

**TOWN OF VIRDEN
PUBLIC HEARING**

TIME: FEBRUARY 4, 2010 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: COUNCIL CHAMBERS VIRDEN, MB
**PRESENT: MAYOR DUNNING, COUNCILLORS JOHNSON,
CHACUN, MCCONNELL, SCHNEIDER, AND
WARKENTIN**
REGRETS: COUNCILLOR POTTER

Council of the Town of Virden held a public hearing pursuant to Section 169 (6) of the Municipal Act for the purpose of hearing any person who wished to make representations, ask questions, or register an objection to the Town of Virden requesting authorization for borrowing in the amount of seven million five hundred thousand dollars.

Thirty-eight people from the public attended the meeting, with the list attached and forming part of these minutes. Twenty of the people in attendance spoke and asked questions, voiced their questions or spoke in favor of the project and the by-law. One letter asking questions of clarification was presented and those questions were answered at the hearing.

The following is a brief outline of the comments made;

Mayor Dunning opened the hearing and introduced the order of presentations.

Deputy Mayor Johnson reported on the history of the recreation facility project and the events that led up to this hearing and the need to put a borrowing by-law in place.

CAO Stewart reported to those in attendance of the Town's intent to have fundraising pay for the project and hopefully the need to not borrow, but also indicated that the Town could use soils facility revenue each year to pay part or all of the debenture payment if the Town is forced to borrow.

Helen Boulton Elliott asked how the Town planned on paying the operating costs of the new facility. CAO Stewart responded explaining we would see a lot of efficiency in energy use, plus the staff would not be spending so much time fixing.

Gordon Hayhurst asked if the 2.6 million that the Town has committed came from tax dollars, and if any donations would be tax deductible.

Jack Cameron wanted to know how the fundraising is going.

Maxine Heritage spoke in favor of the project.

Pam McLeod asked for clarification on Section 8 of the by-law.

Dan Cosgrove presented in favor of the by-law and explained the benefits of donating and receiving tax deductible receipts.

Vern Anderson advised his questions had been answered as did Scott Wyber.

Steve Dryden, speaking on behalf of himself and the Virden Indoor Rodeo Committee, spoke in favor of the project.

Lloyd Carruthers spoke in favor of the project.

Ken Balfour spoke against the by-law. He said Council had said the project would not be a load on the ratepayers. He stated our taxes are already excessive and we need to build what we can afford.

Glen McKinnon stated he agrees with the project, commended Council, but hopes the Town does not have to borrow so much that the high taxes will drive people away.

Rick Kenderdine stated that he wanted Council to guarantee they will use soils facility revenue to make any necessary debenture payments.

Jillian Cockbill spoke in favor of the project.

Darcy Cockbill spoke in favor of the project.

Tim Howell spoke in favor and also indicated that he is in favor of the RM of Wallace contributing to the project.

Howard Hayhurst commended the committees for all their hard work but thinks we should have done a referendum.

Gordon Hayhurst asked how the borrowing would work. Commended Council for their work but thought the Town should have provided more information and have an easier way to express their thoughts.

Ken Balfour said the project has changed and the Town should pull back and hold a plebiscite.

John Davidson spoke in favor of the project.

Kevin Williams questioned if surrounding municipalities were contributing.

Heiko Bauche asked if the Town had considered phasing the project.

Pam MacLeod asked if the Town could put right in the by-law their intention to use soils facility revenue to assist with any potential debenture payments.

Tim Howell spoke on the difficulties in attracting and retaining young families and professionals to our community.

Barry Pitz stated he would be very concerned if Council did not proceed with the project and in ten years we are having to build the facility – what will the cost be then?

Mayor Dunning and Council members thanked everyone for coming.

Council then moved into a Special Meeting of Council at 9:10 p.m.

TOWN OF VIRDEN BY-LAW 2684

MOVED BY JOHNSON, SECONDED BY MCCONNELL, THAT Town of Virden By-Law No. 2684 being a by-law to provide for the expenditure and borrowing of funds for the Virden Regional Multi-Purpose Recreation Facility Project be read a first time.

CARRIED

6 – 0

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY MCCONNELL, SECONDED BY SCHNEIDER THAT the hearing be adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

CARRIED

6 - 0

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER