in Manitoba. The director has a duty to monitor and inspect the quality and standard of police services and to develop and promote programs to enhance professional practice and standards for police services and police boards; and has a role in consulting with and providing information to the minister, police chiefs, police boards and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on matters relating to law enforcement and policing and establishing programs that promote cooperation between police services and the public. Mr. Zerucha subsequently writes that "A spokesperson for Manitoba Justice said they are not giving specific direction to Springfield but want to make sure the municipality is adequately prepared to deliver the policing services it decides it wants to have." .... Mr. Zerucha went on to say the spokesperson from Manitoba Justice stated "Policing for the RM of Springfield is currently provided by the RCMP under provincial

jurisdiction and supplemented by the SPS" .... "Decisions about the future and role of Springfield Police Service must be made by the municipality." "Under provincial legislation, our role is to ensure whatever policing functions performed in the community are adequate and effective," "We have advised the municipality and other stakeholders that they will need to make a decision about the future of the Springfield Police Service (SPS) and ensure it has the capacity to meet its mandate." **NOTE: Nowhere in any of the quotes from the spokesperson from Manitoba Justice do I see them suggesting that the current combination of RCMP and SPS cannot continue. Regardless of what the Manitoba Police Service Act states in Section 13(1), nothing negates variations of these provisions. Ste. Anne, Manitoba has its own police service but it does not have all the facilities required of a full service and therefore have an arrangement with the RCMP in Steinbach regarding detention of prisoners etc. The RCMP are the service that provides policing to the surrounding municipalities excluding the Town of Ste. Anne. Perhaps Council and Ms. Wowchuk have information to which I do not have access. Mr. Zerucha further stated "What is clear is there will be plenty of discussions with various stakeholders before a decision is made, although that does not have to be the case. Wowchuk said the police board can make this decision on its own, but it wants to involve council and outside agencies including the RCMP, Department of Justice and the Manitoba Police Commission."** **FACT:** If Ms. Wowchuk did indeed make the underlined statement, perhaps she has not read Page 8 of Manitoba Police Boards: Policy and Procedure, 2.4 Role of the Police Board: "to provide civilian control over law enforcement, the maintenance of public peace and crime prevention in a municipality"; "to provide administrative and strategic direction and the organization needed to provide an adequate and effective police service"; "will work with the police chief ...to establish annual priorities and objectives for the police service"; "will establish effective policies for the effective management of the police service"; "responsible for hiring the police chief, providing direction and monitoring the chief's performance ..."; and "acts as a liaison between the community and the police service...". **NOTE: Nowhere do I read that the Police Board has the power to make the decision as to the "future" of the Springfield Police Service. I would submit that Council has the ultimate power as the elected representatives of the residents to make that decision for the community and then message their decision to the Province. I DOUBT THE RULES HAVE CHANGED DRAMATICALLY SINCE OCTOBER 2018 AND THE POWER NOW RESTS WITH THE CHAIR OF THE POLICE BOARD TO MAKE DECISIONS RESPECTING THE SAFETY OF TAXPAYERS OF THE PROVINCE WITHOUT ANY INPUT FROM THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, MUNICIPAL OR PROVINCIAL. In any case, as former Chair of the Police Board to whom these false allegations are directed, I would submit that for Ms. Wowchuk, it is "TIME TO FISH OR CUT BAIT" as at present the Board has, to my knowledge, done nothing to replace the Chief of Police although he resigned 2 months ago and is allowing the Service to be run by someone that does not possess the minimum requirements for her role as Acting Chief. Further Ms. Wowchuk's unsubstantiated rhetoric may have serious economic consequences for her if the target of her vitriol chooses to take umbrage, i.e. myself Heather A. Erickson. One should think twice before they POKE THE BEAR!**

**NOTE: The focus of the Springfield Police Service and the Springfield Police Board has been, since I became involved in 2014, a COMMUNITY POLICING MODEL of service delivery. In fact, on one occasion, the then Staff Sgt. Mantie and Chief of the SPS, Terry Pheby, did a presentation at the Cooks Creek Community Club to promote this idea which was very well received. The Council of the day, and even until very recently, the current Council, seemed to support that model of policing to the extent that they obtained a building on Main Street to make the Springfield Police Service more visible, hired another officer, and made significant expenditures to promote this happening. It was recognized that with the staffing shortages in the RCMP, a cooperative effort on the part of both that service and the Springfield Police Service would be of great benefit to the municipality and its residents. Chair Wowchuk wrongly asserts that the SPS is not a legitimate police service. One would think that the RCMP would be more than glad to have access to another group of trained officers to serve as an adjunct to enhance their delivery of service, at least to the RM of Springfield. A partnership of the two services would improve the chances of deterring criminal activity in the municipality and make its citizens feel a little more protected. It would also provide better support to citizen groups such as Citizens on Patrol who volunteer their services and serve as the eyes and ears of the community. The Auxiliary Officers could engage in foot patrols in the urban centres such as Oakbank and Dugald to provide an enforcement presence and possibly prevent property crime. I am hard pressed to understand why suddenly it would appear that Chair Wowchuk, a former RCMP officer herself, would wish to undo all the good work that was done in the past 4 years to promote and support having a second police service covering our area. The recent crime wave in the City of Winnipeg, which will inevitably spill over into adjacent municipalities, is more than reason to strongly advocate for having both services to protect our citizens. As Chair of the Springfield Police Board, IT SHOULD BE THE MANDATE OF MS. WOWCHUK TO DO EVERYTHING IN HER POWER TO FIGHT FOR OUR POLICE SERVICE rather than endeavouring to eliminate it. I find it irresponsible for the Associate Editor and the Editor of the Clipper and the Chair of the Police Board to collaborate to ostensibly advertise to the criminal element in the municipality that we are open for business insofar as crime is concerned because our police service is not legitimate and suggesting there is a possibility of its dissolution.**

**A resident has advised me that if you have any complaints about your CANADA POST service, call 1-800-267-1177. Complaints are taken, you are given a ticket #, and the more complaints received, the better the chance of seeing improvement and change.**