

## RM OF SPRINGFIELD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE** These notes are rather long due to there being 3 presentations and to the discussion on the Budget. The meetings could be significantly shortened by Councillors refraining from unnecessary rhetoric, repetition, musings, and unrelated conversation. Also, in the audio can be heard noise and conversation from the foyer. I include the question period narrative in detail as this is the only place it is recorded in writing, not in the RM Minutes. Taxpayers would not be aware of them unless they listened to the audio files or were at the meeting. *The door should be closed until they take my suggestion to add a mezzanine floor to eliminate the echo and provide a wealth of new office space, which would have negated the need to purchase the old Oakbank Credit Union Building for \$1.15 million.*

**Approval of the Agenda** - Mayor Fell announced she had added a couple of In Camera items to the agenda given to the CAO but the subject of them was not mentioned.

**Janet Nylen** - Point of Order with respect to the Minutes. If Council does not choose to amend the Minutes, can a ratepayer who is present comment on them? **Mayor Fell** - Yes, on every item of the Committee of the Whole, you can make comment. **Darryl Speer** also stated he wished to speak to them. **Janet Nylen** - Under the bare land condo maintenance report by Blaine Moffat, I think the wording is maybe not accurate to what he stated and what happened. Almost 2/3 of the way down it says "the municipality was made aware that the RM of East St. Paul has taken over the operation and maintenance of common elements of bare land condos as well as street lighting costs however we believe they have not taken over repair and replacement." I believe his wording was he had not contacted East St. Paul and might have referred to an older letter. **Mayor Fell** said they had copies of both the letter and the by-law and that's what the letter says. **Janet Nylen** - That's not what your minutes are saying and I had spoken to East St. Paul and I reported at the Committee of the Whole meeting that their Planning Department and their Public Works Department said that they were no longer providing those services. They do some flushing of lines. **Mayor Fell** - That may be true, we've asked Blaine to confirm, unfortunately we won't be changing what they do based on what a constituent says so thank you for bringing that information but we are asking Blaine to confirm. **Jan Nylen** - **Can you strike that from the Minutes until he confirms?** **Mayor Fell** - No, because that's just what what the discussion was so this is just a direct reflection of the discussion. When we get the information confirmed, we will then change that. **Janet Nylen** - **You DON'T change Minutes.** **Mayor Fell** - We will update our Minutes when they come out next time if there's new information, like our current Minutes of that meeting. **Janet Nylen** - So if one person were to read these, this is what they would think and they would have to read successive minutes...? **Mayor Fell** - Yes **Nylen** - Could you put "under discussion" or "under review" by this comment. **Mayor Fell** - Yes, we can put that our Public Works Manager is going to confirm that information. **Councillor Ralke** - We are just reflecting what was in the last agenda meeting...so that would be placed in these meeting minutes.....**Janet Nylen** But that is not what was discussed at that meeting. He had said he had not talked to East St. Paul. **Mayor Fell** - **But we do have it in a number of documents that show that and that's why we put that in there. When we confirm and discuss it later, it will reflect in those minutes.** **Note:** The documents to which she refers were not read into the meeting and therefore information gleaned from them should not be part of the minutes. By presenting information that is no longer valid, it is misleading the public into thinking that East St. Paul is still providing these services to condos when that has clearly not been verified with East St. Paul as to what their current practice is. That is slanting the conversation using outdated evidence. The Minutes of that meeting state: *The municipality was made aware that the RM of East St. Paul has taken over the operation and maintenance of common elements of bare land condos as well as the street light costs however we believe they have not taken over repair and replacement. Administration to confirm.* Without the commentary from the audience stating facts obtained from a recent conversation with East St. Paul Public Works, the reader of the Minutes is being led to believe that East St. Paul currently is responsible for the operation and maintenance of common elements of bare land condos which does not appear to be the case as they, according to ESP Public Works, have discontinued that practice. **Darryl Speer** - **I'd like to have these Minutes include the statements made regarding the bare land condo requests 1) that the underground infrastructure be separated out as it is a bigger issue 2) that a lawyer be consulted as to how this can be done 3) that this be set to the side for now. Those are all direct quotes.** **Mayor Fell** - We record our meetings. She feels when Administration is doing the minutes, they are represented accurately. Residents can exercise their democratic rights to hear the recordings. **Darryl Speer** - **This is pivotal to the condo's requests. It is what was stated in the meeting, it should be reflected that the major portion of their request is being deferred.** **Mayor Fell** - Again if people are interested in what happened, they are free to listen to "the minutes"....(audio recording). **I AM GOING TO LEAVE THESE MINUTES THE WAY THEY ARE.** **Darryl Speer** - **I would like a vote from Council on this Point of Order, can I ask how the others on Council would vote ...** (Mayor Fell interrupts and says there is no vote at COW meetings)....**I would like the opinion of the members of Council ..not a vote, a response...****Councillor Fuhl** - has no problem reviewing what was recorded and making the changes that are necessary to put this through based on this meeting of what discussion has been made but again thinks the previous recording should be reviewed and what was said at the last Committee of the Whole meeting. **Councillor Wilson** - I think if there was something that was material and germane that our summary on record should reflect it so I am ok with reviewing for the kinds of things that are being talked about. **Councillor Ralke** - So I am just wondering, when these notes are made are they taking notes from what citizens say or is this just factual information of what is being reported during a meeting???? **Mayor Fell** - Actually Minutes are supposed to be taken without notation or comment. Something they are going to discuss at next COW meeting because they shouldn't be reflected like this AT ALL. **If people want to hear the full meeting, they are welcome to go listen to the recording.** We are probably going to adjust the way we take minutes. This is not the way minutes are supposed to be done. **NOTE:** I took the liberty of surfing the Net and found: **Google - Minutes Of Meeting.** Also known as protocol or note, minutes are the live written record of a meeting. They include the list of attendees, issues raised, related responses, and final decisions taken to address the issues. **Wikipedia - Minutes,** also known as minutes of meeting (abbreviation MoM), protocols or, informally, notes, are the instant written record of a meeting or hearing. They typically describe the events of the meeting and may include a list of attendees, a statement of the issues considered by the participants, and related responses or decisions for the issues. **Councillor Williams** would like to review it again. **Mayor Fell** declared they would put the Minutes on the next Committee of the Whole. Then she asked if everyone else on Council was good with the Minutes as they are right now and one voice replied yes, sounded female. and **Mayor Fell** proceeded to the first of three delegations. **NOTE: Because alleged inaccuracies had to be pointed out to Council, it would seem no one on Council had compared the Minutes to what was said on the recording to ensure their**

