

## Committee of the Whole Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

### WITHOUT PREJUDICE

I note that the Minutes of the February 5, 2019 Council Meeting that are scheduled to be approved at the February 19th. Council meeting are 11 pages long because the Mayor wished all votes to be recorded and the Administration has listed them all even when the vote is unanimous which implies that everyone on Council agreed with the resolution. One would think only in the case of opposition or abstention would it be necessary to list the votes. If a member of Council is absent, it would be understood they would not be voting.

**NOTE: The mayor should announce at the beginning of the meeting that all cell phones are to be turned off. This meeting was characterized by several interruptions by cell phones. We all forget from time to time but the Chair of the meeting should announce this as a reminder and include herself. Peter Williams was absent from meeting. Note that I only report dialogue if I feel it is worthy of inclusion.**

2. AGENDA - One In Camera item added and also Draft Minutes.

### 4. DELEGATIONS

**Patricia Rivard** - She feels not having reliable and high speed internet availability is devaluing her property and is there to question her assessment. She was told by the Mayor that her avenue to appeal her assessment has to be done in November and she can obtain a Board of Revision appeal form from the front desk in this regard. Mayor Fell said she herself had successfully appealed hers and had it lowered and then it was subsequently increased and she had to appeal again. That is just how Provincial Assessment works. During her presentation, she mentioned lack of services and mentioned she did not even know we had a police service and the Mayor said she would inform the police they would like her area targetted. **Note:** Internet is not at present considered a municipal service. While the current Council is becoming engaged in John Q Public Inc. and in particular, the provision of fibre optic service in the RM, one could question the ethics of using taxpayer dollars to invest in a speculative venture that promises to provide faster internet service to customers at a rate comparable to other providers but neglects to say its efficiency would only be at optimum in the high density urban settlements such as Oakbank and Dugald. Beyond that, towers would be involved and the efficiency would diminish with every tower. In short, the further out from the centre, the less service available. Further John Q Public is at the feasibility study stage and any actual service is years out from today. There is no information available from the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region to indicate the ultimate cost to the municipality and by extension, the taxpayers.

**Humphrey Vernaus** - Petitioned Council on behalf of the Cooks Creek Community Club to provide the funds necessary to improve and expand the existing parking lot adjacent to the Cooks Creek Community Club which is in poor repair, particularly at the southeast end, and cited the need for future increase in the capacity of parking for large events at both its expanded facility, the Immaculate Conception and St. Michaels Churches and the Heritage Museum in the vicinity with the use of a shuttle service. Parking along PTH 212 is no longer acceptable due to safety issues. They would like a concerted effort to improve the parking area over time. They would like to start with the existing parking lot which in the last few years has become a quagmire. They conferred with Doug Murray, the Facilities Manager, to obtain a quote as to how much it would cost. They want \$145,000., the amount of the quote, from the municipality as the community has contributed to the expansion over the years and is tapped out. They have a 5 year plan which will include targets for each year, capacity, ball park costs for each year, and the possibility of applying for grants in the future as they become available. Council would like to see the 5 year plan which includes asphaltting the parking surface and will reference it when in budget discussions. Mr. Vernaus said for previous events, they have used a grass field because it was sufficiently dry to enable its use which may not always be possible and it was filled to capacity. The Mayor said council may not get back to them for a couple of months. A member of the audience suggested the aggregate businesses could be lobbied to provide some gravel but apparently that has been tried and the Mayor said it has to be a better quality of limestone than that available locally. It would have to come from Stonewall. Councillor Wilson asked if coarse aggregate from Garson for the subgrade on top of the geotextile would work as it is not a heavy traffic surface. Blaine Moffat said it could be looked at and abrasion tests done but he did not think it would be the product of choice. Council will table it for future discussion. **Note: During his presentation the Mayor's cell phone rang which distracted her.**

### 5. NEW BUSINESS

**DUST CONTROL POLICY REVIEW** - This was added according to the Acting CAO because they are going to be suggesting some amendments and want council to review it. The Mayor said she would like to see an amendment/policy/guideline for businesses in regards to dust abatement as the question has come up quite a bit as to who pays and is it cost shared. Wants it to be consistent for every business. Blaine Moffat asked if they want a map and council wanted to see the whole picture of what is currently being done. The Mayor also wanted an update on the testing done where only one 8 ft. strip was applied on certain roads and how well that worked. It worked where there was low traffic counts (less than 200 vehicles per day) and no blading was done but on the higher traffic roads, it was not practical. The Mayor wants to know if this was an option for the future. It will be brought forward to another Committee of the Whole meeting for further discussion. As Blaine Moffat, the Manager of Public Works, was speaking, the Mayor's phone rang once again as did that of a member of the audience afterward. Councillor Wilson brought up the issue of dust controlling regular haul routes but Mayor Fell felt this would have to be verified by traffic counts. During the presentation, Mr. Moffat said he had concerns with increasing the dust control program as they were slightly over budget for 2018 due to repeat applications due to dryness of season and added roads. **The Mayor received pings on her phone subsequently and took note.**

