

**RM of Springfield
Committee of the Whole Meeting
December 12, 2023 1:00 p.m.**

WITHOUT PREJUDICE (E&OE)

LENGTH OF MEETING 1 hour and 1 minute

2. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Therrien – Good afternoon, everybody. It's uh December 12th uh 2023 at uh 1 p.m. the RM of Springfield uh Committee of the Whole uh meeting. Um I'm going to call this uh to order. And I'll introduce uh uh Council uh my name is uh Mayor Patrick uh Therrien and uh to my right is uh Deputy Councillor uh Ward 1 Glen Fuhl, uh Councillor Ward 2 uh Andy Kuczynski, uh Ward 3 is uh Mark Miller, and Ward uh 4 Councillor Ward 4 is uh Melinda Warren.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - Mayor Therrien – Can I get a mover and a seconder for the Approval of the Agenda. Uh Glen and Melinda (Fuhl/Warren). Is there any additions or anything anybody wants to add to that uh approval of the agenda? Go ahead. **Councillor Miller** – Uh, yes, thank you, Mr. Mayor. As you know, I uh submitted something to the CAO, I think it was on Thursday or Friday of this past week and added a number of items to the agenda and I don't see any of them on here and I know the response back was that we had a full meeting that would take about an hour and then we have a subsequent meeting at 2 o'clock which I'm fine with but I just want to make sure that every member of Council has an opportunity to add something to the agenda uh because some of these issues are becoming long on the tooth including ...including the uh appointment of a Deputy Mayor for our uh...for our uh RM and a whole host of other issues. So I just don't want those to become so long in the tooth that in fact it's just too late to address them and then we just go with status quo and there's no changes because I think there's lots of opportunity that we're hearing from...feedback from the public and from other stakeholders that uh we do need to address them, a number of very critical uh and timely issues. So I think in future, again I'm not sure who uh resonates the agenda but I think we need to uh uh at least give some latitude for additional items to come on to the agenda that are pertinent to all of us. **NOTE: I am certain that items like the Health & Safety Policy Manual, Respectful & Harassment Free Workplace Policy, Flag Protocol Policy, 2024 Curbside Waste Collection Program Expansion Allocations, and Manitoba Building Code 2020 could have waited until an agenda where more time was available and there were no more pressing items to be considered.****Mayor Therrien** – Uh thank you, Mark. Uh um I remember it coming through um and I think uh Colleen did you respond. **Colleen Draper, CAO** – Ya, I responded to Councillor Miller with some notes on each item. A lot of them are already scheduled for the December 19th Council meeting so I mentioned those were already planned for the next meeting uh and other ones I was you know looking for more information on, more content or what you were looking for on those items that we prepare better so. **Mayor Therrien** – Did you get that e-mail? **Councillor Miller** – Yes, yes Mr. Mayor and of course I didn't know what was on the agenda for the subsequent meeting cause we don't have that agenda so I just want to make it clear it's hard for me to navigate what's coming up when I don't even know what's coming up, right. So that's why I was so critically uh it was urgent to me to have them on the agenda for today. But I can get you further information and background so you are well prepared to address those going forward. **Colleen Draper** – Ok. **Mayor Therrien** – Thank you.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES Committee of the Whole November 14, 2023- Mayor Therrien – Um then if we can go to Approval of the Minutes, a mover and a seconder, please. Glen and Melinda (Fuhl/Warren). Any additions or questions **with regards** to the Committee of the Whole Minutes uh November 14th 2023? Go ahead, Mark. **Councillor Miller** – Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor. Uh under 5.6 and this is the first opportunity I've ever spoke about Minutes and I'm going through them as thoroughly as I can and I know sometimes uh words can mean different things to different people but under 5.6 when I spoke, basically um I wanted a response from Administration and the Administration basically said that uh that the budgets, the Capital and Operating budgets, were uh completed um but I think the wording should be that they are prepared for recommending the budgets for Council's consideration instead so in theory, I know it's a kind of wordsmithing but I uh the uh the supervisors of the different Departments should be preparing draft budgets for Council's consideration. They can't really be budgets for the department because they haven't been endorsed or embraced by the public ... reviewed by the public and/or Council. So just a...my, my suggested wording would be that they have prepared their recommended budget for Council consideration, as simple as that. **Mayor Therrien** – Alright, thank you very much.

5. QUESTION PERIOD - Mayor Therrien – Um then we can go to Question uh Period, Item 5 and uh only questions pertaining to the uh current agenda. **NOTE: I will bring this up again. Council meetings are the place where constituents can go to interact with all of Council and communicate to them as a whole any concerns or observations they may have. By restricting questions to only items listed on the agenda, the public is being deprived of this opportunity. THAT IS NOT DEMONSTRATIVE OF OPEN AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT.** Any uh questions uh from the uh on line. I don't see any. Any...Karen? **Councillor Miller** – Point of order, Mr. Mayor. Ya, there was someone to uh move the motion and second it but they weren't actually adopted as any changes, uh, so you're going to have to actually um integrate those changes and ask for approval. **Mayor Therrien** – What changes were they again, uh Mark? **Councillor Miller** – I think they were ...our CAO has them verbatim.**Mayor Therrien** – Well, do we um ... **Colleen Draper, CAO** – Uh just on uh Item 5.6 on the Minutes, we'll be revising the wording that Staff has prepared the Operating/Capital budgets for uh a recommendation to Council for approval. **Mayor Therrien** – And that's it? Ok. Um then we'll go to uh Question Period and... **Colleen Draper** – Do you vote on that, then? **Mayor Therrien** – Ya, then we'll vote on um item 4, for Approval of the Minutes, show of hands? That's unanimous. And we're at 5, uh Question uh Period. Uh my deepest condolences to uh Karen for your loss of Keith. **NOTE: Again, this is not appropriate for a Council meeting and in particular, not for Question Period. There was a remembrance service held in the Oakbank Baptist Church, standing room only, at which any condolences should have been expressed. Is the Mayor going to announce condolences to every family in Springfield that loses a loved one on a weekly basis? No. So this is totally inappropriate and not the first time he has done so but in a selective way.** You could uh carry on. **Karen Lalonde** – I just had a quick question at...during...regarding the expansion of the curb uh curbside pickup. I wondered what the criteria was for uh um expanding to the various places? **Mayor Therrien** – Uh is Phil...is Phil on there? **NOTE: At one time, former councillor Shandy Walls and her family had started a garbage collection business in Springfield but I have not seen any advertising or heard any mention of it for quite some time. In fact, there was an article in the Clipper about it. I am wondering if that service is still operating? I believe it was called Garbage Girls. When I first moved to Springfield 40 or so years ago, a chap was surreptitiously running a garbage pickup business from his home but that did not**

