

**RM of Springfield  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
September 28, 2021**

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE (E&OE)**

**Length of Meeting 32 Minutes & 48 seconds**

**Minutes - Councillor Williams** brought to the attention of Council, the remainder of whom either had **not read** the notes or **did not notice**, that there were several spelling errors in 6.1, **including the word Canada**.

**6.1 Flag Protocol Policy - Joy Janz, Human Resources**, accessed information from the Province and Canada Heritage and devised a policy based on those documents. She said it is standard across Canada. Included in when they "put them down" is the day marking Truth & Reconciliation Day. **Councillor Williams** heard from a military guy who might disagree with the definition of half mast. There is another definition, one flag width below the top is considered in some jurisdictions to be half mast. **Mayor Fell** arbitrarily vetoed the suggestion saying that she, and no one else, would even notice it was lowered if it was only a flag width removed from the top of the pole. **Councillor Williams** thought some jurisdictions like Fire Departments would follow the military policy but was ok with it. **NOTE: Councillor Fuhl expressed his support of the policy. Of late, I have noticed him doing this. To me, it signals he is positioning himself for the upcoming elections in October 2022. These boilerplate policies are included in the agenda and really don't warrant statements of support from Council other than in the vote.**

**CARRIED 5-0**

**6.2 Social Media Communication Policy - Joy Janz, Human Resources** said there already was a Social Media policy but she was revising it to add Communications because "they go together" to make sure "they're all on the same page as to what is appropriate to post on our Web Site." **Councillor Ralke** - I'd just like to say that in "g" you have taken out "both at work and in their personal time" so I'm looking for clarity on that. Do you mean that on Social Media as a Councillor I can put what I want or am I still governed by the guidelines of appropriate conversations. ?? **NOTE: Are not Councillors considered available and on duty 24/7. Seems to me I recall Councillor Ralke mentioning being asked to serve over the Christmas holidays.** **Joy Janz** - You're still governed because in the third paragraph it states that it has to meet our Code of Conduct policy so you would still be governed under that. As Council you can post on your pages but it would still have to follow these guidelines. Cause obviously you wouldn't post anything that would be hurtful to the RM. **Councillor Ralke** - Well somebody can. ?? **Joy Janz** - They would be covered under the Code of Conduct. **Councillor Ralke** - Ok and is there mention of the Code of Conduct as part of this by-law or make reference to it? ?? **Joy Janz** - Yes, under Corporate Use, Paragraph 3. **Councillor Ralke** - Oh, there you go. **Colleen Draper** - Just to confirm, on Page 3 as well, it goes into a little more detail on personal use. **Councillor Ralke** - So all that on Page 3 is removed except for the definition? **Joy Janz** - It's not really removed, it's added in in different places. "Sorry, it got really messy, that's why I kind of took out all of...I put on two. I have the cleaned up version and then the track changes version. **NOTE: The agenda only has the "cleaned up" version.** "The cleaned up version is just a little easier to read." **Mayor Fell** - The only one I...the scope um the Social Media and Communication Policy extends to all Council, employees including permanent...blah, blah, blah...all forms of communication. I think we also need to extend the policy to Boards that we appoint too. We have Library Board, Police Board, Ag Board, there's a lot uh so I think those have to be explicitly spelled out that they also need to um be under the Social Media & Communication Policy. **Joy Janz** - So do you want it specified by the Boards or just any RM supported Boards. **Mayor Fell** - It would have to be like our own Boards, like Councillor Ralke's on the RHRHA so if she puts something that there was a complaint about, it would come back under our Code of Conduct but for the Boards that we put into place and then we appoint to, I think they need to be covered under this Policy and wanted to know what Council thought about that. **Councillor Fuhl** - So an example would be SHHI. **Mayor Fell** - Yes. **Councillor Fuhl** - I would agree with that. **Councillor Ralke** - I agree 100%. **NOTE: Would there be an occasion when Councillor Ralke might agree less than 100%. Again, Councillor Ralke always seems to have something to say, perhaps with the 2022 election in mind.** And all employees, like I'm not sure, firefighters or even I don't know who else has to go through this and sign it, off on it, but the social media has been off the wall lately with employees and committee members ?? so I'd like to somehow put a stop to that. And I'd like all those committee members to be aware of it and be given that copy to sign. **Councillor Bredin** - It should be clear when we appoint people that they see this policy because that's a big one today ...like if you don't tell them, who knows well anyway. I agree with that idea anyway so ?? .. **Councillor Williams** - So we don't appoint members of Community Club Boards...(NO) .. we do provide funding so should we be providing some type of guidelines for them? **Councillor Ralke - Ya, I like that very much.** **Colleen Draper** - I'm not sure that we could implement our policy to a Board that we don't appoint members to. **Councillor Ralke** - Only because I sat on a Board for the Community Club for 17 years. We were always desperately looking for something, some guidance, some assistance, something because even though we had our code in our by-laws, there was nothing ever that fell under the umbrella of communication by-laws and things like that so I know we had gone to the RM at one point going back 15 years saying, ok we're desperate ?? for this, we're doing a policy procedures manual, we're doing behaviors, all of that and they said, well no there's nothing in place. We just ask you to do it. So I don't think, I think if it's offered to Community Clubs and other Boards, if it falls under that umbrella cause I know we have a lot and it's offered to say, you know because you do get funding from the RM and because you're accepting RM money and because of the taxes and all those other ideas, these are things you could utilize or bring forward within your Committees, your Boards, your members and just make everyone aware of it. Now by all means there could be some members that say they want their freedoms ?? whether they're on a Board or not and they might not very well volunteer again um but I think as a Community Board President for 14 years, we needed something. We needed some assistance, we needed some help. And if you can at least maybe offer it to them, I think it would be a great step in the right direction. **Colleen Draper** - Ya, I know our Director of Community Services meets with Community Clubs often so uh I mean you can share this and they can adopt the version that works for them and ...perfect, we can mention that to him. **Mayor Fell** - ...we can somehow incorporate that into this policy so on the next Council agenda we'll just have those amendments put in if possible.