Below is an excerpt from the policy which deals with the provision of dust control at no charge and is solely at the discretion of the RM. Reading 2. 2), one could argue Deer Meadow Farms would be eligible to have the roads adjacent dust controlled at no charge. **Question: Why would taxpayers at large be required to foot the bill for this service when the business is the root cause of the increased traffic load?**

1. Dust suppressant materials will be applied at no charge for safety reasons in the following areas **in the sole opinion of the RM**: a) School zones and adjacent to school/community playgrounds. b) At major intersections and/or poor alignments considered hazardous due to dusty conditions c) At major railway crossings. d) Designated gravel haul routes from municipal gravel pits e) Transfer Stations f) Churches g) Cemeteries h) Community Grounds and Sports Facilities 2. Dust control suppressants will be applied at no charge on Municipal controlled properties where **in the sole opinion of the RM**, safety is deemed compromised due to the hazards caused by extreme dusty conditions. Quality Of Life 1) Dust Control suppressants may be applied at no charge on Municipal controlled roads where **in the sole opinion of the RM**, the application of the suppressant improves the quality of life relative to a community facility/function and serves a greater community purpose. 2) Dust suppressant materials may be applied at no charge on Municipal controlled roads where **in the sole opinion of the RM**, the applicant resides within 100 meters of the centerline of a road with an annual average daily traffic count in excess of 200 vehicles per day. Traffic counts will be based on the current counts available at the beginning of each year.

**PURCHASE OF NEW TANKER TRAILER** - The RM currently owns two that date back to the 70s and one is budgeted to be replaced in the 2019 capital fleet budget at \$165,240 less trade in. **Blaine Moffat**, the Manager of Public Works, is looking for **permission** from Council to proceed to search for 2 good used ones to replace both the one mentioned and another in the 2023 budget which he feels he can find for the price of the one new one. He feels having newer tanker trailers would increase the efficiency of dust application if these were available to contractors. His entire report can be seen attached to the agenda for the meeting. Mike Wels mentioned the used units would be around \$77,000 each. The Mayor asked him questions that had been answered in the report provided to Council before the meeting. **Council gave him permission to proceed to search and if suitable ones are found, Council can convene a special meetings to pass a resolution approving the purchase.**

