

RM OF SPRINGFIELD COUNCIL MEETING October 1, 2019

WITHOUT PREJUDICE (E&OE) No questions were asked during Question Period as Council has so restricted the scope of questions and past experience has shown that answers are not available to questions immediately or ever, ratepayer participation has been discouraged. However my notes are not in any way restricted to subject matter and therefore I can publish whatever I feel might be of interest or concern to my readers. I attended the Water and Waste workshop at the Anola Community Club and suggested that all our waste could be incinerated which would generate energy for the municipality as is done in Sweden. Such technology does exist in Manitoba as I read in the Winnipeg Free Press about a prototype on a smaller scale in Manitoba. I was pretty much ignored and the tables continued in the old vein, talking about trading posts and fees being charged to change behaviour. I have been beating the climate change drum and doing my best to slow its progress for 40 years without much success. Perhaps more of us should be taking this matter seriously. I am including a couple of links which may be of interest. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/21/climate/sweden-garbage-used-for-fuel.html>
<https://sweden.se/nature/the-swedish-recycling-revolution/> I was part of the demonstration that occurred in Winnipeg on Friday, September 27th. at the Legislative Building when approximately 12,000 people, mostly youth, marched with signs denouncing government in their failure to protect the environment from the wasteful and destructive practices of humans. They are correct, it has to start with government policies and the current governments are not doing what they should be to address global warming, the threat of which is imminent based on science based evidence. Students told me they are so concerned, they have decided not to have children because of the risk of exposing them to what lies in the future for this planet. Obviously the same does not hold true for our Mayor who has consistently denied climate change and global warming and has 11 children under her roof, 9 of which are her own and she is currently pregnant.

Another newsletter just came in the mail and an update on the skate park currently under construction adjacent to the circle drive in front of the Administration Office at a cost of up to \$390,000. was on the front page. On page 2 was R.M. of Springfield Solid Waste Management Program Review, the last paragraph which reads, "We will be hosting a series of Workshop events between September 23 and October 2, 2019." The newsletter is dated September 2019 but was received at the beginning of October. I would call that "old news" and question the cost efficiency of the publication. This would also apply to the Canada Post Update which was settled a month or more ago. The Springfield Recreation Centre Update mentions community open houses in early October. None have as yet been announced. Is this a good use of tax dollars? **OF COURSE IT DID CONTAIN A REMINDER ABOUT WHEN PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE AND HOW THEY CAN BE PAID.**

Mayor Fell made a point of varying the Agenda with the consent of Council to move item 8.3 Aquifer Capability and Vulnerability Study to immediately following 6.1 so the presenters of the study would not have to stay for the remainder of the meeting. **However in actuality it was the very last item to be addressed.** Doug Murray, Facility Manager, Blaine Moffat, Director of Public Works, and Santokh Randawa Singh, Director of Engineering were present at the meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS - Vince Bennici, who was unable to attend, noticed several concerning issues contained in the **Police Service report** for September as follows: 1) Sgt. Monkman is Acting Chief of the Springfield Police Service. Sgt. Monkman does not have the mandatory 10 years of policing experience required of a Police Chief. 2) It is reported that Sgt. Monkman and Cpl. Froese attended a Truck Convoy for Special Olympics on Saturday, September 14, 2019 in Ile des Chenes, Manitoba. While the cause may be good, the Springfield Police Service has **only 3 officers at present to serve and protect a very large geographic area** that is Springfield. Two of these were outside of the municipality for probably almost an entire shift and together in one vehicle. Taxpayers not only were not receiving service but they were paying for the wages and gas and vehicle wear and mileage to attend this event. 3) The R.C.M.P. patrol with **one officer per vehicle and the Springfield Police Service should do the same**, especially considering at the best of circumstances they have only 4 officers and have 7 days/10 hour shifts to cover. Realizing that if he asked these questions at the Council meeting, he would be advised by the Mayor to direct them to the Chair of the Police Board, that is what he did and copied it to the Mayor and CAO. **To date he has received no response.** At the Police Board Meeting held Wednesday, September 11, 2019 a Mr. Hudzik accompanied by his Councillor Glen Fuhl reported that his property was vandalized July 22, 2019 and he and his wife were forced to watch as a quad was removed from their shed and stolen. They phoned 911 and RCMP did not attend until 2 days later. He said most were unaware Springfield had their own Police Service. **If the top priority of the Springfield Police Service is not the safety of their residents which is achieved by constant patrolling of the municipality as a deterrent, but instead our officers devote their time to fund raising barbecues and attendance at pancake breakfasts and events outside the municipality, it is not surprising residents are unaware the service exists.** Bennici feels the Chair of the Police Board should be working to improve the circumstances of the SPS, not advertising they are non-compliant and inadequately trained. The Board should be doing what they can to support having our own service, not discrediting its existence. Two services in the municipality should provide more of a chance of having protection from criminal activity.