last very long. I have a feeling it is because it was not sufficiently lucrative to continue. Colleen Draper – Uh well basically right now it's um budget discussions because there is a cost per household that are added to the Garbage and Recycling Curbside Pickup. Uh typically we'll look at the pickup area and where we can expand easily, where the truck is already kind of in the area, then those are easy places to expand the Program um but we look at kind of density, um where it makes sense for a truck to go to that area and you know it.... **Karen Lalonde** – I just wondered if it was setting a precedent if you're doing Eastdale Road. There's lots of areas that are kind of similar to that and uh, you know, then you've got to make a sure you check or are you going to make it, you know, broad for everyone. That was my question. **Mayor Therrien** – Thank you very much, uh uh Mrs. Lalonde. **Karen Lalonde** – Do we have an answer or have we ever looked at the cost of, of giving everyone curbside pickup in Springfield or...? **Mayor Therrien** – Well, I remember when uh Phil was giving us an update **with regard uh to this**, uh there's a certain amount of, of um um curbside uh allocated uh per year for his...for his budget and then, like uh our CAO was saying, uh we're trying to get spots where uh there's already some existing down **there** so we can make it utilize far better uh um and finish off that road with 3 or 4 or 5 uh down **there** as opposed to just one. **Karen Lalonde** – Well, you could just take that money and put it somewhere else, couldn't you. **Mayor Therrien** – Well, yes I guess we, we could but that's what I understand uh it to be. **Karen Lalonde** – Ok, thank you. **Mayor Therrien** – Thank you. Is there another uh Mark? **Councillor Miller** – Uh just in response to that, thank you, Ms. Lalonde, for your question and actually **one of the reasons we have the Committee of the Whole in the afternoon uh is to have uh staff here** and I think Phil is on the line, I don't know that he's responding. Um it would be highly useful to have staff here to answer questions for the public and for Council members. I mean, that's the whole thrust of why we're having afternoon meetings. Most people in the public are working 9 to 5, including myself, so if we can have staff that works 8 to 5, then that would be highly advantageous to the public. Thanks for Dan Doucet coming (laughing), that's a perfect example and uh... (laughter from the assembled group) ... **Colleen Draper** – Ya, Phil is on line but I think the bulk of that conversation's going to happen when Item 7.4 comes up. **NOTE: But the public cannot participate in the discussion at that point due to the restriction read out by the Mayor.** This is just a request that came forward and this is part of the budget discussions in preparation for 2024 so ... **Mayor Therrien** – Uh was there somebody else uh ... Janet? **Janet Nysten, Oakbank** – Just a quick point. And I didn't write down the...it's the harassment policy. And just on Page 4 uh the paragraph above the employee rights, I wonder why you're referring to company. I think it should be municipality. Just a comment. We're not a company yet. We're a municipality. **Mayor Therrien** – It was Page uh 4 (4). **Janet Nysten** – Right above the um the paragraph ...the heading is Employee Rights. Just the paragraph at the top of the...look at that. **Mayor Therrien** – Sorry, I don't see it, uh...oh Employee Rights, ok. Now what were you saying uh **there**? **Janet Nysten** – Just above it, it makes a reference to the company and I...I think it ...it comes from another probably policy from somewhere else. I just was suggesting that the word company gets changed to Municipality. The Harassment Policy over there. **NOTE: Someone is speaking in the background without having their microphone turned on and one cannot hear what they are asking.** Ya, ya...7.2 Page 4. **Mayor Therrien** – I don't see that either, Mrs. Nysten. Uh can you point it out uh to me **there** if you want to come across and show me. **Janet Nysten** – (laughing)...it was on ... it had something on my copy ... **Mayor Therrien** – Alright, thank you. Was there somebody else, uh in the audience? I don't see anybody on line. I don't see anybody uh **there** and **at this point here** I'm prepared to close Question Period and then we can get on with Item 6 uh 6.1 a delegation, Mrs. Uh Nysten.

6. DELEGATION

6.1 Janet Nysten Re: Capital Financing Options – Janet Nysten – Ok, everybody is fighting something right now. **Mayor Therrien** – Don't I know it. **Janet Nysten** – I have a cough but I don't think it's contagious, it's that ...along with...uh I had hoped to print this out for Council but I ran out of printer ink so I apologize for that. Um just before I start, I just ... this is pretty tough for people making presentations with uh...I don't know if we could put something up here on the ...to hold the laptop a little bit higher so we could put our documents on here but that's a suggestion. I'm...I'm ok for this time...uh today but if that helps you. So I, I don't want to touch this by putting this down so that's, that's my point. Thank you. Thank you. In early August I had asked to get a delegation regarding the Dugald/Oakbank Water Treatment Plant supply expansion project there. The scope of my presentation was to include financing staging options and related questions. The CAO refused my request and also subsequently requested...and a subsequent request stating that the Municipality would be holding a series of public Open Houses and she felt that my questions would be answered there. On August 29th there was one public forum. It cannot be described as a typical Open House. It was basically an oral presentation given by Phil Pawluk, Manager of Public Works. Various other people including consultants and reps from Manitoba Water Services Board were there but had very little opportunity to add to the presentation. Many residents arrived late and missed much of what Mr. Pawluk's explanation was but those in attendance were very anxious to ask questions and express their concerns about the possible risk of being taxed for piped water that would not ever benefit them. Since then, 3 months have lapsed and there have been no more public forums or open houses on the proposed project. At the COW meeting held on November 14th Councillor Miller raised this very point and his concern that the budget is fast approaching and these meetings have not been scheduled. Minutes show that the CAO told Council at this time there are no details to present to the public and Admin. continues to work on the funding. I'm not sure what information Council has been given and I'm sure part of my presentation may include some repetition but I intend to share my presentation with others and it will be more for information for the public than what has been provided to them by Council to date. My research and information has taken me a few days, not 3 months, and as I am limited to only 15 minutes, it will be very limited in its scope and I also...and also because the public has only limited access to information. I will be referring to the legislation, bylaws, minutes, financial statements, audits and budgets. Before I get into the Capital Expenditure portion of my presentation, I would like to remind Council that two of the utilities in Municipal services objectives and policies as stated in the Springfield Development Plan. 3.8.1 *To ensure development can be efficiently serviced without placing an undue economic burden on the Municipality.* 3.8.6 *Development shall not be approved if it will create demand for water distribution and/or...and/or wastewater collection where it is not efficient or economical for services to be extended.* Municipal Budgets – there are 3 major parts to municipal budgets that relate to expenditures: Operations, Capital, and Capital Expenditure, also known as the 5-year Plan. I will refer to legislation that will be attached to and referenced later in my submission. My focus will be on the capital financing of the Dugald/Oakbank Water Supply although the essence of my comment could apply to other projects such as the Recreation Center. We have seen for a few years now that the Capital Expenditure Budget, millions of dollars projected for water supply and treatment. The names and amounts of the projects have varied but it was just in 2022 that the Dugald/Oakbank Water Supply Treatment and Distribution Project was shown for the 2023 and 2024 budgets as being \$9 million dollars and \$18 million dollars respectively. In the 2023 Capital Expenditure Budget it shows \$16,337,000. for 2024 and \$8,614,000. for 2025. Beyond those amounts, there's another \$800,000. for the Dugald Raw Water Well Field, Phase 2, and \$325,000. for Oakbank Watermain Extension in '24 and 2025 and \$3 million dollars in 2026. It is noted that those amounts ...those last

amounts were not reflected in the 2023 Capital Budget and it's assumed that they will appear in the 2024 Budget. Yet Administration is still working on funding. They seem to have details on expending for projects alright although the 5-year Plan only seems to be accurate for 2 or 3 years but not so much detail on how and who will pay for these things. We have been told that the Municipality will be receiving grant money, I believe about \$5 million 650 thousand dollars and a possible further \$5 million dollars. This still leaves a very substantial amount to be funded. The amount of money in the Water Levy Reserve Fund, that's the grant money that's in there now, is around \$3 million dollars. The Reserve Fund consists of money from new development and new connections to the existing water supply. Assuming they receive the remaining \$5 million dollar grant, and we deplete our Water Levy Reserve and estimated costs remain constant, the Municipality is still looking to borrow about \$13 million dollars. I will get back to the recovery of borrowing but first I want to question, are we using our Reserve Funds and Development potential uh properly? The uh Levy By-law for 2011, I guess, 2021, had a Residential Equivalency Unit assessed at \$6,500. Then in 2020...2017 the levy for Residential Equivalency Unit was reduced to \$5,200. Then in 2021, the levy for Residential Equivalency Units was increased to \$8,000. It's not known why the Municipality reduced the water levy between 2017 and 2021. It's not known how and if the \$8,000. is sufficient. What is known is that for 2021 and 2022, millions of dollars of Reserve Funds have been used, likely for the Dugald project which I estimate to have cost about \$3.5 million dollars. There is some Provincial grant in that amount too, I believe. When I was working in municipal business, it was my understanding that new development should be expected to contribute towards the infrastructure and those funds were to be used for future expansion. Upgrades and repairs to utilities were to be covered by consumer rates which includes a component for such things and goes into a general ...or goes into a general utility reserve fund. I have repeatedly asked for and not received information on the number of housing starts for the last couple of years but if you look at the amount of money in the financial statement going into the Water Levy Reserve Fund, and divide it by \$8,000., there would be something like 92 REUs for new homes in 2021 and 30 new homes in 2022. Capacity: In 2022 when Qualico Homes made application to subdivide, it was publicly stated that the RM only had capacity to allow them to build 50 homes. I seem to remember that that may have been increased to 75. It is unclear if the amount of capacity included provisions for the residential lots that had already been approved or not. With the upgrade to the Dugald Water Treatment Plant, there would likely be some relief or additional capacity available in both Oakbank and Dugald. These numbers have not been shared publicly. If Council has not been provided with this information, they definitely should be requiring it from the staff because it's essential for their planning, both for financial and planning funding possibilities. Although Admin. has no details to present to the public at this time, what the public does know is about 10 years ago when the Municipality opted to put a water trunk line down Main Street and Willow West, the Municipality at large paid for it. That debt will be paid off this year with \$1.7 million dollars. It was borrowed for 10 years and all assessments was levied on all properties in Springfield. It started as \$.2 million dollars and this year because of increases in assessment and over time, it was reduced down to \$1.27 mill. So \$1.7 mill, you can see what it's going to be if you multiply it by \$14 million dollars. This was a very unpopular decision made by Council at the time. Little to no notice was given to the public beforehand. Water supply projects that require borrowing would be categorized as a local improvement and as such will have to go to a Local Improvement financing process as per the Municipal Act. It requires a by-law be prepared and that a public hearing be held. A local improvement can be charged over the entire Municipality or to the area that would benefit from the improvement. Many if not most municipalities for a water supply system would do the latter. One...one way would involve creating and identifying a district by using roll numbers and assessment data such as the LID number 3 that was cre..created in the Industrial Area west of the Perimeter for paving of the streets in that area. **Mayor Therrien** – Mrs. Nysten, 5...5 minutes. **Janet Nysten** – Ok. I timed myself. It was 14 minutes ...anyway. Creating an LID is complicated and very time consuming for staff but only if it's done and the Council or the public have a clear understanding of the impact of recovery of the costs that will be involved. Other recovery options could be to use frontage or a combination of frontage and assessment or a per lot levy. For most people, an LID for piped water would appear to be the fairest way. Creating an LID for piped water would be the fairest way to fund an improvement that only benefits some. At the August 29th Open House, if my memory is correct, numbers were mentioned like it would only cost every property owner a few hundred dollars per year for 25 years. I ask how is that determined? What was ...was it based on the cost per property? If that's the case, can you imagine what it would mean to large multiple land owners. Or was it based on assessment? If that is the case, can you imagine what it would mean to large businesses. The taxpayers have a right to more definitive and precise costing. The 5-year Capital Plan – The importance of the Capital Expenditure 5-year Plan is for the Municipality to consider not only this year's operations but to plan for the future. It should be unacceptable not to have a sound plan for the future that includes all aspects of business development, not just costs for the next year or two but for longer periods of time so that funding them appropriately and systematically can be included. It should be unacceptable that the Plan doesn't flow from year to year and suddenly there's a multi-million dollar unforeseen and unexplained projects that appear. (coughing) Excuse me. The Act requires a 5-year Plan, not just numbers on a piece of paper. As the calendar moves along, the importance of public education on this issue becomes even more urgent. That is unless the intent of this Administration and Council is not to hold the promised public information sessions and to rush to a borrowing by-law (coughing) excuse me with the payments to be at large. If this is the case, it's important for Council ... pardon me... that all borrowing by-laws, before Third Reading, have to go before the Municipal Board. Also if two-thirds of the people affected object, then the by-law cannot be passed and it cannot be heard again for 2 years. I would remind you that there may be 5,000 people on the Municipal water but there are 16,000 people in Springfield. Section 321(1) of the Municipal Act provides that if at least 25 of the potential taxpayers object to the Municipal Board, then it must hold a Public Hearing. I am presenting this to Council because I feel it's important for you to know the ramifications you will face if this project and others you are considering to do move forward. Again I remind you that you all ran on a campaign of accountability and transparency and I suggest to you that you should be striving to inform and involve the public to allow 3 years to go by with extremely expensive and controversial projects without giving better explanation and sound answers should not be acceptable. **Mayor Therrien** – One minute, uh Mrs. Nysten. **Janet Nysten** – To the elected officials, be...I read that. To allow 3 years to go by on this extremely expensive and controversial project without giving better explanation with sound answers should not be acceptable to the elected officials because it is not acceptable to your constituents. Three years is a long time to not have details on this project and ten million dollars in the Reserve Fund by this time. I wait for any questions. **Mayor Therrien** – Thank you very much, Mrs. Nysten. Any questions from Council? **Mark? Councillor Miller** – Uh thank you Mr. Mayor. And thank you, Ms. Nysten, for taking the time and the effort to uh suggest to us some issues and points for discussion. I have a whole slew of things that I could probably use the rest of the meeting for but I think in the essence of time, I won't do that. In fact, what I'll do is I'll provide some very questions that I've taken from your presentation and provide them to Administration because they'll be in the best position to probably answer those questions rather than the Council itself but I do have one or two questions that ...in terms of your understanding, do we have any water left, in your or the general public, do we have any water left that we can supply to any new developments in this...in this Municipality? **Janet Nysten** – I, I honestly don't know what happened when we spent whatever, the 3.5

million dollars in Dugald, I don't know what that did to the capacity. It probably gave more capacity to Dugald which might have been used by Wheatland by now, I don't know and then it...all the water that was going down to Dugald before is not going there now. They're only using some for blending, there's some more capacity here so I don't know. **Councillor Miller** – A follow up. I have another question and that ...uh as a graduate of the Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg, we studied uh infrastructure development quite extensively. In fact, we had mock uh developments uh for residences and commercial, industrial and all the rest of it but in terms of what our RM does, we need to do an analysis of if we're charging enough for developers for residential lots, for commercial lots, and so forth as you probably presume. Certainly municipalities in Manitoba underestimate or devalue uh infrastructure costs for developers because they want to attract them. That's as simple as that. Others subsidize them for various reasons. Uh I'm not sure in terms of where we are at in our Municipality in terms of uh the cost and the long-term payback for us as a resident and for our Municipality but your understanding, I know you dived deep into the finances of this Municipality for many years, uh do you believe that we're charging enough uh uh developer fees for infrastructure, everything from pipes to cement to who knows what, uh included in terms of infrastructure. I know Mr. Doucet is here too and he can probably give us some insight but I know we're not supposed to spend a lot of time on this but in your own perspective, um are we charging enough for uh developers to reimburse the Municipality for the infrastructure costs that we've provided? **Janet Nysten** – I guess my ...my response would be, it depends how much growth you want to have and how fast you want it to occur. So if you only want a hundred homes which I think used to be the guideline, I think Planning kind of was able to accommodate and it's not just the sewer and the water projects, it's the roads and the staffing and the schools and all the other projects it could involve. So my feeling that particularly with the previous Council, there's a change in the expectation of growth and we're not ready for it. So we can't go back and say that those rates weren't sufficient but moving forward, you can do something about it and make sure that development pays for its own services, not the people that have already paid for existing services. **Councillor Miller** – Absolutely. I don't want that to be a....local residents have to piggyback on us for that newer development. Uh just a final quick question. Uh it has to do with the uh public engagement because you said it's absolutely paramountand again I don't want to speak for others but I'll speak for myself. Uh it's absolutely critical that this Council, at least me as a representative for Ward 3 uh continue to engage the public in projects like this because I know, I've spoke to many people in my area uh that have raised concern about what this will mean for their taxes. They don't receive any direct benefit from it. There's a perceived benefit because as we have said before, and I think the Mayor mentioned before, there's.... there's uh public uh uh institutions, whether it be schools or other facilities, health care facilities that would benefit from water but in general, there's not one person that in Ward 3 would benefit for a project like this directly, I'm saying because they're all on wells but uh. Uh so I would echo what you say, we need to up the ante and raise the bar to ensure that the public are totally informed and that they're given an opportunity to ask staff, not just be told, but to ask staff their questions, because that's what I call public engagement when you have, you know, conversations and uh public engagement, not just what we're being told, that's it verbatim, right. **Janet Nysten** – Well, I, I, I agree a hundred percent and I guess the answer kind of comes with, if you can go down to dollars and cents for expenses, you have tothe staff has to go down to dollars then for funding. And what's the reasonable funding and I guess my cautionary message to Council is if you put it on "at large", there's going to be a very unhappy population. **Mayor Therrien** – Thank you, Mrs. Nysten.

