

RM of Springfield
Committee of the Whole Meeting (COW)
October 27, 2020 1:00 p.m.

WITHOUT PREJUDICE (E&OE)

It seems obvious to me that Mayor Fell works from the assumption that the constituents of the RM of Springfield are lacking in basic intelligence when she and the CAO put a Question Period on the agenda after prohibiting access to Council and COW meetings, while all the while allowing access to Planning Meetings, knowing full well that most people are at work in the middle of a weekday and not everyone has access to ZOOM technology even if they were available to submit a question. The word SHAM comes to mind: Noun - A thing that is not what it is purported to be. Adjective - Bogus, false. Verb - Falsely present something as the truth. However you cut it grammatically, that is the perfect word for our current municipal leaders and minions.

6.1 Public Access Maps - Colleen Draper reported that the GIS Department has been working on public access maps and it is hoped that by middle of November they will be ready for the Web Site. One will allow ratepayers to click on their property, be advised of the zoning, assessment, any public information about the property excluding the name of the owner. There will also be a layer for public notifications so anyone can access the map and see what is happening in their area such as subdivisions, variances, conditional uses, road closures, sewer cleaning, etc.. **Councillor Fuhl** thought this was great as he gets calls from people wanting to know the owners of properties so they can seek permission to hunt on their property. **NOTE: Was Councillor Fuhl asleep? Did the CAO not say the name of the owner would not be included? Further, I was unaware the RM of Springfield had a GIS Department (presuming that stands for Geographic Information System Mapping....I googled it as the same acronym stands for Guaranteed Income Supplement which might be more relevant for some residents of Springfield). Such information can only be obtained by searching the assessment rolls in the Administration Building. He was hastily corrected!!** **Councillor Ralke** - My question next would be someone who is looking at an abandoned lot or that it would appear to be, will this give them the roll information that's necessary for them to then contact the office here to get information to take steps to find out what to do next? **NOTE: I guess Councillor Fuhl was not the only one "sleeping on the job"! I have great admiration for the CAO that actually gave the question validity by answering it as best she could.** **Colleen Draper** - Well, it would show whether there's a dwelling assessment or not on the property but again, we don't give names over the phone either. Any ownership information has to be done in person in the office and they have to look through the assessment rolls on their own in finding that information. **Councillor Wilson - (After a false start where he neglected to push the appropriate button on one of his pieces of equipment supplied by ratepayers.)** I'd like to ask uh exactly how the um public access map showing what's going on in your area, uh how they can be accessed if it's for your area. Have you got a uh special link to that or do you get a notification by e-mail or however uh you would want it saying there's something going on in your area? How exactly would that work? **NOTE: Well, finally, an inquiry that makes sense...although getting there was a bit arduous.** **Colleen Draper** - We are actually having the consultant that's building this map come and do a demonstration to staff in a couple of weeks so that we fully understand it but what I've understood from him is that it will be the whole municipality and when you zoom in to your location, there would be like a mark where you click on it and a notice would pop up. **Councillor Wilson** - Ok and so it would be up to the individual resident to find out what's going on. **Mayor Fell** - We'll put it on a future agenda and do a quick demonstration on(can't hear the end of the sentence). Is there any other comments from Council? **Councillor Wilson** - I was just thinking it would be amazing if somehow it was built in that within a, well say within your whatever, your township, if something's going on you get a notification of it come to your home computer if you so, you know if you want that to happen. That'd be a great way for the RM to build up a library of e-mails as well. **Councillor Williams** - I just want to ask the status on uh um on that connect. Is that been running or still having issues because this would answer Councillor Wilson's question? **Colleen Draper** - I was just going to mention that um I believe Connect has that capability where we can go on the map and select an area that notifies the person so uh um there's some training coming up from AllNet on the Connect system but I'm hoping Erika and I will be sitting in on uh learning more about that process but we are using it now. **Councillor Williams** - Were you thinking of uh sending out notifications of um (sniff) variances, conditional uses. **Colleen Draper** - Yes, that was the intention. **Councillor Williams** - And Emergencies? **Colleen Draper** - Yes. **Councillor Ralke** - So I guess my question then is will we be taking on a good promotional um advertising to our citizens to say, hey, look at these things that are coming if we have Connect, if we have this Map and if it's interactive that the benefit to them would be to sign up in some way and do we have that in mind already to have um some kind of promotional.....????? **Colleen Draper** - Well, wewould be using our Clipper ads for that purpose to kind of put out some information and encourage people to sign up for Connect. **NOTE: Well, that is what that \$12,500. annual amount they approved for the Clipper recently is for!** Um and if we um go forward with an emergency plan education piece as well we'd be encouraging people to sign up on that Connect and know where to find all the information. **NOTE: The CAO, Colleen Draper, mentions that "we", presumably Administration, are "using it now". Was this extra use of AllNet budgeted for in the 2020 budget and why has it never before been discussed in a COW or Council meeting? How much is this currently costing ratepayers and how much extra will expanding Connect cost? Exactly "how" is it being used now? We know "who" because Ms. Draper mentioned her and Erika (Wood). Who is currently signed up on Connect and how did they become part of that digital network? The majority of Council seem to be just as much in the dark about this as any constituents that take an interest in the meetings.**

