



Council Committee as a Whole

Minutes

February 12, 2026

6:33 pm

In attendance: Chris Hamblin, Mel Baxter, Tim Lewis, David Funk, Taylor Braun, Trevor Thiessen (Virtual)

Excused: Scott Crick

Delegations:

RCMP Report Q3

Council Discussion:

Council Round Table (Committee, Board, and Personal Reports):

Mayor Scott Crick

- **Community Crime Prevention Town Hall**

The Community Crime Prevention Town Hall took place as scheduled, and it was great to see a fairly solid turn out. As we were unsure what the volume (and type) of uptake would be, I was very pleased to see how well the format worked, and that questions from our citizens stayed within the lines.

Sgt. Wiens also let me know how much he appreciated the session, and the regional Inspector also gave very positive feedback into the format of the meeting. A lot of work went into this behind the scenes, and I was happy this planning paid off.

At the meeting, it was discussed that the Town was open to ideas from the community where the Town could provide leadership – this has been given a deadline of February 28th. One idea we will need to implement is a “voluntary camera registry” for our residents who have security cameras at their properties. A second idea the Town may wish to run is a “Morris Most Wanted” Facebook page, where people can share pictures of potential offenders from their home cameras.

I also put some immediate ideas up on my Mayor page that our citizens could implement without Town involvement.

Regardless, a fairly positive evening all around, and one I believe was appreciated.

- **Morris Truth and Reconciliation Circle**

I attended the Morris Truth and Reconciliation Circle meeting to see how growth and activities with the group were progressing. It was nice to see activities were still ongoing, with good connections forged with T&R groups in other communities in Southern Manitoba.

The group appears to be looking for opportunities to seek funding for activities, and I shared with them the types of things we would want to see from a “formal” organization approaching the Town. I do see an opportunity for the Town to provide assistance to this group if they seek to become a more formal organization, and personally believe their work is beneficial for our community.

- **Meeting with Manitoba Housing**

As discussed, post-AMM, Manitoba Housing met with the Housing Committee (Scott and Trevor), MASS representative (Mel) and RRSB chair (Chris) to discuss their plans for replacing the Parkside Villas. This was a very helpful session, as it allowed the group to gain a better understanding of how MH structures their programs, what opportunities exist to replace the existing housing with a larger facility, and how we could possibly tie this into other potential project(s).

There are a number of interesting options in front of us. At minimum, MH will be building a new facility to replace the Villas, moving tenants into the new facility, then demolishing the existing facility and selling off the property. If we can help them identify and acquire property on which to build the new building, this can be the minimum amount of effort needed. Tentative timeline for this would be to identify land and scope of the project in 2026, doing design and engineering in 2027, and starting the build in 2028 (all assuming Provincial budgetary approval). However, MH also brought forward a few additional considerations:

1. We may wish to consider a sponsor-managed build, where the Town has control over items such as design and placement, and it is just funded by MH. They offer this as an interesting option, which may allow the community access to additional funding that MH may not be able to access, and allows us to build for a cost less than via government tender.
2. There is also a new federal program recently launched – Build Canada Homes. This looks like a potentially interesting opportunity, as the federal government is looking to sponsor (potentially 50/50) housing projects that meet specific (yet unpublished) criteria. Unfortunately, this program is not yet well defined. other than using emerging and modular technologies to increase speed-to-market for these housing units.

Although council may wish to discuss the "sponsor-managed build" concept, I am unsure at this time as to what advantages this may provide, and/or obligations it places upon the Town. For the next steps, we are seeking a meeting with our other potential partners at the end of February, which can hopefully provide some idea of if the project will expand in scope or not. Once we know if this is a possibility or not, it can help us focus our next discussions with MH.

Noted and Discussed

Councillor Chris Hamblin

- **Community Partners:**
Has not met
- **Morris and District Chamber of Commerce:**
Will meet Wednesday. AGM is set for March 6th at 7:00pm at the Curling Club, with Casino night to follow. Can add verbal report to this at CAAW.
- **Morris Area Foundation:**
Met this morning. Plans are underway for the annual report for the AGM. Looked at the budget for the upcoming year. Hoping to have Youth in Philanthropy renewed in the Morris School. Discussions in place with lots of good ideas but likely won't put in place until fall. Have ordered new brochures to use for promotions.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Taylor Braun

- **Valley Agricultural Society:**
 - Special meeting will be held to get approval from our membership regarding extending the term of the RRSB agreement.
 - Working on submitting a few grants.

- Sending representatives to the MAAS AGM in Brandon.
- **Library:**
Meeting is on February 23rd, 2026

Noted and discussed

Councillor Tim Lewis

- **Main Street:**
 - Piles cleared with MTI.
 - Sidewalks have been scraped.
- **Signage:**
 - Sign assessments to begin this week.
 - Sign repairs to be done this month.
- **Current Projects:**
 - Snow removal from boulevards.
 - Snow removal from ditches.
 - Grant applications.
 - Winter carnival assistance.
- **Upcoming Projects:**
 - Spring preparedness.
 - Steamers, vac trucks, etc.
- **Education/Administration:**
 - MWWA a conference this month.
 - Meeting with Arien regarding succession planning.
- **Recommendations/Discussion:**
 - 90 day data results.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Mel Baxter

- **Riverview Golf Comm.**
 - The committee agreed to join GOLF CANADA/GOLF MANITOBA to take advantage of the perks they offer as well as areas such as GPS mapping, and individual handicapping.
 - New fee schedules were approved for the upcoming season.
 - Advertising for staff has begun.
- **Morris Wellness Centre:**
 - Cheryl Thiessen has been appointed as the new gym manager.
 - New equipment has been purchased with the centre piece being a Jungle Gym cable machine.
 - Painting of the stair well entrance and gym walls will be done to spruce up the area.
 - Work is planned to better market the facility.
 - The 2026 budget was approved.
- **M.A.S.S.**
 - New procedures to better inline with the requirements as set out by the Southern districts have been put in place.
 - Discussion was had on a resident having passed away without being detected for a few days.
 - Another new problem has arisen within the complex.
 - Finances are under control with everything being kept low.

Noted and discussed

Councillor David Funk

- **Disaster Management Conference:**

I attended the Disaster Management Conference with Arien and Jason last week. There seems to be a theme to the conference every year, and this year it was focused on wildfires. One of the workshops that I sat through was facilitated by the Red Cross, and it was an interactive session that engaged participants on what to do for short term, medium term and long term recovery after disaster hits. It provided us with some perspective on looking at things from a wide lens, including everything from social services, cultural impacts and infrastructure needs. The other sessions involved inclusion for individuals with disabilities through a disaster, and a rather good keynote from Humboldt bus crash survivor on mental health after a disaster such as the one he went through.

- **Morris Early Learning Centre:**

We are currently experiencing some challenges with the centre, specifically involving some incidents that have occurred recently. These have led to two staff being placed on administration leave indefinitely. We have engaged the services of an employment lawyer to aid in the investigation process, with said investigation to determine our next course of action. The Board is currently planning a parent night to address some of the recent concerns. Operations of the centre are continuing as normal during this period, with all but two rooms open in the new centre. The waitlist has also been declining, with the majority of the list being school age children. Budget planning for 2026/2027 is also underway.

- **Morris Curling Club:**

DEKALB SuperSpiel financials have been reconciled, with the event providing a net income of \$51,821.00. This is considered to be a slower year, but much of that can be attributed to it being a year of Olympic trials. This ultimately led to lower entries. DEKALB will no longer be the title sponsor, so work is underway to find a new title sponsor for the SuperSpiel. The primary focus now has shifted to the Manitoba Provincial Junior Curling Championships, which is being held February 19th-22th. Sponsorship is not quite where we would like it yet, but the Club continues to engage various businesses in and out of the community. The other big news is that Asham will be taking over the sponsorship for the training centre starting July 1st. It will be called the Asham International Curling Development Centre (AICDC). They will be implementing a new website to managing bookings and hope to host 4-5 bonspiels each year at the centre.

- **Morris Museum:**

Not much to report. The Museum applied in the Canada Summer Jobs Program, and we hope to be successful in that this year. We received a MAF grant to upgrade the lighting and will be looking at other building improvements for the 2026 season.

Noted and Discussed

Councillor Trevor Thiessen

- **Morris Manor:**

Morris Manor had its AGM on Thursday. We only had one attendee outside our board. A couple of highlights:

- Budget showing income of roughly \$194,000 expenditures of \$176,000. Expenditures include repairs and maintenance of \$15,000, landscaping of \$15,000, input into capital of \$19,000, and capital improvements of \$35,000. The rest of the expenses are typical operating. Something the board is looking at is hiring someone to assist with bookkeeping, maintenance requests, tenant relations, etc. as currently it is a board member performing these tasks. We are engaging a contractor to assess our insulation value in our attic space as we are quite certain it is well below recommended value. There was concern regarding asbestos however Morris Build All has records of it being tested after the Mackenzie fire and it being negative or nominal.

Noted and Discussed

Red River Supportive Housing Project: Chris Hamblin

- Need to review bylaws. Hoping to have bylaws to review at the February council meeting. Agreement with VAS has expired and a new one is being prepared. Needs to go to the membership.
- Housing discussion with MB Housing.

Noted and Discussed

New Business:

- Letter from Valley Library Foundation.
- MB Hydro – Industrial Lot Gas Installation.
- 10 Veterans Way.
- Final draft sign for Town of Morris Industrial Park.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.