

RM OF SPRINGFIELD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING May 26, 2020

WITHOUT PREJUDICE (E&OE)

WATER. Nothing on this planet can survive without it! We as one of the species that share this Earth all know that we must have potable water to survive. Yet we sit back and watch governments putting economic benefit ahead of the protection of our drinking water. We close our eyes to initiatives that are a threat to our oceans and seas such as pipelines and oil extraction rigs and human waste. We have dragged our feet when it came to changing our behaviours to reduce our contribution to global warming, and now are at a critical point where due to our use of fossil fuels, island nations are poised to be inundated by the rising water levels due to the ice caps melting. I cannot change the minds of the global populations but I have been trying to point out how locally we are allowing our municipal government to pass resolutions and make decisions that endanger our two major aquifers, the Birdshill and the Sandilands. While many may agree with my message, no collective action is being taken to change the mind set of this Council. If major damage were to occur to the Sandilands Aquifer due to Silica sand mining and processing, as an example, every business and resident from Poplar Road east would have only one option and that is to purchase water from a source outside this province and truck it in regularly for drinking and some personal grooming such as brushing one's teeth. The City of Winnipeg by legal agreement is not allowed to share the water they obtain from Shoal Lake. The Birdshill aquifer is already under threat due to the Hillside Landfill, aggregate extraction, and now potentially increasing human traffic with a hotel and merchant village on 12 acres of porous, permeable aggregate land. MY QUESTION: What can I do, aside from provide factual information, to garner collective support from the residents of this municipality to change the actions of our municipal and provincial governments when it comes to environmental issue versus economic considerations? Has COVID 19 not convinced you that we CAN contribute to the rehabilitation of our planet by driving less, by consuming less, by taking a step backward and allowing nature to recoup? It has to start somewhere, why not in Springfield? We could be a model to the Province, and ultimately to the world.

NOTE: Only two items under New Business and nothing under Old Business. Notably missing are: SILICA SAND PROCESSING FACILITY NEAR VIVIAN: INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT PR 206 & PR 213 (GARVEN ROAD): No mention yet of THE BERGER PEAT PROCESSING FACILITY ON OAKWOOD ROAD where work is already underway: BILL 48 which should be of concern to our Mayor as it is to Shelley Hart, the Mayor of East St. Paul: Discussion of time line on PROVISION OF OFF RAMP on south side of Poplar Road and WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENTS TO POPLAR ROAD for the P&H ELEVATOR AND BULK FERTILIZER STORAGE PLANT: Notification of OPENING TO THE PUBLIC of the RM ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND OFFICES as is being orchestrated by Premier Pallister and has already been done in other municipalities.

4.1 Pandemic Response Policy - Joy Janz - Changed name of Policy to Infectious Disease Policy and now it covers everything, not just current pandemic. Tried to make it less specific. Added couple of new definitions Epidemic and Infectious Disease. **NOTE: Evidently revisions have been made that were not previously included in the Agenda package.** **Councillor Wilson** - Had question regarding who is essential and apparently Council is not essential. In some circumstances senior staff could be essential and the CAO and he did not feel it was clear in policy. **Councillor Williams** felt this would be covered under the Emergency Management Policy and Business Continuity Plan. Brief discussion ensued. **Colleen Draper** said she had been in discussion with the Province and Council was not considered an Essential Service and referenced the Municipal Act. **NOTE: I find the definition of Leave of Absence lacks clarity and should be reworded. The Guidelines state that regardless of the recommendations by the Manitoba Health Authority, Federal and Provincial governments, final direction comes from Council and the CAO. In other words, they can require more stringent requirements than higher levels of authority. I sincerely have problems with Building Inspections, Land Use Planning, and Weed Control as Essential Services in the time of a global pandemic. Some buildings have been in place for periods of 10 years without having their final inspections completed. Further I don't think it either necessary or advisable to give the CAO, as outlined in red at the bottom of the policy, "the right to amend this policy at any time (without consultation from the public) during an Infectious Disease outbreak, based on recommendations by the Health Authority and both Federal, Provincial, and Municipal governments."** With reference to the red section at the end of the policy, the CAO's declaration refers to recommendations by the Health Authority and both Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments. "Both" implies two and regardless, why would our RM defer to recommendations of other municipal governments. Lacking in the policy is what steps are being taken to screen employees entering the workplace after they have been out in the wider community. Also not mentioned is contract personnel entering municipal buildings and equipment and what precautions are being taken to ensure they are not introducing infection into the workplace environment (e.g. IT specialists, delivery people, cleaning staff, and equipment servicing personnel).