6.2 Solid Waste Transfer Station Operations Policy - Colleen Draper - I had asked the Manager of Water and Waste to attend today just he submitted a Solid Waste Transfer Station Operations Policy so if Council has any questions or changes that they want and then we're hoping to get this approved at the next Council meeting. **Mayor Fell** asked if Council had any questions and seeing none.....**Councillor Wilson** - I like it! **NOTE: His remark is followed by a chorus of laughter.** **Mayor Fell** asked once more and then said she would put it on the agenda of the next Council meeting. **NOTE: After 8 minutes of discussion on Maps, I was expecting a little bit more attention to a Policy as I can think of a lot of questions. Under 3.0 CLASSES OF WASTE (J) "Commercial Waste" shall mean solid waste materials resulting from or incidental to a commercial contractor, operations or business where a service transaction is provided and a payment received or; any waste generated at a place of business excluding any construction demolition waste or industrial waste. Under 4.0 REGULATIONS (D) Commercial users are**

permitted to deposit general office waste, minor yard wastes and recyclables generated in the ongoing operations of their premises. No process waste generated as a result of their operations is permitted. Emterra and Waste Connections must dispose of the waste they collect outside of the RM of Springfield but as the CAO answered in response to my inquiry: "I have explained before that Garbage Girls is only permitted to pick up residential garbage from residents that have a Transfer Station Access card. The amounts of garbage and recyclables that Garbage Girls are bringing into the station cannot be compared to the amount of curbside collection that would be brought in. Garbage Girls are required to take any commercial waste to a landfill outside of the municipality if they do not have an associated Transfer Station Access Card. Detailed spreadsheets are provided to the Water and Waste Department." The other waste collection companies also collect waste from residents of the RM of Springfield, just as Garbage Girls does, and a resident's taxes pay for the service while Garbage Girls charges the customer directly. Otherwise I don't see any difference between them and the other companies except perhaps the volume of garbage collected. It is a commercial enterprise and thus I think it should be treated just as the other two companies, contracted through the RM of Springfield and covered under residential taxation. They should be required to deposit their collection outside the RM of Springfield. Further if detailed spreadsheets with the Card Numbers of the customers are being provided to Water and Waste Department and information as to their names and properties, these records should be available to anyone making an inquiry to see them as verification of this information. I will now send an e-mail requesting to view these documents to assure myself of their existence as follows and let my readers know what transpired: "Insofar as Garbage Girls, if detailed records including the name, address, and customer Transfer Station Access Card number are being provided to the custodian of the Transfer Stations and kept in Waste and Water files, I would like to view these documents to assure myself this is indeed being done and it might provide some comfort to those who are paying for pickup in towns and along major PTHs in their taxes. Please give me an appointment time and date to meet with the new Manager of Water and Waste, hopefully within the next week, to view these detailed records of the Garbage Girls pickup records to satisfy myself they exist."

6.3 Wastewater Disposal Vehicle License Policy - Male Speaker who does not identify himself but must be the new Water and Waste Manager, Phillip Pawluk - I made the suggested changes requested by Council last week's meeting. It's updated on a few of the details. **Councillor Williams** - Has there been any pressure to extend the closing date of October 15th further into the end of the year. **Manager, W&W** - As usual, there always is...there is always a base that wasted the four months to get their septic tank pumped. It isn't enough. Again it's a policy that's been in place by the province for several decades overall throughout all the municipalities so it would be very hard to get that, those dates changed. **Councillor Ralke** - From our discussion, I know we were talking about it and we had put in the request for it so I'm wondering if you did find out or any other municipalities surrounding us that had got that pushed back to November 15th.? **Manager, W&W** - As far as I know, nobody has gotten those dates revised. **Mayor Fell** - Which municipalities did you check around regarding the change? **Manager, W&W** - We've sort of looked at the RM of Tache and Brokenhead and LaBroquerie has a few operational procedures that are different but they are operating within their license. **Mayor Fell** - Mayor Fell said this would be moved to the next Council meeting as well.

6.4 Ridgeland Road - Share the Road Signs - Blaine Moffat - Alright this was brought up at the meeting last week. There was a request that came in from residents...or a resident in the Richland Road area between I think it was around the Pioneer and Marsh Road so there is a stable there, a fairly large sized stable so they're looking for a Share the Road sign similar to what we have in the Cooks Creek area. So we have these in stock. We have them up in the Cooks Creek area so I didn't get a chance to check with the community in the Springfield Horse Community but I can't see they'd have any concerns with supporting another stable but I don't know that for a fact. So if it's something we want to move on or not. **Mayor Fell** - In the background you can hear her asking Blaine how many requests and he answers just the one that he's aware of. **Councillor Ralke** - So I'm curious.....what your opinion might be on putting a specific signage on the boundary road out there where there might be interference with off road vehicles and I've heard of some instances where there's a horse on the road and a vehicle's gone by and this person's actually tracked down and gone on to the person's property yelling at them that they were going too fast or their music was too low..loud or it was a very big issue uh so I was just wondering if you think that this would prevent that or exacerbate it. ?????? **Blaine Moffat** - Well again the awareness couldn't hurt.....it's not part of the original area that we looked at but we have done it in other areas um or one other area outside of Cooks Creek that was more of an awareness thing, not necessarily for horses but uh so to me (sigh) I don't think it's going to make a difference for uh ummm the off road vehicles are still going to be there but the awareness of them having to share the road might give, draw more attention to uh being respectful. I would hope. **Mayor Fell** asked if this was just something Council wanted to take as information or something they wanted to vote on at the next meeting. **Councillor Williams** - I am in favour of installing those signs. I don't have a problem. She polled the rest and said it would be put on the next Council agenda. **NOTE: Again not much discussion to speak of. My first thought is that, and I confirmed this, those signs were the result of a fund raising effort on the part of the horse community around Birds Hill Park. I don't think that Blaine should still have some of the signs they paid for and I don't think he or Council should arbitrarily decide where they are going to be used and by whom and for what purpose. The Horse Community of Bird Hill Area made presentations to Council in this regard and designed and did all the work on those signs except for erecting them. That was left to Public Works as they had the means and knew all the regulations regarding signage on municipal roads. ALSO I recall a few years ago a lady on Springfield Road near an aggregate (gravel) pit that borders Springfield and Reynolds asked that a Slow Down - Children Playing type signed be moved further out from the residential properties and the end result was that they confiscated her sign as it was not standard and not authorized by the municipality. THERE SEEMS TO BE A DOUBLE STANDARD AT PLAY WHEN IT COMES TO SIGNAGE!**

