

**PUBLIC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025
AGENDA**

COUNCIL INTRODUCTION:

**CARLA NICHOLSON-SPENCE
JAMES BALDWIN**

**DOUG MCPHERSON
LARRY JOHNSON**

Note: Councilor GORDON ARNDT, has notified council of his resignation this morning, and it was accepted. Our council thanks him for his time and effort. A Bi-election will be called.

GUESTS – INVITED

- RCMP – POWerview DETACHMENT – INVITED – SENDS HIS REGRETS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND
- DIANA HALLDORSON/BES FIRE DEPARTMENT

2025 PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • RECREATION PROGRAM | • GREEN TEAM |
| • INTERNET HALL | • 1911 GOLD – TRUE NORTH MINE |
| • COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER PROGRAM | • PROJECT UPDATES |
| • ICE PLANT | • AMBULANCE SERVICE |
| • COMMUNITY SPEED SIGNS | • BEACH AREA |
| • RICE LAKE DAM | • CROWN LANDS |
| • FIRE BREAK | • WILDFIRE 2025 |
| • WATER WORKS PROJECT | |

COMMUNITY REPORTS:

- 2023/24 COMMUNITY AUDIT REPORT
- COMMUNITY BUDGET 2025/26

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR CONCERNS

ADJOURNMENT

AS PER THE RULES OF PROCEDURE – PART 2 2(4) – PLEASE NOTE THAT:

Removal of persons from public meeting

2(4) The chair of the public meeting may require any person, other than a council member, who is in the opinion of the chair conducting themselves in a disorderly or improper conduct, to leave the public meeting and if that person fails to do so, may cause that person to be removed or adjourn said public meeting.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

PUBLIC MEETING

7:00PM

DELEGATION:

Ainsley Nicholson
Caroline Baldwin
Ron Cameron
Trina Cameron
Mike Waskul
Steve Spence
Bob York
Jodi Coultas

Debbie Petznick
Cyndi Funk
Jackie Hallett
Peter Slobodzian
Cheryl McPherson
John McPherson
Art Foubert
Krystal Lauren

If I have missed your name and you attended, please advise.

Delegates were encouraged and asked if they had any questions or comments following each item.

GUESTS – INVITED

- RCMP – POWERVIEW DETACHMENT - Invited, but unfortunately could not attend.
- DEE HALLDORSON/BES FIRE DEPARTMENT will present regarding the 2025 Wildfire and the Bissett Fire Department.

RECREATION PROGRAM:

- Council continues to post for the position (Recreation Director)
- Council continues to encourage community members to bring program proposals forward that they would be willing to volunteer their time to run, and the BCC will fund. These proposals need to be reviewed and approved in advance. An example of a successful program that was approved and a huge success was the chili cookoff hosted by Gail Wynne.

Q: What happened to BINGO night?

A: That was held in conjunction with the Sagkeeng First Nation Bingo and was held at the Hotel.

Q: If someone wanted to do something, it does not have to be full-time?

A: No, these are single events carried out by someone as stated above.

INTERNET HALL:

- Starlink has been purchased for the Hall. We feel that the following justifies the expense:
 - Landline was removed due to lack of use, and replaced with Starlink (comparable monthly fee)
 - Gathering location – emergencies
 - Meetings - we have found ourselves in situations of requiring a larger meeting space with internet access.
 - Programming and training opportunities for the community to utilize the internet access at the hall.

COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER PROGRAM:

- MNR has completed Phase I of the review
 - Council participated in discussions with MNR, but due to staffing and most recently the wildfire this has been tabled. More to follow.

ICE PLANT:

- Unfortunately, costs are between \$60,000 and \$70,000 for repair
 - This expense is outside the community's budget to consider and justify to the department in order to facilitate, as the department does not consider it essential and will not provide funding.
 - We did obtain a grant that provides \$14,000 towards this repair, but we need to find the balance of the monies required. We reached out to the Curling Club for commitments for funding and/or fundraising efforts. We are waiting on information to be provided. Please note, the grant funding is time sensitive, and if we get to a timeframe where it will be recalled, council will be requesting reallocation to other projects.