7. NEW AND OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Health & Safety Policy Manual - Mayor Therrien – Uh then we can go to uh uh New and Other Business, 7.1 uh Health & Safety Policy Manual.??? Hi. So that Health & Safety Policy Manual for the RM.... for all the RM employees and the safety system that is embedded in the RM for the employees that work here has been updated so it's being presented to Council. You all have copies of it to be passed for a resolution and then we could release this edition. It undergoes every uh 3 years a full review, full re-sign and annual internal review if there's any and also a review if there's any incidents or any major changes in legislation or regulations that requires the policy to be updated. And those would be updated individually through the Council if there's any major changes and so, you all have copies. If you have any questions upon review, I'll be able to help answer them so ok. Any questions? **Mayor Therrien** – Thank you. I found uh your Report was excellent, very detailed um and not so detailed that you can't uh read uh it so, good job, uh in that. Any other questions from Council? Mark? **Councillor Miller** – Not....uh also thank you for your work in this. I know it's time consuming and there's a lot of legwork to do but what I wanted to know was uh the uh the approach that you took in reviewing this. Uh you said that you.... Every 3 years that it's kind of an automatic review and that you do an internal consultation which is great but I'm sure you compare other uh health and safety policy manuals to those in other municipalities and other jurisdictions and is that what happened here as well? ???No, ummm I just went off of legislation and making sure our program um meets the elements and the requirements to meet legislation, (laughing) not all policy programs that in other companies that I've worked or I used to do consulting work and that doesn't mean a policy manual aligns with current legislation so I went thoroughly through legislation and practices here, you know, and so forth and made it unique to our.... our RM instead of copying off another because every safety system is unique for the business or the requirements of its employees so ya. **Mayor Therrien** – Thank you. Any other questions? Thank you very much. ??? Thank you.

7.2 Respectful & Harassment Free Workplace Policy - Mayor Therrien – Uh then we will go to Respectful & uh Harassment Free uh Workplace Policy. ???Alright, so this kind of piggybacks off of what Lisa was going through. She updated the Workplace Health and Safety Policy Manual and with that came Instead of work...or an update to the Respectful and Harassment Free Workplace Environment Policy. So I went through all this, again, same as Lisa on the legislation, made sure updates were completed and uh came up with a complaint form so that if there is every complaints, uh employees have something ... to fill if their complaints are received from other staff members, um customers, residents, supervisors, all of that kind of stuff, it's all captured on that form. Um on our policy, it goes through what the definitions are for harassment um and then what reasonable conduct is. As well it goes through what our procedures are internally um and then what our formal procedures are if it's not processed through an informal um complaint procedure so that...they would come to me with that and then we would have to go further if all of a sudden we had to dig into the complaint a little bit further so there's it's all listed in here. It also has employee rights as well as what our roles are as employer/employee and what management uh roles are as well. So do you have any questions on that? **Mayor Therrien** – Mark? **Councillor Miller** – Sorry to take the time here again but thank you for your work on this. I know it's important so over the last 3 years for instance, actually 4 years, have there been and not any specifics to them.... but have there been any submissions on uh respectful, or harassment uh as such that it's been submitted to you or to the RM? (yes) There have been. **Joy** - Very minimal and they're you say uh cleared up at the informal level. **Councillor Miller** – Excellent.... **Joy** -Ya, it's usually a misunderstanding and uh having a conversation