accuracy as initially they had no comment. In view of the two Points of Order raised and the general agreement at the Council table by three of the councillors, the Minutes should have been corrected or deferred based on the audio record before being accepted.

**Sharalyn Reitlo, Winnipeg River Community Futures Re: Community Economic Development** - Sharalyn Reitlo had an overhead presentation on Community Economic Development which can be accessed by going to the agenda on the RM website and opening the attachment of the presentation. Community Economic Development fosters the integration of economic, social and environmental objectives, is accountable to the community, and reflects the local needs and vision. The Regional Development Corporation with which the Economic Development Officer of the RM of Springfield can partner is Community Futures Winnipeg River. Ms. Reitlo offered the services of CFWR, funded by Western Economic Diversification Canada, to the municipality free of charge which includes both Business Development Services and Community Economic Development Services. For further information, she can be contacted at 204-345-2514 or reitlo@CFWR.mb.ca. Mayor Fell thanked Ms. Reitlo for the presentation but did not give her any indication her services would be sought. During the presentation, The Mayor appeared to be distracted by something on the Council table (?cell phone) as she appeared less than engaged. Councillor Williams commented there is a number of organizations in the broad view of economic development and I realize a lot of them have common goals and in achieving those goals they operate differently. There's the Chamber of Commerce and to me I don't consider that to be an Economic Development organization, it's more of a lobby group. There's your organization, Community Futures, Community Development Corporations,....the Province has initiated economic development initiatives and have divided the province into 4 segments...your area has two of these segments in it. We are part of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region which is given the mandate for economic development. It is very confusing where funding is going to come from. You are asking us to be collaborative, not competitive. Note: In my opinion, Mr. Williams is distancing Springfield from the services offered by Winnipeg River Community Futures by implying our municipality is more allied with urban than rural interests. Sharalyn Reitlo - I agree it is up in the air and very confusing. I believe the four segments are going to focus not so much on service delivery as is what we provide but more on projects and moving things forward but not sure yet. Not much information available. The main goal is identifying where business is best suited and that is how she sees collaboration. Councillor Wilson asked how they would help an established business with expansion. Felt they were "hands on". Sharalyn Reitlo - Said the services they would provide were: Counselling - assess business plan; Financing can be arranged; Conversation and response to questions; Referral to other agencies; Training; Making sure their business is viable before they invest a lot of money. General support. Not sector specific. Councillor Rakle - Do you have resources that would be beneficial to Councils to sit with you for a plan meeting that gives us a good concept of what we would want or what direction in garnering that Economic Development Officer so that if we have some base knowledge....??? Sharalyn Reitlo - Yes, we would just work with you. Mayor Fell - Thanked Ms. Reitlo.