4.2 Expense Reimbursement Policy - Councillor Wilson expressed his concerns with spouses expenses and tips being paid for by taxpayers. (6 & 7) **Joy Janz** said it had been discussed and it was decided to leave in with the understanding only one meal would be paid for. **Mayor Fell** did not indicate that any change would be made and that it would come forward to the next Council Meeting as is. **NOTE: I see no difference in this policy from that which has been followed over the years when I was a Councillor WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FOLLOWING: Page 2, Item 6 states: "the cost (of the banquet) for the member and the member's (they omitted the ') partner. THE COSTS OF BEING ACCOMPANIED BY A MEMBER'S PARTNER WAS NEVER PAID FOR BY TAXPAYERS WHEN I WAS ON COUNCIL TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, NOR SHOULD IT BE!!!!!! Partners have no part in conducting the business of the municipality and therefore if they choose to attend municipal functions, it should be at their own expense. Bottom of Page 2 reads: "Alcohol is not an approved expense and should not be consumed while on RM of Springfield business or while attending events on behalf of the RM of Springfield." IT IS ONE THING TO SAY**

TAXPAYERS SHOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND QUITE ANOTHER TO PROHIBIT ITS RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION. Perhaps this is bias on the part of our Mayor who I believe does not consume alcoholic beverages. Having attended many municipal meetings and events, and being someone who has a low tolerance for alcohol although I do enjoy an occasional glass of wine, I can honestly say that if alcoholic beverage consumption is prohibited, AMM and RMs will have difficulty finding venues in which to hold their functions as it is liquor sales that pad the coffers of hotels and convention centres, and even given they do, attendance will be low. Every trade show at Conventions dispenses beer and wine during the day as well as food.

MEETING ADJOURNED. The Audio file indicates the length of the meeting as 10 minutes and 45 seconds and they did not go into Closed Session.

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT PR 206 AND PR 213 (GARVEN ROAD) - On May 20, 2020 at 4:57 p.m. I received a message from the RM of Springfield inviting me to share my views through online public engagement hosted by Manitoba Infrastructure on intersection improvement alternatives for this intersection by modifying traffic flow into a roundabout or by adding traffic signals. We have until June 5, 2020 to express our opinions. That does not give the public much of a window of opportunity to comment.

