



TOWN HALL INFORMATION

OCTOBER 27, 2026 7:00PM

Spotlight Department: Public Works

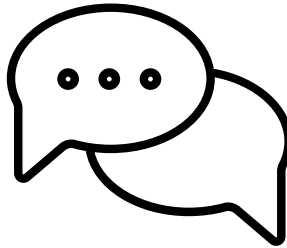
LEARN • CONNECT • STAY INFORMED



LET'S HAVE A GOOD CONVERSATION



**Constructive
Questions**



Focused Discussion



Mutual Respect

Our Goal

Clear information. Heard concerns. A path to answers.

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

1



Welcome

2



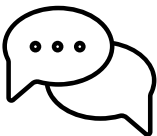
Municipal
Update

3



Public Works
Report

4



Submitted
Questions

5



Follow Up
Questions

6



Closing

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS

At our recent Town Hall Information Night, Administration shared how the Town is preparing for major infrastructure investments, managing municipal assets, and planning for Carrot River's future.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Strategic Planning & Asset Management

- Council's 2025–2028 Strategic Plan was reviewed in September, with updates to capital planning for 2027 and 2028.
- An improved asset management program is being developed to help track infrastructure, prioritize repairs, and plan for future replacements.
- The Strategic Plan is available on the Town website under Municipal Information → 2026 Meeting Minutes.

Funding & Financial Preparation

- \$42,603 in provincial grant funding supported curb cuts, sidewalk repairs, and a new sidewalk section along First Street West.
- \$60,165.60 invested in GICs represents federal capital funding being set aside for eligible projects.
- The Town receives funding annually through the federal Building Communities Strong Fund. These funds have resulted in \$60,165.60 invested in GICs to support eligible capital projects.
- The June 2026 utility rate increase and an existing Utility Reserve balance of \$167,440.19 are part of the Town's preparation for upcoming water and sewer infrastructure investments.

The Town is also pursuing grant opportunities and planning how available funds can help leverage additional funding.

Public Works & Utilities - Upcoming Projects

Planning in the 2027 budget includes:

- Lagoon repairs and potential expansion: A study is underway to assess lagoon condition and capacity. A preliminary minimum allocation of \$250,000 is being considered for repairs, with decisions dependent on the study results.
- Lift Station No. 2 upgrades: Approximately \$500,000 is being considered, subject to a detailed cost review.
- Oak Avenue improvements: Road widening, drainage improvements, and sidewalk connections near the new school are being assessed.

Longer-term priorities include sewer lift station upgrades, water and sewer line replacements, road repaving, and major pumping station improvements. Preliminary estimates for some pumping station projects are \$4–5 million per station.

Other Municipal Updates

- The Town has entered into an annual agreement with the Ministry of Highways for snow clearing along First Street West. The arrangement will be reviewed in March 2027.
- Council approved a new grader blade wing to improve driveway snow clearing.

LOOKING AHEAD

With aging infrastructure and significant capital projects ahead, the Town is working to improve long-term planning, prepare financially, and pursue funding opportunities. Council and Administration remain focused on maintaining essential services and supporting community safety, well-being, and future growth.

GRANTS & INVESTMENTS



\$42,603
SGI Traffic
Safety
Fund



\$60,165.60
Building
Communities
Strong Fund/GIC
Investment



\$167,440.19
Utilities
Reserve

2027 CAPITAL PROJECTS



\$250,000
Lagoon
Repairs/Expansion



\$500,000
Lift Station #2
Upgrades



\$150,000
Oak Avenue
Improvements

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS

Public Works shared updates on wastewater infrastructure projects, current system challenges, and the improvements needed to support Carrot River's long-term needs.

HIGHLIGHTS

Main Lift Station & Force Main

- Replacing the force main between the main lift station and lagoon with a larger-diameter plastic pipe.
- Upgrading existing 25-horsepower pumps to 30-horsepower submersible pumps, along with valves and safety improvements.
- Construction is anticipated this fall, with completion targeted before year-end, subject to material availability and progress.

Why it matters: These upgrades are intended to improve pumping performance during high-flow periods and may reduce the need for water-use advisories during heavy rainfall.

Lagoon Repairs & Capacity

- The lagoon requires additional storage and repairs to existing cells, dikes, and valves.
- A downstream use and impact study is underway to help determine the necessary repairs and whether expansion should be considered.
- A preliminary minimum allocation of \$250,000 is being considered for lagoon repairs, subject to study results and Council decisions.
- Reject water from the water treatment plant, heavy rainfall, and spring snowmelt all contribute to the volume the lagoon must manage.

Why it matters: Additional storage and repairs would improve seasonal wastewater management and help address capacity constraints that affect future community growth.

Lift Station No. 2 - Future Upgrades

- The station near Pasquia Place currently handles its incoming flows but has aging pumps and controls, difficult maintenance access, and limited backup-power arrangements.
- Staff monitor wastewater levels during power outages and use a portable generator when required.
- Approximately \$500,000 is being considered in the 2027 budget for upgrades, subject to cost review.

Why it matters: Future improvements would focus on reliability, safer maintenance, and dependable operation.

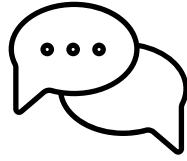
WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW

- Reducing nonessential water use during Town advisories helps relieve pressure on the wastewater system.
- Heavy rainfall and spring snowmelt can increase wastewater flows and lagoon levels.
- Wastewater treatment relies on natural processes that slow in cold weather, making adequate storage important.
- Infrastructure capacity is essential to maintaining services and accommodating future development.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Town is prioritizing immediate upgrades while planning for additional repairs and replacements across its aging infrastructure. These projects require careful assessment, financial preparation, and long-term investment.