**Tanya Penner re Muskrat infestation in ponds** - Ms. Penner gave a very good presentation about their problem with muskrats on their property since they moved to Oakbank in the vicinity of Holly and Sandcherry. Holes 5 to 8 inches in diameter started to appear at the edge of their property by the water but as the water level has risen, the holes advanced up their lawn. They do not engage in any activity that would attract rodents such as bird feeders, fire pits, compost piles but the muskrat continue to undermine their yard. They tried filling the holes but eventually resorted to calling Public Works who sent a trapper to assess and mitigate the situation. He was surprised at the number of muskrat he was able to trap in such a small body of water. From the boat Public Works and the trapper observed entry holes along the water line on every property, not just the Penners. The trapping has not continued this spring due to complaints about the trapping. The Penners feel the vegetation on the pond is the problem and as the water, they have been told, is the property of the municipality, they want the vegetation situation to be addressed. Muskrats can be aggressive and carry disease. The Penners do not prefer lethal control, would prefer dealing with the problem in some other way. Apparently someone who is unauthorized is placing poison around the area and several muskrat have been found dead. She is fearful of this method of control. Mayor Fell thanked her for her presentation, said Council is aware it is a problem, it will be discussed in budget deliberations and they will be consulting with Public Works and will keep the Penners advised. NOTE: The question arises why the RM of Springfield and by extension the taxpayers are being held financially responsible for these artificial water features that are part of a residential development. Should not the developer that created the development take responsibility for the features that enhance the profit margin and mainly benefit their business alone? Taxpayers at large are being asked by this Council to maintain private property, both in condominium developments and residential developments from which they derive absolutely no benefit. In residential developments such as the one being discussed, obviously there is some type of Development Agreement between the Municipality and the Developer that assigns responsibility for the artificial water features to the taxpayers but as we have seen done by Council various times in recent memory, these agreements can be overlooked or changed with impunity.

**Gladys Hayward Williams Re: Springfield Youth Parliament Memorabilia and Education Foundation** - Gave Council each a copy of 60 years of bills done by Youth Parliament. Started in 1955 as a Mock Parliament with a Boy Scout Group. Produced a lot of memorabilia. In the 60s, girls joined and in 1977 became Springfield Youth Parliament. Springs Church joined with them at some point. Then Sunrise School Division took over the event. Now known as Sunrise Youth Parliament. 1) I ask that you consider my request to take over the storage of all the memorabilia including a mace. The RM's newly acquired display cabinet would be a good place to display some of the items. 2) I request that you pass a resolution to make the Springfield Youth Parliament mace and plaque available annually to loan to our local youth parliament. 3) Regarding prayer, would ask that Council begin regular meetings with a prayer. NOTE: I fail to see how request #3 is germane to the subject of Mock Parliament memorabilia. If Ms. Williams has a particular interest in inclusion of prayer, I feel she should have made that request as an individual taxpayer, not in her role of representing the Springfield Youth Parliament. I personally feel there should be a separation between religion and politics. Elected officials govern a broad spectrum of population, many of whom may not subscribe to the same belief systems or any at all and may be uncomfortable with the concept. 4) Springfield Youth Parliament was very successful and they have \$646. in their account which is being used for an annual \$200. scholarship to an SCI student who has participated in Youth Parliament and they plan to continue until the funds are depleted. However she spoke with CAO Draper who suggested perhaps they could start a budget line for a Springfield Education Foundation and would like this brought as a discussion item in another meeting. They could possibly then provide tax receipts for charitable donations to other scholarships that currently exist. Mayor Fell said they would take the 3 requests, prayer, storage and resolution and ask CAO to research the education foundation and the other two would be put on an upcoming meeting to speak about. Mayor Fell at this juncture whispered something to the CAO, Colleen Draper, about tickets. Note: While I more than anyone see the

value of engaging youth in the delivery of democracy, I feel funding of same should be the choice of individuals, not taxpayers at large, and suggest requests be made to current politicians and businesses in the area who would have a vested interest in encouraging such an endeavour. Perhaps the Sunrise School Division, who took over the event according to the presentation, should be responsible for the storing of memorabilia, as well as the organizing, funding, and hosting of the Youth Parliament, and it should be non partisan and not exclusive to Springfield.

## NEW AND OTHER BUSINESS

**Springfield Public Library Service Agreement** - Jody Thiessen reiterated the report attached to the agenda package which is recommended in the 2019 year to keep the service agreement payment unchanged from 2018 to reflect the change in accounting costs as the foot print occupied by the library is slightly different than originally reflected in 2019. Effective May 1, 2010 it is recommended option 2, which is to increase the cost recovery payment schedule by 2.5% for the next 3 years and 3% for all years remaining in the agreement. The total revenue received for the next 10 years would be \$711,412. A minimum of \$640,210 would be required to be collected for direct expenses. A total of \$71,202 of funds collected for future maintenance on the facility would be available to fund for staffing costs to maintain the facility.

**Councillor Wilson** asked if there was a Library Building Reserve but Thiessen said it would go into the Public Buildings Reserve. There is a Library Levy Reserve mandated by legislation for operation of library, she said. Current repairs are being funded from the Public Buildings Reserve. She said we could consider setting up a Library Building Reserve but some of the monies allocated there would be diverted to the Public Buildings Reserve to offset the current cost of repairs. Asset management should guard against "pits and valleys scenario" in the future.

**Janet Nysten** asked for clarification of a couple of points. In the municipality's budget, it does say we get a tech grant of \$4,300. but it doesn't say anything about the per capita grant from the Public Libraries Services. I don't know if we are still getting that. **Jody Thiessen** - My understanding, last year's tech grant last year was transferred and issued to the Library directly so we did not receive it. Thinks the Library at this time might be overseeing the grant and applying for it. **Jan Nysten** - Well, I see that it in their budget and it is \$8.50/capita which amounts to a substantial amount as long as the municipality matches it and it has to be audited that you are. My other question is on our levy, we are raising \$143,000. but on the expenditure side there has been about \$180,000. I just wanted an explanation of that difference. **Jody Thiessen** - The \$143,000. is earmarked in that same expense line in addition to the maintenance of the facility so in the budget we see it as a combination of both lines in the report so it's a combination of both maintaining the facility for the library and the levy to identify the total expenses that the RM will either be paying for that facility or transferring to the library operations. **Janet Nysten** - So my next question is we get rent from the library which is \$162,000. or whatever. Should that rent not offset the expenses and the balance go towards capital? **Jody Thiessen** - That is exactly what we are doing now. We identify the amount we fund operationally so the difference that you noted, the amount that we fund in that budget line, about \$180,000., there's that factor of overhead operations of the building less the capital and you'll see it transferred to the Building Reserve in the funding. So in 2018 we funded for the library roof replacement so there was a transfer for that from the revenues we had identified, the revenue that comes in a gross revenue line and we identify the expenses in operating in the library line and then we capitalize the difference. **Janet Nysten** - But I think that goes to if the rent is more than your maintenance, it is sort of already being collected for that capital part so maybe it will fund some of these projects you are already saying. **Jody Thiessen** - So we are transferring the funds in the reserve so at times, at the next couple of years, we have a couple of projects at the same time, we know that there wouldn't be a sufficient amount at this time being received, but if we utilize say the Public Building Reserve or a General Reserve, we can then transfer the difference between operating and revenues received, the difference between them would go into the reserve we utilize for the current capital project in 19 and 20. **Janet Nysten** - So the \$20,000 of rent over the amount that's on the per capita for the tax levy is being used for capital and going into the library now. **Karen Lalonde** - The only monies they get is per capita so if you have no population growth, you have no increase in your funding and growth has slowed down. The library is still going to see increased costs for garbage pickup, wages, books ...I hate to see the service have to go down due to lack of funds. **Councillor Williams** - On per capita grants, does the population remain static for 5 years. **Jodie Thiessen** - Based on census information. No projections done. **NOTE: My take is that if the Library is renting a municipal building and that building is known to require significant repairs in the near future, the rent should be raised proportional to the length of their tenure.**

**2018 Year End Financial Statement** - Jody Thiessen - She prepared a lengthy report and hoped Council had read it and she wouldn't have to read it out. There is a provincial requirement that we have to submit to the Province no later than March 15, 2019 but it did not make a March agenda and therefore was submitted without resolution of Council. She submitted a preliminary report to the Province and advised Council. There was a journal entry they recognized, we received Bi-Pole funds, that weren't transferred to the Reserve until we caught it later and by the time we could adjust the report and issue it and have a chat about it, we didn't meet the Friday deadline to come to Council to report...so what we did was do the journal entry and passed it on to the Province to let them know I am sitting down with you guys today. **NOTE: It was reported to me that during this crucial time, the Finance Manager was away on holidays in the U.S.A. and only recently returned. One would question who authorized this leave, presumably the CAO who is responsible for staff. Further there are two members of staff with professional accounting accreditation. If Ms. Thiessen were on vacation, one could ask why the other did not fill in during the absence and perhaps the deadline could have been met with Council's approval by resolution. This is also the time when budget discussions are ongoing which would require input from the Finance Manager. It raises a question of whether or not staff is being utilized in the most efficient and effective manner.** Financial statements are unaudited and pre Public Sector Accounting Board. There will be post PSAB adjusting journal entries. We are going to be transferring our contributions to Capital to the capital side so all our expenses for the various capital projects we remove from the financial statements and transfer them to capital so we can amortize them. There will be differences between these statements and the audited financial statements. We will be removing the principal portion of the debenture payments. We only reflect the interest portion in the audited financial statements. So there's going to be some discrepancies based on the requirements from PSAB. At a high level analysis I can confirm there is a surplus or excess funds of \$950,000. at this time, about 4% of the overall municipal budget, excluding utility operations. Pages 2 to 7 of the report reflect the details of under or overspending. **Janet Nysten** - With that almost million dollar surplus and of the almost million dollars you transferred to reserves, we seem to be coming up with an excess again of a lot of money budgeted for and been taxed for in the previous years so I have a couple of questions that I can go through your report and then a couple of suggestions at the end ....Under the Council you say there is 16% less than budgeted but I noticed that there weren't expenses for 3 members of Council in the December report so that will eat into that.... **Jody Thiessen** - In the December report either the members had nothing to claim or there was