CONSENT AGENDA - AMM News Bulletin - Councillor Williams asked the CAO if we take advantage of the AMM Trading Company and Colleen Draper responded Yes, we do. Councillor Williams then inquired **"Do you have any idea why some of the suppliers are pulling out of that agreement? I don't want to put you on the spot."** Colleen Draper - Ya, I have heard that but I haven't heard a reason though. **NOTE: Could the reason suppliers are pulling out of the AMM Trading Company be that the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region is in direct competition with them. As an example, Rural Animal Management Services (RAMS) has recently negotiated an agreement with WMR to provide municipal services under their auspices. One wonders what benefit we derive from negotiating services through WMR as opposed to negotiating directly with the company. Presumably WMR is reaping some type of benefit from this arrangement. How is group purchasing through**

WMR superior to purchasing through AMM, our own provincial association, or negotiating with companies directly in cooperation with neighbouring municipalities? Mayor Fell - Thank you. All those in favour (of accepting Consent Agenda) - **CARRIED 6-0**

NEW BUSINESS - 8.1 Anola Public Works Building - Be it resolved that Council of the R.M. of Springfield award construction of the Anola Public Works Building to 3 Way Builders in the amount of **\$770,474.00**. (Councillor Rahe was the only one that noticed the resolution as written had the wrong amount, \$771,786. which was the bid of Olympic Builders) **CARRIED 6-0**

8.2 Hazelridge Maintenance Reserve Account - Be it resolved that the Council of the R.M. of Springfield approve **\$27,110.03** from the Hazelridge Maintenance Reserve Account to make final payment of architectural services, landscaping, new doors and locks. **CARRIED 6-0**

8.4 Purchase of 2019 UTV Fire Fighting Unit - Be it resolved that Council of the R.M. of Springfield award the purchase of one new 2019 Polaris Ranger UTV (Utility Vehicle) to Chudd's Powersports for the sum of **\$15,003.00 plus applicable fees and taxes**; and be it further resolved that Council of the RM of Springfield authorize the Public Works Director to spend the remaining budgeted monies up to a total of **\$27,000.00** towards the purchase of a fire-fighting sprayer skid unit and any additional equipment required to outfit the UTV for the needs of fire-fighting purposes. **CARRIED 6-0** **(NOTE: On this item I note that while they mention receiving tender packages from 5 bidders and they all met the specifications, no actual bids are listed and therefore it is not clear whether Chudd was the lowest bidder. Councillor Williams referred to some initiative in regard to replacement of vehicles by the AMM but Blaine Moffat responded this was not a replacement, it was the very first UTV they have had. Further the ATV they currently have is being given to the Springfield Police Service. For what reason would the Springfield Police Service require an ATV? Are they planning on doing off road patrols? There was no indication of this either in monthly Police Reports or at the Police Board meetings. Would they not then need a trailer to transport the ATV to the patrol location and a trailer hitch on at least one of the Police vehicles?)**

8.5 Manitoba Association of Regional Recyclers 2019 Forum - Be it resolved that all of Council be delegated to attend the Manitoba Community Recycling and Waste Reduction Forum being held on October 29 and 30th, 2019 in Winnipeg at their discretion. **CARRIED 6-0** **(NOTE: In the last Council, 2 people were assigned to this file and they were the only ones delegated to attend. As one of the former representatives, and I did do a report one year and provide it to all of Council but received virtually no response, I see no reason why everyone on Council should be delegated to attend. At the forum, there are many handouts available to take back to Council and one could report on what was discussed, even record the sessions if necessary. With the tour, it is \$140/person plus two days of \$200/per diems and mileage/person.)**

8.6 WMR Woody Waste Management and Diversion Workshop - Be it resolved that all of Council be delegated to attend the WMR Woody Waste Management and Diversion workshop being held on October 3rd, 2019 in Winnipeg at their discretion. **(NOTE: The attachment on the agenda for this event contained no information.)** Councillor Williams inquired as to what this was about. **Apparently Mayor Fell had an e-mail with the information but just then sent it to the remainder of Council. She asked the CAO to elaborate.** Colleen Draper - This is an invitation from the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region in association with the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources to discuss the best practices of woody waste management and diversion. The half day workshop will provide participants access to industry expert information to help move forward next steps to developing woody waste management and diversion solutions. **NOTE: THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THE COST and all of Council was delegated.** **CARRIED 6-0**