**6.3 Eastdale Speed Limit Request - Speed Zone Policy - Blaine Moffat** - So we do have the speed limit policy so basically in this case there was a formal request from a resident that came through to Council so that is how we kind of start the process is by formal request from the area. Once we get that request, and as per the policy, we'll set up for traffic study in that area. So right now we have traffic counters set up that are

going to uh collect the number of vehicles per day as well as the speed that each vehicle is doing. **NOTE: I do believe there is one on Pleasant Road south of PTH #15 as well.** Then we'll use that data uh in the form that's attached to the policy and look at all other kind of different things, road hazards, road surface, some of the intersections, how many driveways, is there parking, what's the designated speed already, number of crosswalks, all those kind of different things and we kind of come up with a um a rating system that would work with uh looking at the 85 percentile so looking at basically taking 85% of the vehicles over that given time of say a week or two weeks of the traffic study. What is that...what are 85% of the people travelling at and then we kind of take all that information and we make a recommendation to say it stays where it is or we agree with it should be...in this case I think they're asking for 60, I can't remember...ya so but if we look at it and say well, you know, that 85% of the people are doing 70, 75, it's more logical to put it at that average of 70 in that case so we're going to finish up that count this week so it'll be another couple of weeks before we have that full report ready to go so that's basically the process of uh the quick and easy of that policy. **Councillor Williams** - I just have a comment, I'm completely behind the way that our speed policy is put out and I would encourage Blaine to deal with it in accordance with that policy. My understanding is that there's only about 9 driveways that access Eastdale between 15 and Corbett. There's a lot more traffic because there's a couple of bays coming off there but on Corbett...on Eastdale itself um it should be um determined by the way that we are currently determining through that policy. **Mayor Fell** - Blaine, I have a question though...like so when you do the Traffic Study and if the average person is going 75, then maybe ...it wouldn't be logical to put it down to 60 but right now the speed limit's 90. **(Correct)** So like I'm struggling with that rationale because they are going to be going faster because the speed limit's faster. Now if we put it down to 60 temporarily and then did a Traffic Count and everybody was going 80 then maybe the rationale would be 70, but I.... **Blaine Moffat** - It's only 90 because under the Highway Traffic Act, it's 90 unless otherwise posted so this is new to us, this uh policy. It's not new to us to put up speed limits but we did it arbitrarily so now we have a bit of science behind and rationale and something we can defend so I wouldn't suggest we put up 60s and then see what happens and change it again back to a different.... **Mayor Fell** - No and I'm not suggesting...I agree. I'm not suggesting we do that either, I'm just not sure I follow the rationale of saying if people are going 75 right now then maybe 60's too slow because then they're actually going 15 below the limit. Do you know what I mean? **Blaine Moffat** - Well and that's why you want to make sure that you set these speed limits accordingly because if you set them too low then you have...like you have it in here, it just means that you've got the law abiding citizen is now driving illegally if it's supposed to be 60 or 70 or 80 and we put it at 60, well you know it's unreasonable so now you're going to have all those people ...right now you know it's people are ...you know...and I would probably venture to guess there's not too many people going over the 90 but if everybody's driving at 90 that is pretty fast in a residential area ...even though it's rural but ...you've got quite a few houses in this area and it's also a main through road to uh get to Oakwood Road which now takes you to the dump so ....you get a lot of Anola traffic from the town and Paradise Trail and all those guys coming through so um and being that this is probably going to be the first attempt at challenging this policy, I think it'll tell its own story and I think it'll work very well. **Councillor Ralke** - So can we shift our mind set to not being concerned about the speed and being concerned about inconveniencing the drivers ??? when it's the ones who are calling us are the walkers and the joggers and the human aspect of the problem, like they're the ones we're hearing from so in that first mile from 15 to, oh my goodness, I forget the first mile. I guess it must be Corbett. That's where I know many people walk. They will have a dog with them, they will walk from