6.5 Fire Protection Grants - Colleen Draper - Again I know there is funding available for Fire Protection Grants and Councillor Wilson had requested that Council consider a list that he had shared and so he's requesting funding to upgrade or add to the wildfire equipment at Station 1 to forward Fire Smart brochures to all rural areas of the RM to undertake preventive combustible material removal within Birds Hill Park adjacent AR zones and undertake training and mutual aid responses to fires in the Industrial and the Birds Hill Park areas. Um internally staff was considering a few other items um we were considering putting in for the UTE purchase that Council just approved. Um there's a portion of the Fire Service Review funds that I believe we could get back through this grant uh as well as um a possible washer and dryer for the fire department so those were three projects that staff had brought forward. **Mayor Fell** - Well would we um we could ask staff with this and ask that they bring it back to Council and they rank it in the order um that they believe is important so we can talk about it at the next Council meeting what we would like to apply for.....(can't hear some of what she says) so I'd like and I'd like to hear the rationale Blaine. Or is there a

deadline we're missing? When's the deadline? **Colleen Draper** - November 6th is the deadline umm so we do have one more Council meeting in there that we could bring that list to but uh there is some work that has to be done on the application as well. Um I know the Fire Smart brochures I believe are something that's available to the Mutual Aid District already so it's just a matter of um following up on that. So I would suggest we could do that already without this grant opportunity um and we are also looking at um it as part of the Fire Service Review scope work. There's um possibly additional training that we could put in funding for as well so I'm not sure it that addresses your training request but it would be specific to our Fire Department in getting the training that's, you know, recommended out of this review. **Councillor Rakle** - Ya, so I wanted to just generally ask if you had an opportunity maybe to speak to the Chief or the Acting Chief cause I know they do, they would probably have some ideas like when it comes to this um these grants and things. I know there's different UTVs out there but they might need tracks which will allow them to the multi uses through winter for accidents and things like that so I know we don't try to put it into our budget too much cause it is an additional cost but if that's something that could be added to that or if it's the backpacks they carry into walking into fires and things and these are like wildfires type of deal where you're carrying it on your back and going in and as well I know some of them aren't in the best condition. They're all pretty old and then there's little one piece units that they wear that aren't their fire protection gear because they're too heavy to carry when you're walking far distances. That would probably be really useful too but they're not cheap, they're from uh the little ones ..they used to hate it when I call it that but um so there's there's a multiple of other suggestions too that I'm hoping could fall under that and I'm sure you're, the Chief might be able to help us with that. **Colleen Draper** - So I should just mention that there is time lines on completion of this as well so we were looking at items that we already have financial approval from Council on because we have to show Council's committed to the funds and you know without a budgeted item, it's hard to show new projects coming forward unless Council passes a resolution committing those funds. **Mayor Fell** - With that in mind, I think probably the recommendation or where I would like to go with this is to take the recommendation of staff at this time to apply for the UTV and the Fire Service Review and anything else that has been budgeted that can support that requirement from the Province that we have to show we're committed to it. Um I think that's probably our best bet right now just because of the deadlines that are attached to this grant. **Councillor Fuhr** - Yes, I would agree with that that we take Administration's recommendations. **Councillor Williams** - I'm wondering if there's guidelines on this funding. When you mentioned washer and dryer, that sounds somewhat secondary to fire protection. I wouldn't want it to be bumped out because it didn't meet the guidelines of the grants. **Colleen Draper** - Ya, so in reviewing the guidelines it specifically said, showed washer and dryer as examples so um we really reviewed the list on what can fit and what we have budgeted and approved so.... **Councillor Wilson** - Certainly with their approved list and my list was uh just that uh just suggestions and anything that can be accommodated within existing programs without costing us extra money to deal with if it can be considered, uh like I say they're just suggestions. I know that the, for example I know that the um brochures some of them anyway are available uh now we might need thousands so that may be an issue for them um but also the postage for sending them out but just whatever is possible in the time frame, just suggestions.

ADJOURNED

Update on my e-mail Re: Frost Boil on Pleasant Road Sun, 1 Nov, 21:21 (17 hours ago)

Heather Erickson <heatheranderickson@gmail.com> Mon, 2 Nov, 18:14 (15 hours ago)

to Colleen, Tiffany, Blaine, Jody, Val

I would suggest, then, that you not annotate it so. [150695 Tri-M Truckin Ltd. 82,631.13 Frost Boil - Pleasant Rd, A-base](#) Perhaps for transparency's sake, it might be better to list the various jobs and their individual billing rather than lumping a whole group together and labelling it with just one job. Further it mentions Pleasant Road specifically, I believe. Some of that work, like community club parking lots, has nothing to do with Pleasant Road.