COMMENT: There is currently a Grant funding opportunity that may help with this project – deadline is October 6, 2025. (Came to find out that the community is not eligible for this particular grant)

COMMENT: It is time that a Plan B is considered for year-round use of the curling rink if the ice plant cannot be repaired. Suggest: Bowling alley

COMMENT: Bowling alley would restrict larger use events

Q: If the grant funding that is currently allocated is recalled, where would it be reallocated?

A: Unknown at this time.

COMMUNITY SPEED SIGNS:

- The community is in the final stages of obtaining MTI's approval
 - The process has taken longer than initially anticipated due to multiple department approvals.
 - Solar Speed signs have been approved to be purchased via grant monies obtained through Northern Roads and Bridges Program (MNR).
 - Locations are E and W access on HWY 304

COMMENT: 1911 (True North) needs to remind employees, contractors and delivery services to slow down while travelling through the community.

COMMENT: Traffic has increased on Vanson Road and consideration should be given for speed signs, speed bumps and signage.

Q: If the data goes to the RCMP (NOTE: these signs will allow data to be shared with the RCMP) will that encourage them to be here Fridays and Sundays?

A: We have requested their presence on Fridays and Sundays and are limited to recourses, however we are hopeful that the data will justify their presence here.

RICE LAKE DAM:

- Council continues to work with Manitoba Northern Relations. The department is meeting with Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure, as they are a primary stakeholder in dam projects across Manitoba. An evaluation is currently under review on whether an extensive environmental study is required before next steps can be taken. Further updates will be provided to the community via our monthly council meeting minutes.
- A water gauge was placed in the water near the pumphouse and has been monitored 3 – 5 days a week for over a year now – the purpose is to get a clear picture of the lake levels.

FIRE BREAK:

- As a result of discussion surrounding a ‘fire break’, council was invited to and has been participating in a pilot project and putting together a “Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan”. We are the first Northern Affairs Branch Community to participate in this project and we requested it. Only northern municipalities have participated in these plans previously.
 - Developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) requires several important steps to effectively reduce wildfire risks. Understanding the history of wildfires in the area and assessing current risks is essential for making informed decisions. Using this information, communities can prioritize actions such as reducing fuel sources, improving infrastructure, preparing for emergencies, and educating the public.
 - Collaboration and clear communication among stakeholders are key throughout the planning process to ensure everyone is on the same page. Regular updates and reviews of the plan are necessary for changing conditions, ultimately enhancing the community’s ability to withstand wildfires.
 - The project has approximately 12 stakeholders providing input. (see listing)
 - The project has seen significant strides over the first quarter months, and with the fire season coming to an end, we will resume and we expect to have it completed prior to the spring of 2026.

Q: Where is the fire break being considered?

A: Area was described and is being worked on in conjunction with the CWPP.

- **WATERWORKS PROJECT**

- Earthmax is carrying out ‘deficiency’ work requirements
- A thorough walk through of those deficiencies will be carried out before completion is approved.

COMMENT: Work is still required on a private property that was brought up a year ago, including a broken window. Noted.

- **GREEN TEAM**

- Council received funding this year for the Green Team program that wrapped up on August 22nd. Two youth were employed.

COMMENT: They did a GREAT job!

- **1911 GOLD – TRUE NORTH MINE:**

- 1911 Gold Corp, Shaun Henrichs/President and CEO along with Site Superintendent, Ian Cyr attended the San Antonio School Public Meeting on April 8th and made a presentation in favour of keeping the school open
- Shaun Henrichs and VP of Exploration, Michele Della Libera hosted a community public meeting on July 30th
- They intend to host another Public Meeting in October
- On site contractors have provided several local employment opportunities
- In community diamond drilling is wrapping up, and Council is not aware of any other areas for consideration at this time

- Clean up efforts are being monitored, and we are confident that this will be done efficiently, as Council has a good working relationship with the mine

Q: How many people have been hired?

A: Unsure.