nothing submitted at that time and because of our time period closed for year-end if they do submit at a later date those expenses would be reflected in the 2019 budget year. **Janet Nysten** - That's unfortunate because we don't have a picture of those three members of Council...what they got in their indemnity. So that because you can't do a journal entry after the fact, cause that's what would be one of my other suggestions. If you would look into those three Council members' expenses and try to get them in last year's report, it would be appreciated. Under **Legal costs**, you are saying it was 30% less than budgeted. I went through all of your statements ...and you spent \$274,500. to DD West. Where did that money go? **Jody Thiessen** - It is just general government, administrative legal costs and counselling. There are other areas of the legal costs that we allocate, for instance land acquisition, we would allocate it sometimes to the purchase of the land and the cost of acquisition of land. There are times where it is a recoverable cost that we may have a developer agreement and they will reimburse us for that portion. ... The line I spoke to is just on general matters that are not captured, not Planning related and not Capital related, just general government related legal claims and counselling matters... Janet Nysten - I find that quite misleading to the general public and I think it could be critical for Council when they don't know where those other kind .....I understand the recovery part but there were other lawyer costs as well which I assume was for the purchase of the credit union building or employment settlements for employees or something aren't even included. To me there should be some explanation of the \$274,500. Another part is where **Studies** show, I think sometimes they might be capital, sometimes they might not be, we have engineering lines and overages...we spent \$300,000. to Friesen Well Drillers, we spent money on the Development Plan, it would be interesting to know if they're included or they're going to be capitalized or what happens to WSP, for I assume it is the Development Plan, \$173,000. **Jody Thiessen** - There are times when the consulting or engineering plans and design are capitalized and other times it is just a consulting matter. Often used in the PSAB requirements of when to capitalize a drawing or design usually result into an attainable asset or good so a detailed design or a road construction or bridge usually result in that becoming capitalized. There are times when we will spend a significant amount that does not result in an attainable asset other than the shared opinion of what direction to continue with...money that spend does not result in an attainable asset ...therefore it will just become an operational expense, not a capital asset. In regards to the Development Plan ...we did consider if it was an attainable asset or was it just a matter of planning and by-laws and zoning moving forward so at this time it was reflected in **Consulting**. **Janet Nysten** - So under the heading of **Planning** ..so if we are looking forward to your Secondary Plan or Zoning By-Law, is there a way of knowing what money was spent in 2018 on the Development Plan that would be available without any interest for the other study. If we paid \$173,000. in 2018 for the Development Plan and it shows in that account, would we have a similar amount available for the Zoning By-law and the Secondary Plan if everything else was equal. **Mayor Fell** - Like are you talking about the total because I think we have \$230,000. allotted for the Zoning and Secondary Plan....**Dan Doucet** believes they cut that in half a year or so ago. He doesn't know if Council had allocated a total but he thinks it was around there.....back and forth discussion between Mayor and Doucet..."phasing it over 2 years" was a comment of the Mayor. **Janet Nysten** - I guess what I am saying is....that if you've got a project like that and you've spent it in the one year, then it would come out of your budget, right for the next year but now you are going to be putting in ...now Secondary Plan and Zoning take up that space so essentially there won't be an increase for the Secondary Plan.... **Mayor Fell** interrupted Jody Thiessen and said, go ahead Rick. **Councillor Wilson** - I think what you are talking about is captured by the statement in the Financial Plan this year which showed the Planning Department underspent by "x" dollars and a significant chunk of that was the budgeted amount for Secondary Plans and the Zoning By-law that was not spent this year because the Development Plan dragged out to the last second and so that as I understand it is the carry over to be used for that purpose for this year. Can you confirm that and does that answer part of your question? **Janet Nysten** - It does and from the public's perspective we have one line for Planning Expenses, we don't know what all is in there and my point was that if we paid for a Development Plan then the next year we would have money for the other plans. Now you are saying we have a surplus and I didn't know if that was for the Secondary Plans or staffing or whatever.....I can't tell you what that surplus was for. **My point is to try and keep taxes down as low as possible** and I used that as an example of when you have a one off project, take it off the next year's budget and then your taxes go down but what we seem to be doing is adding 3% or 5% on to what it was the time before and we don't have that same type of project necessarily.... **Mayor Fell** - Oh, so you're asking are we going to raise the mill rate to pay for the Secondary and Zoning Plan and the answer is No. **Janet Nysten - Recreation Services** - I just wondered why we were over \$221,000. when I saw there was money in the budget to be transferred from Reserves for a number of recreation projects and they would be Capital items but, I would assume, so is this \$221,000. not capital? **Jody Thiessen** - That's correct. The amounts reflected in the overspent section of the Recreation Department is reflective of funds transferred from the Recreation Facilities Maintenance Reserve and because those building expenses are for buildings we don't own, they are not a retentable asset, \$138,000. for the Hazelridge Arena to operate or I think it was \$10,000. for a water treatment equipment for Cooks Creek Community Club, we have to pass a resolution identifying we'll fund those projects out of those Facility Maintenance Reserves because we consolidate our statements into just the operating for PSAB requirements...we then report those expenses in the Recreation Operating side so we see those expenses reflected there because they're not a Capital Asset to us...we are not capitalizing it and we will transfer the funds from the Recreation Maintenance Reserve to offset those funds. **Jan Nysten** - They were in your Capital Plan. **Jody Thiessen** - Yes, there was a portion of the Hazelridge carry over or transfer from (didn't catch the name of the Reserve) so in order to reflect it at that time in the 2018 Financial Plan I was advised by the Province to reflect a transfer from our reserves ...I needed to reflect it in the Capital page or Page 13 so unfortunately they will not become our asset but ....**Janet Nysten** - maybe I should meet with you privately because I thought when you transferred from a reserve that was your expense account and now we are seeing it also in Recreation as an expense. So I don't know where the offsetting entries are for that kind of a cost. **Jody Thiessen** - Those offsetting expenses would be reflected in the transfers from reserves revenue line. **Janet Nysten** - My suggestions - Council could have bought the fire truck with the almost million dollar surplus instead of having it go into a surplus account that I keep telling you is getting bigger and bigger. You could have spent the \$477,000. in taxes and reduced the surplus to \$500,000. I want it to come to zero at the end of the year, not always having these surpluses. On salaries, I don't know if this is another thing Council is shown but if you look at all your employment costs, and you break it down by department, then maybe you can see why there is continually hundreds of thousands of dollars of unspent salaries...we can't tell as the public....something is out between how you are projecting your staffing needs and what we're actually spending. My suggestion would be to get your T4 Summary, extrapolate that with your salary increases and your benefit costs and then break it down by department because that's the real cost to you. If you are going to hire new employees, then you add that on top of it but right now it seems to me we are looking at last year's line and keeping that line going and we are out over and over. **Utilities** I also saw \$290,000. that was over and above what was to be allocated to reserve there and I didn't know what was to go in there. You had a substantial surplus in your utility as well. Either our utility rates are doing great or .... **Jody Thiessen** - To address the utility portion where we didn't come to Council in regards to any excess funds that the utility has, in the by-law identifies any surplus would be allocated to the Utility Reserve. When discussing the Utility financial position with the Director of Engineering and Environmental Services,