VIVIAN SAND PROCESSING FACILITY PROJECT VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE May 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. - In their information package it states CanWhite WILL file two Environmental Act License applications for the project, the Sand Facility Project and the Sand Extraction Project. It further states the Facility will receive trains weekly to transport the sand product to market and therefore no sand haul trucks will be needed. Does this mean the raw product is being mined from that site and no silica will be transported to the facility from any other location? I find this hard to believe as they have already extracted silica sand on Centerline Road just west of PTH 302 which is sitting in large mounds which, to the best of my knowledge, are not being misted to keep them moist so wind does not spread silica sand in the air. **NOTE: In the presentation it was stated it would be transported by pipe as slurry from where it was mined.** 16.5 hectares of land will have to be cleared of trees which has a significant environmental impact on natural wildlife, on the suppression of noise for the adjacent community, and trees are instrumental in keeping our air clean. Further when you remove material from beneath the ground, it leaves a void and potential instability of the surrounding land. **NOTE: In the presentation, it was stated no significant amounts would be removed from any one location.** 40.77 acres of virgin forest are going to be cleared, removing all those trees where formerly birds nested and deer, fox, badgers, raccoons, weasels, and even cougars, wolves and coyotes roamed wild. 40 acres of destruction has a major effect on the ecosystem of the area. It minimizes the potential noise created by the machinery used by referring to the naturally vegetated property but they are deforesting 40 acres to accommodate the plant, silos, and rail load out loop track. In the layout site map, there is a very narrow strip of remaining vegetation between the eastern edge of the facility and Station Road in the town of Vivian. We do not have any typical industrial facility between Anola and Vivian and thus however much water volume required for washrooms, staff kitchen and fire suppression is more than has formerly been drawn from the aquifer not to mention while they say a minimal amount of water will be used in the Wet Facility from a well on the facility site, how can that be when they are washing large amounts of sand daily. **NOTE: They claim water will come from slurry and will be recycled in the washing process. The well is just for occasionally when they run low due to evaporation or whatever.** Further, what method of extracting the silica sand from 200 ft. below the surface and what medium does the process use? **NOTE: They say extraction will involve air as the means of bringing sand to the surface.** Their proposed schedule of events takes us from this VIRTUAL open house to applying for an Environmental license, regulatory review of application, including Public Review and Comment in June to August, and then Project Approval/Environment Act License anticipated in August and construction of the facility between September and December. That is a pretty optimistic time line considering the silos appear to be concrete and those months can be a little chilly and also wet for pouring concrete some years. **THIS FACILITY, AS I SEE IT, IS NOT OF BENEFIT TO THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE RM OF SPRINGFIELD. THE ONLY BENEFICIARY IS CANWHITE SANDS AND THE MAJOR USE OF THE SAND, FRACKING, IS TO EXTRACT OIL AND GAS FROM THE GROUND, INDUSTRIES THAT ARE EQUALLY AS ENVIRONMENTALLY UNFRIENDLY.** Since the inauguration of Mayor Fell, our municipality is under threat from chemical fertilizers, hazardous waste, peat processing, business expansion on prime aggregate land, and silica mining and processing. **OUR DRINKING WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY ARE UNDER THREAT.**

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT PR 206 & PR 213 (GARVEN ROAD) - The residents of this municipality have from May 25 to June 5, 2020 to share your opinion of what type of traffic control would improve this intersection with Manitoba Infrastructure at EORegion1@gov.mb.ca or by telephoning 204-346-6266. You should take advantage of this opportunity as whatever is decided will affect your travel in the area in perpetuity. I will be voicing my opinion which is that a roundabout at that intersection would result in more accidents than currently are experienced. In my opinion the accidents that have happened there are largely as a result of motorists proceeding across 206 from Garven before it is safe to do so. I feel if the C.O.P.s were to locate themselves on foot in a vantage point at peak traffic times, i.e. 7 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. for even the summer months and take license numbers and have citations mailed to those not following the rules, the behaviour would change to some extent. I believe this is called targeted policing. Another possibility would be for the municipality to provide surveillance of the intersection using the ortho equipment they purchased for the Planning Department and post notices to the effect that the intersection is under aerial surveillance as a deterrent. If that does not work, then I prefer traffic lights with photo radar. The majority of people stop at lights, particularly if there is a camera at the intersection, fearing the cost of the resulting ticket. Traffic circles may work well in Europe but Canadians are not familiar with their usage and they are not suitable for tractors hauling seeders and other farming equipment, large tandem trucks loaded with aggregate, semitrailers, and loaded grain trucks. Further if not used properly they can be just as

dangerous as the original intersection which is only dangerous because of driving behaviours. The intersection is quite open without obstructions.

THE BERGER PEAT PROCESSING FACILITY ON OAKWOOD ROAD - This is proof positive that our Council is anything but TRANSPARENT. Not a word of this has been mentioned at the Council table except insofar as the two resolutions they passed last year, one supposedly agreeing with the provincial government that peat is an agricultural product WHICH I DISPROVED BY SPEAKING WITH THE PROVINCE AND OBTAINING A WRITTEN RULING THAT IS WAS NOT PRODUCED BUT "MINED" AND WAS UNDER MINES, NOT AGRICULTURE. ALTHOUGH I REQUESTED THEY RESCIND THESE UNFACTUAL RESOLUTIONS, THEY HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO DO THE RIGHT THING AND HONOUR MY REQUEST. Since then the provincial government has changed their department names and Mines is now Sustainable Development. The second resolution added Peat to the list of uses in land zoned Agricultural. I am presuming that is how they have circumvented the need for Conditional Use approval of Berger Peat Processing. Regardless of the definition of peat according to our Council, Processing is an industrial use, not an agricultural one, in my opinion. Further again it is a threat to our water supply on the western portion of Springfield. It uses vast amounts of water and the waste, I am presuming, goes back into the ground. Certainly no effort to provide any information on the facility is forthcoming from our elected officials. It is located 1 mile or so away from Deer Meadow Farms, another non-agricultural business on land zoned agricultural. Land is being taken out of production for business purposes. Food production is of prime importance to the economics of Manitoba and vital for the global population. The same is true of the P&H facility on Poplar Road. ONCE AGAIN ECONOMICS ARE TAKING PRIORITY OVER GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF THE LAND WITH WHICH WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED. OUR DRINKING WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY ARE UNDER THREAT.

BILL 48 - This bill is a move on the part of our Provincial Government to create a Planning Board which has the authority to make planning decisions for a village, 13 rural municipalities, two towns and the cities of Winnipeg and Selkirk in the Capital Region surrounding Winnipeg. The legislation would also grant sweeping powers to the provincial Minister of Municipal Relations. The minister may make regulations designating the council of a municipality as the approving authority for the subdivision of land in the municipality, including regulations (a) establishing eligibility requirements for the council to act as the approving authority; (b) respecting conditions that apply when the council is the approving authority. Individuals and developers would then be in a position to exert influence upon the decisions of Council and there is no means for constituents at large to oppose their actions. THIS HAS FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR TAXPAYERS IN THE RM OF SPRINGFIELD.

P&H ELEVATOR AND BULK FERTILIZER STORAGE PLANT - Since receiving Provincial environmental approval, work has resumed on the Poplar Road site. Large mounds of good growing soil can be seen from Highway #15. However it is already the end of May and I see no move on the part of the Province to commence widening the highway at the intersection of Poplar and #15 to provide for an off ramp or improving and widening Poplar Road to facilitate heavy truck traffic. Further at my crossing I sat waiting as a very long train, easily longer than a mile, with two locomotives, one at the front and one in the middle, last evening. How is all this increased rail traffic created by the spur lines at this and the Silica Sand Facility going to impact traffic on PTH #15 and Poplar Road? If there were to be a fire in the elevator or facility, the water needed to suppress a major fire would be a significant draw down on the aquifer and municipal water supply. Our new municipal wells are adjacent to this facility. OUR WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY COULD POTENTIALLY BE AFFECTED if chemicals were to leach into the aquifer, not to mention other pollutants.

OPENING TO THE PUBLIC of the RM ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND OFFICES - Premier Pallister has now relaxed the rules regarding social distancing. There has never been more than 5 or 6 spectators at Council meetings historically. Why is the discussion of reopening of municipal offices not on the agenda? How long is Council going to use COVID 19 to force the public to listen to recorded versions of meetings? You can now visit a tattoo parlour but not your municipal council meeting!!!! If I recall correctly, in the presentation for the Financial Plan, certain pillars of the Strategic Plan were referenced. Since this Council was elected, I challenge them to prove they meet their own standards of Transparency, Fairness and Integrity, Accountability, Public Service, Teamwork and Lead by example.

Transparency

We believe in transparency therefore we will

- share information in an accurate and
- timely manner;
- create opportunities for open, respectful two-way communication; and
- ensure our intentions and initiatives are evident to all.

Fairness and Integrity

We believe in fairness and integrity therefore we will

- act in a trustworthy and ethical manner from a foundation of strong moral attitudes, principles; and
- demonstrate fairness throughout our decision making process.

Accountability

We believe in being held accountable therefore we will

- acknowledge and take responsibility for our actions
- disclose the results in a transparent manner

Teamwork

We believe in teamwork therefore we will

- work collaboratively and cooperatively
- listen to the views of others
- share successes; and
- find solutions to challenges.

Lead by Example

We believe in leading by example therefore we will

- be empathetic - listen and strive to understand; and; practice and demonstrate values and behaviours that we expect others to follow.