On Mon, 2 Nov 2020 at 16:34, Colleen Draper <cdraper@rmofspringfield.ca> wrote:

Ms. Erickson,
The amount of \$82,631.13 is not just for a frost boil repair. The amount is a total of 5 different jobs including grading community club parking lots, hauling limestone, a-base and rip rap to various ongoing projects, moving culverts and a frost boil repair. Tri-M Trucking is a qualified contractor under the hourly rate tender that you reference and whether or not someone is related or lives in the same ward is not relevant. HD Accurate was not working for the municipality, however we believe they are working for Manitoba Hydro on the transmission line project.

Colleen Draper, CMMA Chief Administrative Officer RM of Springfield

Colleen Draper 08:44 (3 hours ago)

See responses below.

I have some questions regarding some items on the List of Accounts on the October 20, 2020 Council Meeting.

1) There are two cheques for Tri-M Trucking, \$11,513.30 but also one for \$82,631.13 for a Frost Boil, I presume repair, on Pleasant Road A Base. This is a rather large expense and I am wondering if there was any effort made to tender this repair in order to obtain competitive pricing for the repair. That amount seems rather large to repair one frost boil. In a municipality our size, and considering Manitoba winters, our road repair budget would be cost prohibitive if we were to have any number of frost boils requiring repair. I am aware of the once a year meeting Public Works holds with contractors to obtain their pricing, however the selection of who will do jobs throughout the year is still somewhat arbitrary. **I've answered this in a different email sent this afternoon.**

2) Garbage: We have two entries for Waste Connections of Canada, \$4,152.95 and \$54,187.99 and two entries for Emterra Environmental, \$43,176.22 and \$93,241.71. Those amounts total \$194,758.87. Does that represent one month of garbage pickup? **Waste Connections is for July & August recycling and waste bills that were submitted late. The first Emterra payment is an outstanding bill from October 2019 for curbside collection. The second is for July and August curbside collection which were submitted late and paid together.** What is the final destination of these pickups, i.e. the Brady Landfill or some other location that are not the transfer stations in Springfield? **The contract leaves it to their discretion where they dispose of the waste and tipping fees are built into their contract amounts.** In addition, as per an article in the Clipper, we have a local business called Garbage Girls picking up waste from private residences in Springfield that taxpayers are paying for themselves which is being disposed of in our transfer stations. I would like a written explanation of why a local business is being treated differently than Emterra and Waste Connections who must take their pickups of Springfield waste to locations outside of Springfield. I understood the policy was that "commercial waste" is not allowed in our transfer stations. The definition of "commercial" is "intended to make money, or relating to a business intended to make money". I believe it stated Garbage Girls charges its customers a fee for pickup and disposal of garbage and thus it is a business intended to make money. Should not all businesses be treated equally by the RM of Springfield? I do not believe it speaks well of our Administration and municipality if we treat local businesses differently than non local enterprises. If one extrapolates the stated figures over the period of 12 months, taxpayers are paying through their taxes for over 2 1/4 million dollars in waste disposal annually. **Our Transfer Station Policy does allow commercial users to bring general office waste and recyclables and minor yard waste (trees, brush) to the transfer stations. I have explained before that Garbage Girls is only permitted to pick up residential garbage from residents that have a Transfer Station Access card. The amounts of garbage and recyclables that Garbage Girls are bringing into the station cannot be compared to the amount of curbside collection that would be brought in. Garbage Girls are required to take any commercial waste to a landfill outside of the municipality if they do not have an associated Transfer Station Access Card. Detailed spreadsheets are provided to the Water and Waste Department.**

3) There is a cheque 150637 to Brett Young for \$26,337.92. What would that be for? **Mulch, fertilizer and seed mix** This still raises questions in my mind because other than the area around the Administration building and Library, I am unsure what other municipal buildings are surrounded by lawns. It has been suggested to me that the reseeded of the ditches north of Oakbank may be part of this. Why would the Municipality be paying to seed a Provincial ditch? 206 is a Provincial trunk highway.

4) Cheque #150836 for \$4,907.70 - what is that for? **Fireade (Foam product) for the fire department**