between 2 people because everybody is adults, right, so it's pretty easy to have these conversations as adults and say, hey what this person said, this is what this person said was the meaning behind it and it's usually cleared up. **Councillor Miller** – And I think you hit it on the head. Adults should be able to have that conversation. Some don't but uh uh I think adults should. In terms of.... in terms of disciplinary action, um who adjudicates that, who, who levies something against someone who um is seen to be uh I guess harassing someone That is a legitimate concern. In other words uh is, is there a legal elements that are brought into the equation? **Joy** - It depends on what kind of harassment is involved. There's definitely different um course of action that wehave to be taken and some of them would be out of our control. Once it becomes sexual or violent, stuff like that, it would be out of our control because that's when it gets passed on to a higher authority. **Councillor Miller** – Absolutely. So who makes that decision, I guess, is what I'm asking specifically? Is it the CAO or is it you particularly or is it you particularly or is it.... **Joy** -It would be from me. I would go to the CAO and then....I mean, obviously um if it's um violent or sexual, that will obviously be at the police. **Councillor Miller** – Yes. **Joanne** - So that doesn't have anything to do with me or Colleen. It would be something that the employee would probably go directly to, like I said, higher authorities for that. **Councillor Miller** – Ya, and that makes sense. I'm trying to see, to make sure that it doesn't come into our hands as Council because Council has a bias and it might be...**Joy**-It would never come into your hands. This is an employee matter so... **Councillor Miller** – Right. That's very good. **Joanne** - You guys will not hear about it. It's completely confidential, it's internal. **Councillor Miller** – Yes. And that's.... that's the way it ought to be. Thank you, Joanne. **Mayor Therrien** – Any other questions for Joy? Thank you very much, uh Joy. **Joy** – I think I'm just going to stay here. I think I'm next. **Mayor Therrien** – Oh, you are? **NOTE: That just goes to show how closely the Mayor follows his agenda....NOT!** **Joy** – I think I am twice. **Mayor Therrien** – Flag Protocol, yes, that's right. **Joy** – (laughing).

7.3 Flag Protocol Policy - Mayor Therrien – Why don't you do Flag Protocol then? **Joy** – So um ok. So oh, this one was created in 2021. We had some questions revolving around when we should and when we shouldn't raise and lower our flags. Um well obviously they're always raised but when we should lower them. Um so we came up with this and now that we've been using the policy for a couple of years, we've kind of seen some of the glitches as is when you make a policy, you can't always think of everything that's going to come up. So we've now had a couple of years to kind of use the policy and we've realized that there is a couple of things that we could um change on the policy to make it a little bit more user friendly and so that everybody understands and is on the same page as to what we mean by some of the things on the policy. So we would like to make one of the changes that when we are lowering flags, it is at this Municipality only because right now we have employees running around every flag that we have. And this could be on a Saturday or a Sunday and there's different time frames as to when the flags have to be lowered and then raised again. So we have employees taking time away from their families and stuff like that to go and do these types of um tasks for us which they don't mind doing, it's just um I think we could make it a little bit more efficient and this is kind of on the main drag here so anybody driving past this building is going to see the flags lowered. Um the time frames for the flags being lowered is off of the Government of Manitoba and Canadian Heritage Web Site so this is all ... this isn't stuff that we made up, this is stuff that is on other web sites and we're following what Canada does and what Manitoba does. So that's where the different time frames came into play. Any questions on that one? **Mayor Therrien** – Any questions, Council? No. Are you... are you the next one now? **Joy** – No, I'm done now. Ok. If these are both good, though, then I would like to request to bring them for resolution to the next uh Council meeting. **Mayor Therrien** – Sure, I don't have any problems. Go ahead, Mark. **Councillor Miller** – I'm sorry, I just have one recommended suggestion and it has to do with uh when we're lowering the flags in terms of a death of a member, um you have current and former members of Council which is fine. Uh current and former Mayor uh of the RM of Springfield. I would just suggest that we put in the word Reeve because not everybody wants or wanted to be recognized as a Reeve and I'm talking about Mayors Skrupski, Holland, McCarthy and so forth. If you put Reeve/Mayor, I think some of them if you poll them may take offense to being called the mayor and I don't know whether you're trying to exclude them, I don't think you're trying to exclude them, right? **Colleen Draper** – I guess we just refer to Head of Council, that would cover both. **Councillor Miller** – Even that. **Joy** – Mind if I change it to that? Again, we try to make these somewhat generic so that we don't try to dig into certain words because that is kind of funny, right. Um if you like that, then and everybody is good with that, I don't ...it doesn't bother me. **Mayor Therrien** – Good. Thank you very much. **Joy** – Anything else? **Mayor Therrien** – Nope. **Joy** – Ok, thank you. **Mayor Therrien** – Thank you, Joy.

7.4 2024 Curbside Waste Collection Program Expansion Allocations - Mayor Therrien – Uh 7.4 uh 2024 Curbside Waste Collection Program Expansion uh Allocations, um I guess that would be Phil, is it? Uh, Phil, whenever you're ready. **Phil Pawluk** – Uhhh thank you Mayor Therrien. Uh basically yes, so with 2024 budget coming up, it was discussed about adding on more homes to the curbside waste collection system. Uh we had kind of just picked this area in particular in Ward 4 but we are open to suggestions from all the wards to see what can be arranged to add on to the system. So we really didn't have a specific agenda to target areas unless Council is getting feedback from their residents about being added to the system. **Colleen Draper** – I think you can just clarify, Phil, that each household that's added is approximately \$300 um to be added to that annually. **Phil Pawluk** – Right...right. So we estimated each home at around \$300 a year in the budget to be serviced for waste collection on an annual basis. **Mayor Therrien** – Go ahead, Mark. **Councillor Miller** – So just to be clear, are you saying that uh that those residences would be surcharged an extra \$300 or we're taking \$300 out of the general budget? **Phil Pawluk** – Uh \$300 out of the general budget. **Councillor Miller** – Right. So you had asked if we had any suggestions, absolutely. People that uh in Cooks Creek have asked that it be expanded so I mean, I'm just being candid here. **Phil Pawluk** – Ya, so we also looked at it to see what the density is and where we can service uh residential homes uh within a short time, uh a short distance-wise so for example, here on Eastdale Road and into this area we can service around 60 homes within around a mile and a quarter of distance. If we start going out into further areas where you get one or two homes per mile, uh it becomes very cost prohibitive to try to service those areas without adding a further cost to the RM. Then we also try and balance areas that are closer to the transfer station as opposed to further from the transfer station so for example there's a high density of homes just to the west of Hillside Waste Transfer Station in there where there's easily 80 to 100 homes within a mile or a mile and a half uh route system but because of their proximity to the Hillside Waste Transfer Station, we don't deem it being equitable to service those properties that are so close to the Transfer Station when we have other dense areas that are further away that could be easily served. **Mayor Therrien** – Any other questions? Phil, how many uh uh is there an allotment of uh um of blue boxes uh or curbside pickups a year? Do we have an "x" amount of number that we try to do? **Phil Pawluk** – Uh not necessarily we service so anything that's kind of in the residential areas right now, Dugald, Oakbank, Anola uh collective, they will be added to the system throughout the year as those homes are built and developed but in terms of the rural area, there's no uh set prescription in terms of how many we want to add. Ya, it was sort of talked about in the previous