The goal is to maintain reliable essential services, improve system capacity, and prepare Carrot River for the years ahead.



PRE- SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

Storm Drain Cleaning & Maintenance

How are storm drains cleaned and maintained, and could debris removal be improved to keep drains clear and prevent blockages?

We regularly sweep streets to help keep storm drains and drainage areas clear and the roads clear of rocks and gravel for roller bladers, skateboarders, walkers and motorcycles. One of the biggest challenges is yard waste, including grass clippings, leaves and other debris being blown or deposited into the streets by residents. That material can accumulate around drains and interfere with drainage.

This past season, we were also operating with reduced staffing due to a medical absence, which meant street sweeping could not take place as frequently as usual. As well as a few maintenance issues with the sweeper causing it to be out of service for a duration.

We will review our current practices and consider whether there are practical improvements we can make. Debris being removed by hand and placed above and behind the catch basin is typically only a temporary measure when we are clearing backed up catch basins during a rain event as our goal is to get the water flowing and lots of time we are just responding with our own private vehicles when after hours. Placing the debris back into the street will just cause the drains to get plugged again.

Residents can help by keeping grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste out of the streets and storm drains. Preventing debris from entering the drainage system in the first place helps everyone.

Sewer Pumps & Heavy Rainfall

During heavy rainfall, how do the Town's storm sewer pumps operate, and what happens when rainfall exceeds the system's capacity?

The Town has separate storm sewer and sanitary sewer systems, and understanding the difference is important when discussing heavy rainfall and sewer backups.

The main lift station does have an alarm that will call out when there is an error event at the lift station, such as a power outage, pump issue or high level. Our sanitary sewer pumps operate automatically. As discussed we have a generator at the main lift station and our welder/genset for lift station #2. For the other two lift stations we utilize septic trucks to keep the levels manageable as their flows are low.

However, during periods of exceptionally heavy rainfall, the volume of rainwater and groundwater runoff can exceed the capacity of our sanitary system, with a lot attributing to weeping tile being pumped into the sanitary sewer during these times. A couple other issues were identified and have now been remedied, that attributed to more water entering the sanitary. We are always keeping an eye out for other ways rain/groundwater enter the system.

Residents can help by ensuring their sump pumps discharge outside the home rather than into the sanitary sewer system. Many older homes have sump pumps connected to the sanitary sewer, which adds additional water to a system designed to handle wastewater. Newer homes are required to discharge sump water outside during the appropriate seasons, with provisions for winter conditions when other flows are lower. As discussed in the infrastructure presentation, the main lift station also has pumping-capacity issues that the planned upgrades are intended to address. During heavy rainfall or an extended power outage, we may ask residents to temporarily reduce nonessential water use, including laundry and dishwasher loads, to reduce the amount entering the sewer system.

Extended power outages can also affect our drinking-water supply. Our wells do not have backup power, which limits our ability to replenish stored water. How long the available supply lasts depends on reservoir levels at the start of the outage and how much water is being used. Conservation requests may therefore be needed to protect the available water supply as well as reduce pressure on the sewer system.

Homeowners should also have a qualified plumber assess whether appropriate backwater-valve protection is installed and maintained. These valves help prevent sewage from the municipal sewer backing up into a home.

When a backwater valve closes, wastewater from plumbing on the house side of that valve cannot drain through it. If a sump pump discharges into that same plumbing, it can continue adding water and cause a backup inside the home. Toilets, sinks and appliances draining through the closed valve can also contribute. Those fixtures should not be used while the valve is closed.

This is another reason appropriate outdoor sump-pump discharge is important during wet weather.

Rust-Coloured Water

What could be causing ongoing rust-coloured water in the community, and can further testing or investigation identify a solution?

We take drinking-water quality concerns seriously. Our monitoring and sampling program follows the requirements of our Water Security Agency operating permit. We carry out daily operational water-quality testing at the treatment plant, 365 days of the year. This includes checks on water treated through the reverse osmosis system and water entering distribution.

Bacteriological samples are collected weekly at various locations throughout the community. Every two years, we also complete General Chemical, and Health and Toxicity sampling of treated water entering distribution from the plant. These analyses include iron, arsenic and a range of other metals, minerals and chemical parameters. Results are published on the Town's website as required by our permit. Over the past couple of years, the Water Security Agency has also conducted additional testing of our water for arsenic and other metals through its monitoring program.

These different tests serve different purposes. Results from water leaving the plant do not necessarily capture conditions at every location in the distribution system. Our treatment system uses reverse osmosis. Changes in water chemistry following a treatment change can affect deposits inside older iron watermains and contribute to discolouration. This is one possible explanation, but it has not been confirmed as the cause for discoloration at this property.

Routine testing and regulatory monitoring are important safeguards. Where results identify a concern, follow-up action and any required public notification are handled in accordance with applicable requirements and in consultation with the Water Security Agency.

We appreciate the resident bringing the staining and discolouration to our attention. Reviewing any available results from the samples collected would help determine whether additional sampling is needed at the affected locations.

Directional flushing is planned for 2027 once weather conditions permit. Flushing can help remove accumulated deposits and reduce discolouration, although it may not permanently eliminate recurring iron release from older watermains.



THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

Thank you to everyone who attended our first Town Hall Information Night. We appreciate your interest in staying informed and engaged in our community.

We invite all residents to join us for future sessions as we continue sharing updates, answering questions, and building understanding of the decisions shaping Carrot River's future.

An informed and engaged community starts with being part of the conversation. We look forward to seeing you at our next session!

Our Next Town Hall
Tuesday, January 26, 2027
Carrot River Community Hall

Spotlight On:
Carrot River Fire & Rescue Department