8.7 Ward Appropriations - Be it resolved that the following 2019 Ward Appropriations be approved: The Mayor \$500. to the Springfield Food Bank electrical work; Ward 1 \$1,000. for Springfield Food Bank freezer purchase; Ward 3 \$1,000. Springfield Immaculate Conception National Historic site towards front steps restoration, \$1500. to Cooks Creek Heritage Museum towards stained glass window restoration, \$2,016. to Cooks Creek Community Club towards enhanced security measures and break in repairs.?? **CARRIED 6-0**

8.8 Tax Sale Reserve Bids - Whereas pursuant to Section 372 of the Municipal Act a municipality may set a reserve bid in the amount of the tax arrears and costs in respect of the property; be it resolved that the R.M. of Springfield place a reserve bid on all properties in the amount of all arrears and costs in respect of each property for the tax sale to be held November 1, 2019. **CARRIED 6-0**

8.9 2019-2020 Committee Appointments - Whereas the Municipality has established and participated in a number of Committees over the years comprised of both elected officials and citizen representatives, be it resolved that the attached schedule of Council and Citizen committee appointments for the period October 2019 to November 2020. Councillor Wilson requested that he be added as alternate to the Agriculture Committee. Mayor Fell - **Not a problem because I can attend all of those committee meetings.** **CARRIED 6-0** **NOTE: Normally the appointments are mentioned at the meeting but since they were not, CAO Colleen Draper provided me with a list of the Committee appointments which is attached. The Deputy Mayor position will be discussed at a future meeting. The one thing I did notice is that no one has been designated as the representative for the Manitoba Association of Regional Recyclers. Normally this would be one person with an alternate. As mentioned above, the entire Council has been delegated to attend the Forum. The above business took 18.46 minutes to transact from calling the meeting to order to this point. They took an 8 minute break as it was not yet 7:00 when the Delegation was scheduled. I think 8.3 the Aquifer Capability and Vulnerability Study could have been done at this juncture.**

DELEGATION - Erica Lindell Re: Fire Arms By-law - Good evening, Madame Mayor and Council. My name is Erica Lindell and I am appearing before you tonight to humbly request you consider changing portions of By-law 97-03, a by-law of the Rural Municipality of Springfield to regulate the use of rifles, guns and other firearms. I would first like to bring to your attention both petitions that were submitted to Council. I was successful in obtaining approximately 291 signatures in a one week period using only social media. There are a lot of people in our RM that are unaware that this petition and validation is happening and that there is such a by-law in place to begin with. Secondly I would also like to bring to your attention the definition of how air guns are classified as proof that the ruling federal government, the R.C.M.P. website, and Canadian Criminal Code definition of a firearm. I have also included information on some things obtained from Conservation and census information on Indigenous and Metis residents. The first portion of the by-law that I would like to petition change on is the definition in Section 1(d) where it states *firearm includes gun, rifle, revolver, pistol, pellet gun and similar weapons*. The described definition classifies pellet guns,