Corbett to 15 and back. They'll walk from the Pine Drive, they'll walk from Birchwood, they'll come out of all of it and come back up and down so it's...I'm not concerned about whether a car is going fast enough or whether it's fair to that car whose driving, it's the people who are walking with their dogs and their pets ??? and whatever else to the groups of people that I am trying to focus the concern on because unfortunately these deals come up a few times for me ...not a lot of other places and I don't think we have a lot of issues with other rural roads but the reason for that is where there's a collection of these little uh uh areas that have all these bays and things and houses and you've got a high collection of people who do the walking and the jogging and the stuff, that first mile...I don't care if it's 90, 70 or 65, if there's going to be that much people movement on a rural road with deep ditches, I think that's our priority and that's our concern so I think that's why when this first came up it was like oh we have a policy and that but I thought there was going to be more discussion and saying, it doesn't necessarily have to do with whether it's fair to the guy who's driving or not or whether the vehicle is going fast enough or whether the speed's correct. The fact remains that we have to be looking at the safety of the people and that's my concern and I don't know how you can base it upon putting a speed counter out and ok, so ya you know what, you might have everybody doing 80, 85 in that first mile because it's paved and then the next mile is gravel so that was the concern that many citizens were saying, well it's paved so come off the highway, you just give er and you just wide open go so when you hit the gravel you're doing 95 or 100. So I'm just wondering about how you might take that into consideration with this policy when it comes to the people aspect who are not riding in a car. **Blaine Moffat** - Are you asking me that, Val, or just in general. **Councillor Ralke** - I think in general, I guess we're open for discussion or somebody can mention whether they see my thought process or not? **NOTE: When one moves into a rural area, they should be aware that the speed limits on roads are going to be geared to drivers rather than pedestrians. Rural roads do not have sidewalks. However generally speaking most rural drivers and indeed pedestrians, are respectful of each other. I used to walk my dogs and with the exception of one, most motorists would slow down and move far to the other side. The odd one did not. However people in rural areas should be aware that the roads are predominately for vehicles and machinery, not pedestrians and they should make an attempt to move off the road or stop on the shoulder with their dog and not proceed until it is safe to do so. I think as a Councillor, Ms. Ralke should try to explain to the those that have brought up this subject that there really is no provision for pedestrian traffic on rural roads. Perhaps installing a sidewalk in Anola between the school and the intersection of 12 and 15 is raising unrealistic expectations for those who have recently moved into rural areas.** **Councillor Fuhl** - So I do you recall had that same situation in my Ward where we took a posted sign and we went lower with the speed limit because of the residents wanting that area lowered and it was a paved road, Navin Road. Once again, um you know I had some complaints that it was at 50 but I think in the end everybody was satisfied in the end because now they're not doing 50, they're doing 60 and 70, but I've heard from the residents that live on that road and they're very happy that they're not doing 90 and 100 anymore. So I think it can be accomplished for sure. **Blaine Moffat** - I think what you're going to see is um the locals are always going to abide by their neighbours and be courteous and I walk this road quite often um and I would say 95% of the time, people are very courteous and they slow down and they move over and they wave and everything else so but you're always going to get the ones that are going to screw it up for everybody else and uh and not abide by the ...whether it's the speed or giving you enough room, Val is right, there are a lot of people walking on here because of the community and mainly because it's an asphalt hard surface road so you're not getting that dust, that's why you see so many people walking there. So I don't know if there's a true answer to you know to give proper safety other than getting people right off that roadway but that's not, I don't think that's .... **Councillor Ralke** - I don't think anybody's asking for that. it's a reduced speed zone in the first mile or half mile even ... **Blaine Moffat** - But any time we do any of these speed limits, or speed reductions, it's all great and well but you still need to have if there's no enforcement on it and I know our police are busy and everybody's