**SAFETY UPGRADES TO AGGREGATE PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT** - **Blaine Moffat**, the Manager of Public Works, turned this over to **Mike Wels**, a project manager. As outlined in the report attached to the Agenda of the meeting, they are requesting **permission** from Council to, prior to the capital budget being approved for 2019, be allowed to proceed with the upgrading of the electronics of this equipment, including a primary crushing plant and generator unit purchased in 2018, to meet provincial mining safety regulations and the funds available allocated for this in 2018 are insufficient and **an additional \$68,500. is required** which would eliminate the necessity of an inspector having to come every time the equipment is connected. In other words, the cost of bringing "all electrical work into compliance with the safety code" now before the mining season begins "**will exceed the monies budgeted**". **Councillor Fuhl asked if this would be done by RFP. Mr. Moffat answered it would not** but would be done through their consultant in the industry and would utilize commercial contractors versed in the mines and safety inspections. **Mayor Fell** asked that when they bought the rock crusher, did they not know this was coming up? **Blaine Moffat** sort of answered this by saying they knew they had to be in compliance and inspected but until they bought the unit, they were not 100% sure what the upgrades were going to be and were hoping it would be all covered by the carry over monies of \$64,000. That wasn't the case. **Vince Bennici** asked as of last year how much production and how much are we going to be saving ourselves by putting all this money into this machinery? What are we going to be producing and the cost and value of that production? **Mr. Moffat** answered by saying they he does not have the details but they have an overabundance of oversized aggregate (8" and over) in our pits that is just pushed to the side and is a waste of material but by breaking that material down and blending that with a lower grade material we can take this rock and make it into... **Mr. Bennici** asked what they were doing now with all this rock we are pushing to the side, that we are going to be crushing, who are we getting that from right now and what is the cost factor. **Blaine Moffat** - well, out in our east pits, we are not buying that from anybody, it's our own property but what we are not doing is properly making the most use of our resources within those pits and as you know we want to use every viable resource that you can to deplete that rather than leave waste behind so it is going to give us added value to extend those aggregates for years to come yet. **Mr. Bennici** Is there a value put to that amount that you are going to be producing? **Moffat** - Well, I don't know if I can speak numbers but we probably increase production by 25% if we break it down with the big machine to about 6 inch.....which is a lot more efficient. How much that is going to gain of the oversize that we can crush down to that 6 inch alignment...varies from pit to pit...don't want to pull a number out of the air but could increase it by 30%. **Bennici** - So why is there a 30% increase on the budget? What is the number that is being increased? **Moffat** - What, being saved? **Bennici** - So what you are saying is that you have an overall number and you are going to have production higher than 30% or 30% higher, so the overall production you had over the last couple of years by not crushing this extra material, what is the value of that material and how much more are we going to gain? **Moffat** - Well those numbers I don't have right here today but when we talk time wise to produce that 25% saves on time...you know if you put a value of \$150 an hour to that piece of equipment plus the other costs and the amount of time down in the pit ....there's value in that...**I don't have those numbers off the top of my head.** **Bennici** - It just seems the correlation between what we are spending and how much we are saving and how many years will that take to pay it back is not there. Here **Moffat** said that if they had to bring in the private sector contractor to break up that rock, it would cost **in the vicinity** of \$180,000 to \$190,000. just for that about 6 week period in one season in one pit. That would gain us 3 to 4 years of material that we could use to blend. By spending that amount on the equipment, we have that asset now and can move it around. **Bennici** - What is the life span of this machine you bought? I know you bought it used. **Moffat** - Well if you keep up with the maintenance and everything else ... we don't see any reason you couldn't push that to 20 years or more. **Mayor Fell** - Thank you, Blaine and Mike. So we have that report and we will put it on our next Council meeting for discussion ..and we'll go forward from there.

**Note:** A member of the aggregate industry was present and suggested to afterward that, in his opinion, this aggregate could be produced cheaper by aggregate companies. The cost per yard done in house or by contract comparison was not provided. **IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE PROCUREMENT POLICY OF THE R.M. IS EITHER DEFICIENT OR NOT BEING FOLLOWED.**

**WARD 1 FIRE HALL** - Again, **Jeff Hudson** the Fire Chief handed out a late report to Council. He has managed to secure a new location going from our current 3,000 sq. ft. location to 4,200 sq. ft. which he considers a prime location in the industrial park. They managed to get someone to move to accommodate them. The space will become available in May or June of this year. The current location lease is up in March but

they can negotiate a monthly rate at an increased cost of 1 1/2 times the current rent. The new facility addresses some of their workplace health issues. They are guaranteed secure egress and access for our firemen as well as our equipment. It's a two bay double D which they have now but are gaining access to a training area, office space, washrooms. The new lease I negotiated twice to get them down under the \$5,000. plus GST but we do get our GST back. The only difference between this new location and the old location is the difference in the cost. Apparently at \$3200. it raises it to \$4997. a month. They were quite willing to sign a 2 year lease while we work on our Risk Assessment Study for the location of the hall and they are quite willing to work with us in that venture too. There are some lots available that they own that will give us direct access to Gunn Road. **Mayor Fell** - I mean they do have locations but we have still not finished our Risk Assessment Study. **Chief Hudson** - This will buy us time while we are doing that and give us time to build, hopefully within 2 years. Last time we met with the solicitor he indicated this was a good time for us to do a complete Risk Assessment of the whole municipality which will take a little bit longer. **Mayor Fell** - Well I think this solves a lot of problems in the interim because I know the current facility is not ideal for our firefighters. In his report, Chief Hudson apparently listed a number of personnel issues, e.g. washrooms, morale, cadet program. Fire Hall in the Industrial Park and stated the one he has identified at the corner of Gunn and Redonda is the best possible location and he has arranged a temporary lease for a few years. According to **Councillor Fuhl**, the Fire Commissioner at AMM meeting recommended discussing with the City of Winnipeg and other municipalities. Chief Hudson had an aerial map indicating proposed location, current location, and former proposed building site. This will be included in agenda of the next Council meeting.

**TELECOM REVIEW** - Mayor Fell said the RM of Ritchot brought this forward. The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region had an expert come in who does an analysis of all your phone lines and internet lines and cell phone lines to find savings for the municipality. There is no cost to have him come in to do this audit so WMR is looking to have this done as a "group" and would like our permission to go forward with this free audit. It would take a couple of hours of staff time getting the information to them but after that they would bring us the results, negotiate on our behalf, if there is savings to be found they then get a percentage of those savings. There is no risk to "join up". I wanted to know what Council thought and that is why she e-mailed them the back-up information. **Councillor Fuhl** wanted information from Administration to show what they are doing now. **Mayor Fell** said that is what this audit would do. They review current contracts compared to prices we can negotiate. WMR is going to do this. There would be no cost unless we opt in to what they suggested. Apparently the RM of Ritchot had it done, saved \$30,000. and the auditor gets a percentage of that for providing the audit. Most municipalities have already signed up so they are just looking a couple of us left looking for savings with no risk to themselves. **Vince Bennici** - Is that a savings they are going to be charging us yearly or just a one time payment. **Mayor Fell** - **Colleen Sklar is not sure yet** so that is why she wants to go in with the entire capital region because we would be able to negotiate more..better pricing for us and that's why she is asking if we would like them to look into it and then she is going to come back to us with how that would be. Ritchot was a one-time cost. **Vince Bennici** - So they only take commission off the one year savings? **Councillor Ralke** said that is what she understood. **Mayor Fell** - Said that could change. Let's say if we signed up with Bell for a 3 year contract, they may take it off the 3 year savings. All that information would be provided by WMR via the audit and recommendation. There is no obligation for signing up for it. The audit is free. Council agreed to advise WMR they are open to looking into this.

**ANIMAL CONTROL BYLAW DISCUSSION** - There was virtually no discussion. The new committee formed met and decided to accept the original Animal Control By-law that received First Reading before the election but was never given second and third reading as requested by Councillor Erickson who sat on the original committee for 4 years. Recommendations of lawyer that reviewed it were rejected as he did not review the legality of the document as requested but rather suggested changes to the body of the document. Will be added to the next Council agenda.

**SOUTHERN CHIEFS MOU** - **Councillor Fuhl**, unlike the Mayor, did participate in one of the meetings in this regard but never reported on these to Council and thus the Mayor was blindsided. WMR and First Nations have been working together to establish a Memorandum of Understanding on economic development and capital region initiatives and bridging the gap between First Nation and Municipal communities. Event will be held at the end of the month in this regard. MOU has been e-mailed to Council and if any further discussion is required, will be added to another meeting.

**AGGREGATE DISCUSSION** - **Mayor Fell** had to stop and think why she had brought this forward to Council. She then mentioned they are interviewing candidates in future for the Aggregate Committee, of which she has already hired a Chair from another municipality, Jim Campbell from Rockwood and subsequently will decide upon what they are going to discuss, one of which will be the existing by-law 73-22 and instructed the Acting CAO to send Council copies of it and the draft one proposed some years ago by Orville Currie. **(I think she means Terms of Reference)** **Councillor Wilson** - This was all discussed by a sub-committee of the former Aggregate Task Force and there is a large spreadsheet comparing 73-22 to bylaws and regulations from other jurisdictions across Canada and the gaps in 73-22 are identified in the spreadsheet which is just sitting there waiting for the RM to run with it and putting together an updated bylaw. **Mayor Fell** asked if he could send it to all of Council and he said he would. **Councillor Wilson** - Because the work has already been done, his suggestion is to task staff with the drafting of a bylaw and if any points needing clarification, that members of the former sub-committee be accessed as they have the knowledge. **Mayor Fell** said that before anything is done, she would like Council to review the spreadsheet and then bring it back to a COW or Council meeting for further discussion. Council concurred.

**DRAFT MINUTES** - Mayor Fell said that at a AMM meeting seminar and the Municipal Relations Branch suggested it would be advisable to put Draft Minutes on the web site (marked DRAFT) so constituents can see what went on without having to wait so long. The Acting CAO says she can have them up on Monday following the meeting.

The Mayor called a 5 minute break before going to the CLOSED MEETING which included the subjects of **Police Department Report** and an **Update from HD Minerals** presumably about the bore hole drilling searching for minerals which has been going on for several years now and the added item which did not specify the subject. **There was a motion to come out of In Camera and then the meeting adjourned.**