



Council Committee as a Whole

Minutes

March 12th, 2026

6:30 pm

In attendance: Scott Crick, Chris Hamblin, Trevor Thiessen, Tim Lewis, Mel Baxter, Taylor Braun, David Funk

Delegations: None

Council Discussion:

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

Mayor Scott Crick

- **January 2026**

Despite our best efforts as Council, we were not successful in hiring a targeted candidate for part-time Economic Development Officer. Next steps will be discussed at the committee level – one potential candidate has come forward, or we may choose to advertise for someone. TBD.

- **January 14, 2026**

We hosted the Crime Town Hall in conjunction with the local RCMP, which was well-attended, and did generate a few possible activities we could engage in. I discussed these via social media, have distributed emails, with our only actionable item remaining to be to create a “voluntary camera database”. Have discussed with Arien, and we can hopefully get this going forward soon.

- **January 15, 2026**

Attended the monthly meeting for the Morris Truth and Reconciliation Circle and was updated on activities they had done and plans for the next few months. I provided some organizational suggestions for them (including ideas on how they can work with the Town), as they are a group genuinely invested in making our community more inclusive.

- **February ,9 2026**

Attended an online BIRC meeting for Triple R regarding a loan in Morris, as it was believed there could be a perceived conflict-of-interest, I withdrew from the meeting.

- **March 5, 2026**

The PTH 75 Caucus met to discuss branding opportunities, and review logos submitted by various artists. The selection was narrowed down, and the artists will be asked for additional updated submissions. There were a lot of very good visuals brought forward.

- **March 6, 2026**

Attended the Chamber of Commerce AGM and was pleased to see to see a decent turn out, and very good Council representations (even though most were representing other organizations). The CoC appears to be remaining busy and is working hard on building value props for their membership.

- **March 9, 2026**

Attended a meeting with Southern Health to discuss long-term needs in the community for an expanded PCH, supportive housing, and other RHA needs. We had an excellent discussion and have a better understanding of how the RHA views the community, and their enthusiasm to enter into joint projects with the Town, Manitoba Housing, and RRSB. Looking forward to further discussions with them, and how the Town can continue to support this.

Noted and Discussed

Councillor Chris Hamblin

Chamber of Commerce:

- AGM was held on March 6, 2026. Some discussion on by-law changes to provide more flexibility on roles directors will take on.
- The new board of directors consist of: Cherly Demarcke President, Michelle Harms, Siobhan Maas, Pat Schmitke, Diana Bushell, Jenna Rich, Breanne Dequier, Chris Hamblin.
- The AGM was followed by an evening of networking and a casino night.

Morris Area Foundation:

- Siobhan represented MAF at Rosenort School to be part of R360 – the local school Friday news broadcast. It was a good opportunity to showcase some of the MAF work. The students also filmed an interview with a grant recipient which we hope to have put on the website and possibly other social media platforms. Hoping to do more of this.
- New brochures for promoting MAF and what it does. We hope to use for building awareness.
- AGM preparations underway for June. Focus on replacing retiring directors with some names put forward.

Community Partners:

- No meeting but did talk to Matt and he indicated that we should have a new doctor in May and another interested in coming to Morris possibly by this summer.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Taylor Braun

Valley Regional Library:

- Finally recruited a second person to complete the income tax filing.
- Audit to be completed by end of March.

Valley Agricultural Society:

- Special meeting with membership to extend the land purchase agreement happened on March 5th. The membership passed the motion to extend the agreement.
- Working with the Town of Morris and Scott for the VAS/Dignitaries lunch during Stampede.
- Teaming up with Chamber of Commerce for town wide Easter Egg Hunt.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Tim Lewis

Committees, Boards and Activities Attended:

Transportation and Infrastructure (Chair)

A meeting was held between Brian Wiebe, Arien Peterson, and Tim Lewis on March 9th, 2026

Items of interest to report on:

- **Main Street:**
 - Storm sewers are being exposed and opened.
 - Sidewalks are being sanded as needed.
- **Signage:**
 - The sign assessment has been completed and a lot need to be replaced.
 - Sign repairs are on going.
- **Current Projects:**
 - Snow is being removed from ditches.
 - Steaming preparations are underway.
 - Spring preparations are underway.
 - Highway 23 West project with MTI being planned.
- **Upcoming Projects:**
 - Street assessments.
 - 2026 project planning.
- **Education/Administration:**
 - Training for urban forestry this fall.
 - Water courses for several staff members.
- **Recommendations/Discussion:**
 - Vehicle accident.

Noted and discussed

Councillor Mel Baxter

Riverview Golf Comm.

- The committee is currently interviewing and hiring staff for the summer season. The intent is to have a full-time assistant manager to reduce Stefan Berard's golf course time commitment. Course and restaurant hours have not been finalized yet.

Morris Wellness Centre:

- Finances are doing well. January recorded the best month in a number of years.
- A new rental agreement was approved with the multiplex.
- Physio-Go's contract was renewed.
- Work is being done to update the by-law's policy and procedures.
- A new board member was taken on – Julien Waldner.
- Cheryl Thiessen has been appointed Gym Manager.

Morris District Handi-Van Service:

- All vehicles have been safety checked.
- Preliminary plans are underway to replace the Toyota van this winter and because it is wheelchair accessible, significant lead time needs to occur.
- Audited statements have been reviewed and approved.

- Scott from the RM has been appointed to the board.
- Snow clearing in front of the garage in the early morning continues to be a minor concern

Noted and discussed

Councillor David Funk

- Verbal Report Given

Noted and Discussed

Councillor Trevor Thiessen

Red River Supportive Housing Project:

- VAS has agreed to renew the agreement on the proposed site for the RRSH. Document is waiting signatures.
- We had a meeting with the RHA to discuss housing needs as it relates to seniors and care requirements. This was a good meeting with further discussions likely to occur after the RHA has time to discuss amongst their department.

Noted and Discussed

New Business/Discussion:

- Community Futures Triple R revised design.
- Prairie Connect 2026.
- Economic Development Officer - Discussion.

**01/03/26
In Camera**

**Moved by Councillor Chris Hamblin
Seconded by Councillor David Funk**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council go "IN CAMERA" to discuss matters relating to a potential candidate for the Economic Development Officer Position.

**02/03/26
Resume
CAAW**

**Moved by Councillor Tim Lewis
Seconded by Councillor Taylor Braun**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council resume the Regular Committee as a Whole meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.