the intention of the utility budget has different area of contingency should they have a water main line break or things like that ...in the event where there are some overhead costs due to a break in line or lost service there is contingency built in annually in the utility budget. In a year where operational costs are under that budgeted, (**here a telephone rings at the Council table**) we transfer the surplus into the Utility Reserve. There will be a PUB rate study underway following completion of year end. **Janet Nylen** - My last comment, that wasn't in your report and you already put \$170,000. into your Utility Reserve to cover those kind of contingencies so you are putting \$460,000. into the Utility Reserve at year-end. You put in over and above what you budgeted for ..an additional \$1 million into your reserves in the general reserve ....maybe you could scale that back now that you are up to almost \$14 or \$15 million. **Councillor Ralke** - Does this not reflect how our managers are working really hard and staying within their allotted budgets....**Note: This actually demonstrates poor budget projections.**

**Springfield Zoning By-law and Secondary Plans RFP - Dan Doucet** - Prepared mid-March and circulated to Council. 3 members have replied. Some comments have been incorporated into the original: Councillor Wilson mentioned Prairie Grove is not a settlement zone anymore- used to be Hamlet and now Rural Residential; Councillor Ralke was satisfied with the original; Councillor Williams mentioned some of the wording structure had to be revised to prevent complication...two secondary plan proposals when it should be one proposal with two secondary plans and one zoning by-law and the restructuring of the order...to put the 2 Secondary Plans first and then the Zoning By-law after. Discussion to include ARC GIS within the GIS wording because we do utilize the ARC GIS and also mentioned a numbering system within the sections for referencing. One sentence was added in the latter part where it talks about the proposed submission of the three projects in the wording that said "any requests for clarification on any aspect of the RFP must be submitted in writing prior to (date). Each request the RM will provide a written response simultaneously to all registered bidders." One additional item in appendix: To include the Springfield Strategic Plan as a supporting document. Closing date has been modified and extended. Resolution will be on next Council Meeting.