busy but that's the thing too, if ..it's like seeing that sign all day long, well if there's no consequence then people are just going to ignore it. So that's ..... **Mayor Fell** - I think the request is that 60...the request to lower it? **Councillor Williams** - I checked twice and it's 50. **Mayor Fell** - Well I got a different e-mail than the one Councillor Ralke had. **Councillor Williams** - I'm looking at the one in the shared notes. **Mayor Fell** - Oh I'm looking at a different one in my e-mail so ...I have 60 and then..... **Councillor Ralke** - So tell me this process.... **Mayor Fell** - Yes we have to figure something out. **Councillor Ralke** - Right so are you saying if everybody...if these 3 or 4 people that I have now in that area go knock on every neighbours door and get 85% of all their neighbours to say, ya we want it at 40, we'll do it or no it only falls back on the speed zone. **Blaine Moffat** - No it would follow this policy because again you know people can be unreasonable about what they ask for. If they say we want 40 kms/hour, there's no way that people are going to do 40 kms an hour. I mean at the end of the day, the roads are in place for a certain reason, that's to move traffic. Yes people are also walking and what have you but the main function of the road is to move traffic and we've all seen it, we've been in a zone that's, well why is it 50 ... a prime example going through Dugald at ...if you're coming out from Oakbank and you know, it drops to 50 and it's always been, WHY...You know, we know why but um so that's why we want that policy to make sure it's got something that we can stand behind and it's got you know some proper criteria to it. I mean this isn't anything that we came up with either, this is kind of a norm across Canada for a lot of different municipalities and cities and what have you. Again I think we have to take a look at it, see how it works and we can always adjust the policy as we go so if we find it doesn't work one way, we can tweak it .... **Mayor Fell** - Ya and that e-mail, that's the second e-mail that this resident has sent and she mentions 50 but she really is just looking for an adjustment from 90 ??? **Blaine Moffat** - I would agree. **Councillor Williams** - I think we need to put a communication piece because we're getting these from all over the municipality and people need to understand that we can't arbitrarily reduce the speed. Even if there are safety concerns, maybe they need to walk somewhere else. But there's this lady out on Springfield Road. She and ...she has been communicating with you and I ever since the election. She picks up garbage in the ditch and she wants the speeds reduced and I said to her, why don't you just head north. I can't remember what the north, south road is near her place but if we communicated to people that we are setting the speed limits through a process, they might be more understanding. **Mayor Fell** - I would put forward that Eastdale...that area is an extension of Anola. It's ...I know it's not right in town but it's literally like right on the outskirts of town so I don't think it's a stretch to make the case for a town speed limit because the density on those bays is those of a large lot of the towns so I don't think it's arbitrary or a stretch to look at this case in the context of greater Anola which is funny to say greater Anola but really that's what it is. I don't know. **Councillor Ralke** - Ya cause I know my concern is that I'm going to call up this lady right away or get in contact with her and I'm going to tell her that well NO we're not going to reduce your zone based upon your request but we'll do speed counts out there and give you the average of what the better speed will be and that'll be fine. Like the 80% average..... **Mayor Fell** - I know this is a different example but we had an issue with a park and parking in Oakbank and it was complaint driven and we put up a sign and it seemed to have dealt with the problem quite quickly so I think if we lower the speed limit and put those new signs up and send out a correspondence and look at this as a greater Anola town area, I think that would solve this