Council about adding it in and uh it never materialized and it's sort of been brought up again with this Council so we're looking at how we can provide more services to the rural residents. **Mayor Therrien** – Thank you, Phil. Um any other questions? Alright, thanks very much, uh Phil.

7.5 Manitoba Building Code 2020 - Mayor Therrien – We'll move on to 7.5 and that's the Manitoba uh Building Code 2020. **Dan Doucet** - Good afternoon, Council. Uh I just want to advise Council that as of January 1st, 2024 the uh National uh Building Code 2020 and National Planning Code, the National Fire Code, and the National Energy Code are taking effect on January 1st. Um on January...oh sorry, on July 7th 2023 uh the Provincial Government uh passed a...passed a Regulation 78 uh 2023 adopting...adopting the new uh 2020 Codes including the uh amendments to the National Building Code. On Council's agenda, I've attached a number of documents uh for reference uh including the 2010 Manitoba uh Manitoba amendments and the 2020 Manitoba amendments and then there's also a couple of other uh reference code changes that were done federally. I think there is 280 technical uh changes or sufficient changes to the Building Code. One of the big things that was observed at the recent Manitoba Building Code Official Seminar in uh November and we had a lot of discussions on it was Part 10 of the uh of the Manitoba amendment from uh 20...uh 2010. It's not in the 2020uh Manitoba amendments. Those special construction standards Part 10 deal with pools and hot tubs. So right now going into the new year, there is no regulations at all that Manitoba has except that were adopted into their Building Code. Um so my question is to Council, does Council want to regulate pools and hot tubs as we've done for my knowledge the last 20 ...20 plus years? Um, we can do that and it's the responsibility of each jurisdiction to incorporate rules and regulations on pools and hot tubs which would be fencing, construction. Uh basically we've asked the question "why did the Province take them out" because they wanted when the Manitoba Government was the only one, to my knowledge, who had the pool regulations and it was taken out because the uh National Building Code wants to be in harmony with all municipal uh with all the Provincial uh jurisdictions so I find it ironic that the Building Code's there for safety and it was taken out so... **Mayor Therrien** – That doesn't make any sense uh to me. It's obviously a very high risk for kids and something like that. **Dan Doucet** – I totally agree so we, we haven't had any pool permits uh in the last couple of months so I'd just like to bring it to Council that uh if uh we want to look at it with Spring approaching, the only way we could protect our citizens is by including it into the Building By-law. **Mayor Therrien** – I would think so. What do you ...what do you ... what do Council think. I think that's uh that's a high risk uh uh and we have to...and that's what we're for, to protect our citizens and the kids and so on like thatso... **Dan Doucet** –So I... **Mayor Therrien** – In the springtime ya so bringing it back in the springtime and we can...would it be a resolution that we would uh ... or just maintain? **Dan Doucet** – A resolution to amend the schedule to our Building By-law. Uh the Building By-law's basically a by-law with a Schedule with all the Regulations that requires for So we're going to Administration is going to look at this and we're not going to bring it back in the Spring, I want to bring it back a lot sooner before the pools start coming in. **Mayor Therrien** – Ya, Go ahead, Mark. **Councillor Miller** – Dan, do you know why the other jurisdictions wouldn't have this in? **Dan Doucet** – I don't but I was just puzzled. We've placed a few phone calls to the Office of the Fire Commissioner and haven't had a response yet. Which is.... The only response that I've had ... we also had uh a response from Tammy Farber who used to be with the Office of the Fire Commissioner who is now an instructor at uh Red River College which, on the Building Code, and they had mentioned that it was to be in harmony with the other jurisdictions that they don't want to regulate pools. I'm going....is the intent just to regulate physical structures and not accessory type pools, is that what they're looking at. I was trying to et some answers but I just couldn't for this meeting. **Councillor Miller** – So it's something I know you dialogue with other municipalities, is it something you could ask West St. Paul, East St. Paul, Tache etc. Are they...what is their approach or what Council is going to do in generality and ... **Dan Doucet** – We had that discussion at the MBOA Conference. A lot of the building officials were there throughout Manitoba and they were looking at putting it in their...their own building by-law or having it separate stand-alone by-law. I would prefer to put it in our Building By-law because everything's together instead of having a separate by-law which can get lost over the years.**Councillor Miller** –Here, I'll put...do you ever hear uh pushback from residents in terms of ... because I know there are certain pools that exist without the uh standardization of fencing, I mean you just have to go down the street to know it but is there pushback that we would get uh and justification, reasons? **Dan Doucet** – There's always pushback. Nobody wants to uh follow the rules, um it doesn't matter, it's uh you know Building Codes, Zoning By-laws. Um ya there is pushback when we say it's a ... it's a legal requirement, it's for the safety of uh the occupants of that uh dwelling and there are a lot of pools that just pop up throughout the summer here uh you know, your commercial pools that just come up like from your retail and stuff that just 3 or 4 foot high fence. **Councillor Miller** – Well, they fall... how could I say. They fall off the chart at Walmart... off the shelf I mean ya and so I don't know if those 10 x 10 or 10 x 14 pools would be included in that. They are seasonal. **Dan Doucet** – Anything I believe... I would have to read the regulation again, I haven't memorized it but I think it's anything that contains more than 2 feet of water, uh anything greater than that requires um you can still drown in 2 feet but that was a Provincial regulation so that's what we're following and I just wanted to know if Council wanted to continue with that standard. **Mayor Therrien** –I think so. I think that would be a good thing to do. It's kids uh kids, kids you do have to regulate that or do as much as we can to keep them safe **there**. Uh Andy. **Councillor Kuczynski** – So are you suggesting that the...we're going to be on dealing with their safety or the structure of the pools? If we, if we're going to do something, you know, ... **Dan Doucet** – What we're dealing with is the safety of the pools and um it's any type of manufactured pools so we get a hot tub, we ask for manufactured specs on it. If we get an above-ground pool or a below ground pool, there's manufactured specs. In the below-ground pool, we actually ask to get engineered drawings on how it's not going to cave in. Um so those are the pools. For dugouts and stuff like that, that's not regulated in the Code. Um and the agricultural dugouts because there's many dugouts out there that are uh for farming purposes, that's another thing we may want to discuss in the future but that's a lot tougher to discuss, to regulate. But when somebody makes a man-made structure with just excavating for their cattle or anything like that. **Mayor Therrien** –Ya, I don't know how, I don't know how we'd be able to regulate uh that. **Dan Doucet** –It'd be difficult. **Mayor Therrien** –Pools then in somebody's back yard uh... **Dan Doucet** – Sure, that's what we'd have to look at. **Councillor Kuczynski** – How about this safety fences and **Dan Doucet** – Yep, that's all in the regulation, uh a 5 ft. high fence uh lockable latch um with spring loaded hinge...um they, it can't be climbed, the wall. You can't have horizontal uh boards uh a chain link fence, I think it has to be metric conversion I think it's 50 millimeters which is 2 inch by 2 inch the biggest hole so ya that's all in the Provincial Regulation right now but in the new one, that whole section is disappearing. There's also in that section uh for diving boards amongst guidewires or uh Hydro wires. There has to be a certain distance from that and that's in the Regulation as well so I was looking at adopting that whole section and just incorporating it. I wasn't going to create anything new, just utilize what's been working for the last 15, 20 years. **Mayor Therrien** – Go ahead, Mark. **Councillor Miller** – So just on the assumption of conjecture, let's say someone does have a pool and get the permit from the RM, and something goes south, is there any legal liability for the RM because we, or you, approved that um for some reason, I don't know, someone drowns, uh... **Dan Doucet** - I think there's always the risk of liability if a structure collapses uh or a pool, like we're trying to mitigate that risk. Uh we go out, we do inspections, we make sure it's all latched, we document, there's pictures taken. Um we're just trying