**Zoning Amendments Re: Employment Lands** - Added by the Mayor. There are businesses wanting to locate on Employment Lands newly designated in Development Plan and unable to set up shop now as our Zoning By-Law does not match our Development Plan. She asked Planning Officer if it is a possibility "in one large chunk flip all those lands with a by-law amendment to match our Development Plan and he had said that is a possibility" and would require 3 separate by-law changes, one for 207 area, one for Deacons Corner, one other and would take 3 or 4 months to accomplish. Suggestion that businesses will move on if they can't immediately act by **Councillor Fuhl**. **That seems like a pressure tactic to me. I have just learned that a property west of 207 on Oakwood Road has been sold to a Peat company. Granted peat has recently been declared to be an agricultural product but if the intent of the company is to treat and package the peat, that would be a light industrial purposing of the property, not an agricultural one as the property would not appear to be a source of peat extraction. One might ask how Councillor Fuhl feels business is being discouraged from locating in Springfield when every effort appears to be being done to accommodate it?** **Mayor Fell** in consultation with Ralke and Bredin felt the specific sub zoning designations were no longer necessary but others on Council and in the audience felt that could lead to conflict between uses and their compatibility with neighbouring businesses and the list of permitted uses would be very long without further refinement without specific sub zoning. **Dan Doucet** stated there are currently four type of employment zones: Central Commercial, Highway Commercial, Light Industrial (Business Industrial) and General Industrial. **Councillor Ralke** asked where she might look to study these designations. Wants to know what she should read to become better informed. **NOTE: It would seem to me that Councillor Ralke should have realized that the current Zoning By-law 08-01 and the recently passed Development Agreement, both of which are available to her, would have been the documents to study to become more familiar with the issue under discussion and done her reading prior to the meeting.** **Mayor Fell** felt that calling them Employment Lands was a way of streamlining the system and there would no longer be specific types of zones. The discussion in the past, she and Councillor Fuhl felt, were to expedite the process and make Springfield more open to business by removing specific zones. She felt an immediate solution would be to make everything a Conditional Use. **NOTE: Considering they recently granted themselves a 20% increase in indemnity and have shown no move to adjust this amount based on the new tax provisions as they had agreed they would, the question arises as to the integrity of Council as a governing body and their doing their due diligence when making decisions on behalf of taxpayers.** **Dan Doucet** recommended consulting with existing owners of lands now designated Employment and a review with Council of the various zones re potential non conformity issues. **Councillor Wilson** came up with the example of a Yoga Studio next door to a concrete crushing plant. **During this discussion there is loud conversation heard from the front foyer which is quite distracting even when listening to the audio file. Again, the door of the Council Chamber should be closed during meetings.**

**Dirt Bike/ATV by-law Discussion - Colleen Draper, CAO**, said there exists a current issue and the Planning Officer, **Dan Doucet** had acquired a few by-laws from adjacent municipalities. They of course deal with public property use. The reason this is being brought forward now is a particular issue which deals with off road vehicle use on private property. She was of the opinion that the issue at hand would best be dealt with through the Zoning By-law and restrictions therein. **Mayor Fell** still felt it required a by-law stating restrictions and making such facilities a conditional use. She referred to it as a Conditional Use by-law and together with Noise By-law, would give the Springfield Police Service the tools to deal with the issue. **Again, there is a great deal of noise emanating from the front hall which is very distracting both during the meeting and while transcribing the audio file.** **Mayor Fell** feels conditional use allows individual decisions to be made and does not restrict according to acreage. **Heather Erickson** - I am familiar with the situation we are discussing. I am wondering if we are looking at this issue the wrong way because when somebody builds a giant dirt bike track, you are not looking at individual personal use, you are looking at a recreational facility so maybe dirt bike tracks should be located where other recreational facilities are located, not in rural residential areas where there could likely be problems with noise and dust etc. The by-laws of which Mr. Doucet speaks deal with operation of off road vehicles on public property and restrict hours of operation. **Karen Kitching** - She lives on Deacon Road and agrees with Erickson. **The noise is incomprehensible and is having health effects on the immediate neighbour of the newly built dirt bike track, in addition to being an annoyance to other residents in the vicinity. The situation has to be dealt with now, dire and serious, and wondered at the liability to the RM by its use in the winter for snowmobiles.** The RM and their lawyer have been in conversation and a letter has been sent by the RM lawyer. **Mayor Fell** - Says current by-law does not address this and cannot comment as it is before the lawyers currently. **Heather Erickson - Conditional use does not provide consistency in application, there has to be specific rules as to where things should be located and we have to abide by them.** **Mayor Fell** - **Actually we don't, Council gets to decide actually.** **Mayor Fell** - Can we not just pass a resolution saying dirt bike tracks are not an allowed use in Springfield because it is not listed in our zoning and just be done? **Dan Doucet** - We are going to have to

come up with some definitions on what is a dirt bike track. If we are going to court, we have to be able to defend it. Decision made to have Doucet check with Orville Currie as to what sort of by-law could be created to deal with off road vehicles on both public and private property.

**NOTE: Our current Noise By-law 18-12 which I believe was crafted by our current Chief of Police states: Operative (intent) 1. No person shall make or continue or cause or permit to make any noise or sound which:**

- is such that it does or is likely to annoy, inconvenience or disturb persons;
- cause the loss of enjoyment of the normal use of one's property;
- interfere with the normal conduct of business.