air guns, and air soft guns into the Firearms by-law thus restricting use on a Sunday. The second portion of Section 2 where it states *Subject to the provisions of this by-law, no person shall on a Sunday fire or discharge a firearm within the Municipality excepting within any area designated by Council as a shooting range provided such shooting range is duly licensed by the Municipality.* This section restricts anyone from discharging any firearm under Section 1(d) definition which includes air soft, air guns and pellet guns. Pellet, air guns, and air soft guns are not controlled firearm by definition if they shoot under 500 ft./second. Anything over 500 ft./second is considered a firearm and anything under 500 ft./second is considered an uncontrolled firearm and thus it is used for illegal activity. This section prohibits adults and our children from being able to use their air soft guns, pellet guns or air guns on a Sunday on their own property and being able to benefit from the recreational enjoyment of air softing, hunting or target shooting in the RM. I would rather have myself and my children outside on weekends enjoying a recreational sport such as this than having them sitting inside on their video game console texting or surfing. Section 2 is outdated in rationale and does not reflect the major population of the RM. For sport shooters, target shooters, hunters and landowners who occasionally require the use of firearms to protect their assets and (there was a child making noise and cannot hear)?? as well. This doesn't just stop on a Sunday. The Sunday shooting by-law also works against the Provincial law which allows Sunday hunting. It is permitted during all game bird seasons in the game bird hunting zone and Sunday hunting is permitted during all big game seasons in provincial game hunting areas. With this by-law it restricts approximately 1500 Metis residents and an unknown number of licensed hunters from exercising their right to harvest on Sundays within the R.M. If we are not disturbing the peace of our neighbours, why should we be restricted on how we can enjoy our Sunday. Laws have evolved from 1997 with a better understanding of how people choose to live, work and play in the RM. For the major portion of people working Monday to Friday, this makes the weekend to partake in recreational activities, often Sunday being the one where everyone can get together as a family to enjoy some things such as shooting a pellet gun at a target, hunting for geese or ducks or playing an air soft game. Why would we want to restrict the enjoyment and recreation of families and people in this RM with such a Sunday shooting by-law. We are noted as being one of the largest and oldest RMs in the Province. We should be the ones to step forward and give examples on being a place where people want to come to for enjoyment of the recreational activities. With the utmost respect for your personal intelligence and the wisdom that this Council holds, technology has changed. The understanding of firearms and their extremely diverse use has evolved and the by-law should reflect that by removing pellet guns and other weapons from the Sunday shooting restriction. **Mayor Fell** thanked her and said it should probably be discussed at a Committee of the Whole and she would have the CAO research Provincial legislation in this regard and compare it to our by-law. **Jay, Ericka's spouse** said it also fell under Federal law and anyone charged under this by-law, it would also fall under the Federal Act and Regs so RCMP would be called and under the Firearms license there is a issued warrant right away for their house for a search warrant and they take all items related to any firearms offense and then your life is pretty much destroyed at that point because you'll have to go to court. The RCMP have no choice but to refer it to Federal jurisdiction. **NOTE: The subject of peace and quiet came up during discussions of the Noise By-law. Sunday was traditionally a day when people rested and enjoyed a day of reasonably peaceful contentment. That is not to say that some did not work on their properties during the day but as I understand it, firearms were not allowed to be discharged by the general public on that one day of rest. I am not saying that I have not heard firearms in the distance on a Sunday but that was certainly not the norm. Now it would appear that Sunday is just going to be another day when it comes to discharging a firearm for whatever the purpose. If less than 100 people have actually signed this petition, I am wondering what the other 14 or 15 thousand think of the idea. Further in discussion with someone, I heard that a relative was shot by a pellet gun right in the northeast end of Winnipeg and I am wondering how safe any resident of Springfield can feel with guns, however supposedly non lethal, in the hands of children, perhaps even unsupervised ones. I realize that the argument can be made that one can be harmed by other forms of weapons, knives, 2 x 4s, fists, a good soccer kick, etc. but they require close proximity to the victim. Guns not so much. I consulted a neighbour who grew up in an environment of hunting and owning long guns about how they feel about relaxing the rules on a Sunday. Their answer was that there are shooting ranges, and one just near Beausejour was mentioned, where you can go and do whatever type of shooting you wish and it is located away from residential development and I am presuming licensed. There is an annual cost but depending on how often you like to discharge firearms and considering it is a family rate, the cost is minimal.**

8.3 Aquifer Capability and Vulnerability Study - Stated they were here to present it again and as it was an Encore Presentation, they would go through it quickly and then take questions. They finally got the overhead working and had slides of the 67 page presentation which they briefly went through. They mentioned the susceptibility of the groundwater resources to surface impacts and how much water could be produced. It used regional data to draw conclusions and highlighted the fact that further site specific investigation would be required. Groundwater levels are tied closely to precipitation levels. They mentioned the Birds Hill Complex, which recharges the Carbonate and Sandstone bedrock aquifers. Water flows from east to west and the water quality in the south east is of good quality but progressively becomes more saline as it flows north west. Their summation was that more water flows through than is being developed. Any large scale management of aquifers would have to involve all municipalities within the very large region of the aquifers which takes in much of south eastern Manitoba. The study is attached to the agenda and is 67 pages long. The Province attempted a regional management plan several years ago and they are not sure where that is at in terms of completion. They do not believe it was ever finished but it is a provincial initiative. The Province is aware that Springfield has requested this study and recommended that once approved and finalized, it be provided to the Province. **Colleen Draper** - Be it resolved that the Council of Springfield accept the Aquifer Capability and Groundwater Vulnerability report prepared by Friesens Drillers dated July 27, 2019. **CARRIED 6-0 NOTE: The stamped study was first presented to Council in March 2018 and was sent back for minor corrections. This is the first mention of it since that time. Why did it take 1 1/2 years to come to light for final approval by resolution?**

Council then went IN CAMERA and came out of IN CAMERA

ADJOURNED