to mitigate the risk. **Councillor Miller** – That’s all in the documentation. **Dan Doucet** – Once, uh one the pool permit or the inspections have been done, we sign off on it. Things can change we don’t know about. **Councillor Kuczynski** – That’s my next question, you know, how often we do those inspections, just once or ...when they initially build that pool. **Dan Doucet** – Prior to the pool uh getting water, then we want to do the inspection. That’s what we ask for, to make sure that the fence is in, to make sure all the safety, the safety...ya, we’re not constantly monitoring uh these structures over the years. Once it’s signed off, that’s.... it’s no difference if you were to build a house, and you don’t finish your basement and then 5 years later, if you don’t get a permit, I don’t know if you finished your basement. It happens. **Councillor Kuczynski** – But that’s my question...how...we could be liable for something that you don’t inspect on a yearly basis. Ya. **Dan Doucet** – Um, I’m kind of stumped by that question because...**Councillor Kuczynski** – I know, I know ... **Dan Doucet** – ... we’re not uh continuously monitoring all these uh pools, if there’s failures... **Councillor Kuczynski** – No but you said we’re liable so we’re just liable for the initial inspection ...and that’s it? **Dan Doucet** – We’re a lot more liable if we don’t...that’s with no regulations. **Mayor Therrien**– I totally agree. Mark? **Councillor Miller** – So it’s an annual permit, right. What is the....oh it’s not. **Dan Doucet** – No, it’s just a one time. We permit uh how much...I don’t know, if it’s \$175. bucks, somewhere in that range, I think. I would have to look at the fee by-law. **Councillor Miller** – Ya, my only point for that Dan is sometimes permits are barriers to people getting them. In other words, people don’t get dog licenses because it was \$25 bucks or whatever, they didn’t want to put, twenty-five bucks towards it, right, so if we make it reasonable and rational, then people will do it. Don’t put a barrier on the cost. Council ought not to because you get more buy in when it’s affordable and practical. **Dan Doucet** – Absolutely. Very similar to our demolition permits for structures. We don’t even charge for them. We just make sure the site is cleaned up and it’s recorded and documented and people...with the pool permits, we calculate uh the cost of our service at the time of the inspectors, the vehicle, the travel um and if we have to go back so that’s why that charge is fairly minimal. Thank you. I didn’t ...did Council have any questions. **Mayor Therrien**– I don’t see any. Thanks very much **there** Dan. Uh then **at this point here**, I’m prepared to close uh the meeting. Can I get a mover and a seconder, please. Mark and Melinda (Miller/Warren). Thank you.

8.1 Pineridge Golf Course Lease Renewal – NOTE: While this was on the posted agenda, there is no mention of it.

9. RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING

Mayor Therrien– It’s now 2:13 and we’re coming out of closed meeting. Can I get a mover and a seconder uh to return from uh closed uh meeting? Melinda and Andy (Warren/Kuczynski). And uh a vote to uh adjourn uh would be the next uh one here. Uh show of hands. That’ll be unanimous. And **at this point here** I’m going to close the meeting at uh uh 2:13 uh p.m.