It then goes on to list specifics but they are superfluous, **in my opinion and I am not a lawyer**, if the Operative is not met. Clearly in this case the intent of the by-law has not been met which is evidenced by the dissent on the issue of a particular dirt bike track has caused over the last year and the opposition to it and which led to the re-vamp of the noise by-law. In the one it replaced, regardless of time constraints or any other condition, it stated that if there was noise that was causing someone discomfort, regardless, it was not to be allowed. Therefore the provision already exists to limit the use of said track by the enforcement arm of the municipality

**Office of the Fire Commission Inspections - Mayor Fell** - In another meeting as a Council we have talked about other ways of generating revenue through the municipality. These Part 3 inspections, I know Portage la Prairie has recently taken them over and my suggestion to Council is that we ask our CAO to investigate how they did that and look into us doing the same thing. It is a big revenue generator for the RM. We do have a staff member who is almost, pretty close, to being qualified to do these inspections but I think that conversation would occur after we actually get the permission from the Office of the Fire Commissioner to take this over. We are talking in the 6 or 7 figures in terms of revenue. Chief Hudson said we already assume liability after the Office of the Fire Commissioner gives their permits so logically speaking we should be doing these. Decision was to have CAO look into the possibility.

**June District Resolutions** - These are proposed resolutions to go forward to the AMM Convention. Councillor Wilson had presented a number to the rest of Council. A discussion was had on them, Mayor Fell expressed which she thought met with her approval. He said they were an accumulation of issues that were heretofore unresolved at convention. **Note: It appears Councillor Ralke had not read them and consulted with the remainder of Council privately in order to understand the issues and sought clarification at the Council table.** The draft resolutions were not provided to the public so perhaps this was good because in their clarification, tidbits of information relating to the subject matter of them did come to light. **Darryl Speer - Would like Council to reinstate the resolution that was withdrawn a year ago and to lobby the province to establish controls through aggregate development. Apparently that was held in abeyance awaiting for our Water Study to come through. Could we reinstate that?** Mayor Fell - We can discuss that however I am of the opinion before we do any resolutions through the AMM for our aggregate operations, we have our Strategic Environmental Assessment this year to create the RFP that next year we are doing that study. Once we have that, I think we will ...that will be a good time to discuss that with the Province once we have all that information back including looking at our by-law as well. We are doing that as a Council to rewrite and enforce our by-law. **Councillor Wilson** - I understand you are referring to the second resolution that I brought forward which is to include pit operations in the Environment Act and this is something that doesn't have to wait for anything the municipality does. This would simply be recognizing that there is a significant number of operations in the Province that have a potential for significant impacts on a non renewable resource which is water that every other industry has to abide by, Mining, Agricultural Peat Operations but Aggregate doesn't...particularly considering the high hazard of not just the operating pits ...but the post extraction pits that aren't governed by anything have on our water supply. Mayor Fell - Had a large number of calls on this last year and is not comfortable forwarding this resolution without extensive talks Council, Industry and the Province to understand the implications of this. **Councillor Wilson** - The implication is that if something is not done, we could lose our water supply and that would be the end of Oakbank and Dugald. Mayor Fell - I understand that is your position but something this big means having the stakeholders come to the table to make sure everybody understands what the impact is, what the intent of this is. **NOTE: Water and the discussion of the potential harm to our aquifer by various irresponsible practices in the past and currently has been the subject of many committee, council, and public discussions over the past number of years, including during the public forums for the Development Plan. For the Mayor to label it as being Councillor Wilson's position and his alone is egregious.** **Councillor Ralke** - I'm sorry, I'm green, I will not lie, I don't know anything about this ...if we've been taking out sand and gravel for 100 years ... help me understand this...I see two pitted sides....**Councillor Fuhl** was in agreement to get that SEA done and the RFP through and get that study done. **WITHOUT PREJUDICE** As a former Councillor when I was elected, aggregate was just gravel to me but even though I was not assigned to the Aggregate Task Force by the Reeve, I still asked permission to sit in on the meetings as an observer and learn about the subject. Prior to being elected, I spent 8 years attending Council meetings and informing myself. Those that run for office should have done similarly before they even consider running. To do otherwise is a disservice to their community. Those on Council are making decisions as to how to spend your tax dollars to maximize benefit to residents and give good value for money. At the very least members of Council should have apprised themselves of the issues facing the community and benefitted from any information available to them and advice they could obtain from knowledgeable sources on their own time. Mayor Fell - So if it is alright with council, we will look into this at a future meeting and looking into all angles of it and if we need to do anything, moving forward. Deadline for submissions is June so will be on a future agenda. **NOTE: The resolution reads as follows: That AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to end the exemption for the Aggregate Industry from the Sustainable Development Act by 2023. (Friday, May 11, 2018) This is not a matter of "if", this is a matter of "must". Our water supply is under threat from aggregate extraction which has already been acknowledged by Council in Wilson's resolution that Mayor Fell initially supported and then subsequently arranged to have withdrawn from the 2018 AMM Convention floor. It suggests she was influenced by outside sources in her change of position.**

**CLOSED MEETING and BUSINESS ARISING WHICH IS NOT ON THE AGENDA BUT MAYOR FELL ADDED.** There was no indication of the subject of the closed meeting. Whispering can be heard when they come out of Closed Session but the meeting immediately Adjourned.