problem quite quickly because with the pandemic and with the lockdown that have happened and continue to happen, people are going to be walking outside or walking on the road and maybe it wasn't as bad before but this is now the world that we live in so I think there's some adjustments there that need to be made. **Councillor Ralke** - And yes I understand that we're going to go through this process and we're going to see what Public Works come up with us for sure but in the meantime I think that the discussion was necessary. **Mayor Fell** - So are we going to send out correspondence to that area, to all those streets, saying we're looking at the speed and if you have any comments or suggestions, please e-mail us back at this e-mail address so we can grab some of that info from the neighbourhood and let them know why there's traffic counters out and that type of thing. Are we ...is that something that we're going to do or want to do? **Councillor Ralke** - Do they normally do that? **Blaine Moffat** - We've never done that before for Traffic Counters just because the amount of time to hit every single house would take a lot of time to do. Maybe what we could do and we haven't done it...we've already got the counters out. They've been out for over a week now but maybe through Hailey we could come up with a general uh notification or publication to ...say hey if you ...take a picture of what it looks like to see traffic counters out there and kind of give an explanation of what it is and why we're doing it and they ...we could even refer to policy and what have you so....and that would lead them ...anybody then to uh to give comments if they do want to. **Mayor Fell** - Ok so I'm clear, your traffic counters have been out for just over a week. You do what, a 2 week span for those. **Blaine Moffat** - Typically we only do 7 days so we'll be coming up to, I think the 7 days will start tomorrow will be the 7th. day um so that should give us enough data cause it's kind of normal ...everything, the school is in right now, things are kind of normal or whatever you want to call normal these days but as far as traffic flows, I would think our ...they're going to be down from ..you know, years ago because a lot of people are staying home so just to give you an example, we did in 2016-17, 2004 so we're on average right now we're somewhere around 500 vehicles a day just on that one mile. **Mayor Fell** - So I just want to understand the process. So once the Traffic Count is done, this will be on a coun... a next Council Agenda with a recommendation. **Blaine Moffat** - Ya, I can bring it forward as a report or do we want to bring it to just a working group or a Committee of the Whole meeting . just so as Council is going to be the first time you are seeing that report um in case there's questions, comments, concerns in the report that we want to see before we go forward. **Councillor Williams** - I would agree with that. I don't want us to be driven by people who have a perception that they're going...the traffic is going at 110 kms/hour. If you're standing or walking along the road, or standing beside it and a vehicle comes by, it will be perceived as going more than 90 kms/hour so...and but uh you say you've had a number of concerns raised. Is that because the neighbours are talking to each other and saying well we need to get Council to move. **Councillor Ralke** - No it's because they're walking. **Phil Pawluk** - Generally in the past when working on other projects for other locations, if you tell people you're doing a Traffic Count and Speed Study, people will drive the way you want, which means you will not actually get true reflection of what people...what the actual speeds are because if you tell them you're reviewing it to get ...to see if a 50 km speed zone is warranted, people will drive 50 until the study is over, then when there's no reason to do it, and people will go back to their normal driving habits so you don't actually get...if you tell people what you're doing, they will adjust accordingly to give you inaccurate data. That's just food for thought if a public notice goes out.

**Mayor Fell then ADJOURNED THE MEETING.**