- **PROJECT UPDATES:**

- In 2024 council applied for funding through Grant opportunities (From the Ground Up) as follows:
 - Office Accessibility
 - Decking repair
 - Boat launch
 - Hall accessibility
- Unfortunately, in the first intake none of the projects received grant funding
- The applications were re-submitted during the next intake and were accepted for consideration, but no decisions have been made on this program to date.
- Council has requested the assistance of the department to provide a Tender for an assessment of the projects required in the event the grants are unsuccessful – the dept will find funding for the office accessibility as a priority
- Funding is still available for the Hall Foundation work and the department has included that in the assessment Tender
- Funding was received from the Climate Change Action Grant
 - This funding will provide for a feasibility study to help identify, cope with and respond to climate change impacts in the community
 - This will then open doors to additional funding sources

- **AMBULANCE SERVICE**

- Council has been advocating for the return of the ambulance service in Bissett or the establishment of one in Manigotagan to serve the area since the petition was presented in 2020
- One meeting was held with Shared Health post petition
- Council continues to follow up on a regular basis
- Response of our latest attempt have been positive and we have been contacted by Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care and a meeting is being planned for the very near future

Q: Will they hire community members?

A: Unsure and would depend on the requirements ie: EMR program

Q: What about utilizing trained personnel from 1911?

A: This becomes a liability to the company as we have noted from previous examples of nurses on site who do not provide a service to the community

- **BEACH AREA**

- Council has begun discussions on the beach area and necessary upgrades/repairs
- We are starting to focus on the assessment of the washroom area, as this is in a disrepair state and we need to put funding towards this. Leveling, painting and overall maintenance is being reviewed for costs and prioritized.

- We are also looking to quote on equipment required to maintain the sand in the beach area, and to keep the weeded areas at bay.
- In addition, our PW will be removing the swimming platforms annually, for thorough cleaning and storage during the winter months.
- We received a letter from one of our community members, which we greatly appreciate, as our beach area is recognized as our most used and coveted recreational area. We see the community's increased use, and we agree with prioritizing the maintenance of this area.
- The list for this area, is long, but we are working with our Public Works department to increase regular maintenance, long term maintenance, and required repairs. Any scope of work beyond their capabilities, will be sent out for contracting quotes in order to determine affordability and set priority.

● **CROWN LANDS**

- Council has met with Crown Lands representatives in regards to the moratorium on the sale of Crown Lands in the Province of MB. Waiting for further updates, but the discussions are moving in a positive direction.

Q: What about Zirk Bay and No Name – will they be sold?

A: Not at this time, the subdivisions require roads and Hydro – further discussion required.

● **WILDFIRE 2025 - Dee Halldorson**

- The fire department continues to meet monthly
- New equipment has been acquired; breathing apparatus (donated) and new hoses acquired post wildfire
- Additional equipment is being sought after
- A monthly breakdown was provided to date
- A brief was provided on the wildfire and
- Council thanked the BES team and those who stayed behind, for all of their efforts during the wildfire that was followed by a round of applause

Q: Is it possible to consider selling, as a fundraiser for the department, the presentation put together by Trina Cameron from the wildfire?

A: This could be looked into.

● **COMMUNITY REPORTS:**

- 2023/24 AUDIT
- 2025/26 BUDGET

● **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

Q: Dust control – when is the last time dust control was applied to PR #304?

A: Unsure – do not think it was this year – perhaps last.

COMMENT: Ditching is required at the corner by Wynne's Place and Clint Spence.

Q: What about fire wood cutting opportunities?

A: Part of the CWPP to identify an area – convenient and accessible

COMMENT: Condition of decking at beach area is hazardous.

A: Council concurs and is currently in the process of working with MNR to have it assessed.

Q: What about the backup generator for the water plant?

A: Funds were available and in 2017 they along with other project funding were recalled by the department. The current generator would only operate until the reservoir was emptied.

Upgrade to the plant isn't slated for 3 – 5 more years.

Q: Could a temporary generator be looked into?

A: It would only be enough to run the distribution pump only and not big enough to run the plant.

Q: What ever happened to roofing the outdoor skating rink?

A: Funding and liability.

Q: Can real ice be put on the curling rink?

A: That is perhaps a discussion that needs to be had.

Q: What about asking the Mine for assistance in the repair?

A: Feel they are just starting up and perhaps not ideal timing but in saying that the council could reach out to them.

● **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further questions, comments or concerns the meeting adjourned at 7:59pm

Everyone was thanked for coming.

CARLA NICHOLSON-SPENCE/MAYOR

GAIL WYNNE/CAO

NOTE: THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED BY COUNCIL AND ARE SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT
PRIOR TO APPROVAL

Thank you, Carla.

G 😊