



**THE CORPORATION OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF EAST FERRIS**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING

Minutes of the Economic Development Meeting November 20th, 2019
East Ferris Community Centre, Astorville

PRESENT: Steven Trahan
Jake Lacourse
Veronica Mulligan
Greg Kirton, Manager of Planning and Economic Development
Kari Hanselman, Recording Clerk
Steve Austin
Rod Clouthier
Phil Koning

EXCUSED ABSENT: Angela Knight van schaayk, Claude Champagne

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dominique Marleau

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

No. 2019-01

Moved by Steve Austin

Seconded by Rod Clouthier

THAT the draft agenda as amended and circulated to the Economic Development Committee dated the 20th day of November 2019 be hereby adopted as circulated.

The agenda was amended on the request of the Chair by adding the following item:

4.6 Member Crawl

CARRIED

3. **Acceptance of Minutes of the Last Regular Meeting Held on October 16th, 2019**

No. 2019-02

Moved by Phil Koning

Seconded by Rod Clouthier

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Committee held October 16th, 2019 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. **Updates/Business Arising from the Minutes**

4.1 **Powassan Business Symposium Review – Phil Koning**

Mr. Koning advised the Committee that the symposium was well attended, and a number of resources were made available to attendees.

4.2 Rural & Remote Broadband Conference

Mr. Kirton said the conference was well organized. Mr. Kirton advised that a main takeaway of the event was that each community seems to have differing solutions to the problem. Ms. Marleau suggested the municipality gather as much data as possible with regards to internet connectivity. Councillor Trahan suggested a risk assessment be done, including where the problem areas are and what providers are available in certain areas of the municipality.

Mr. Kirton advised the Committee that the Request for Proposal for Broadband Service Improvements is closing on December 2nd and until feedback is received from the RFP, the issue is out of the Committee's hands.

4.3 BR&E Plan

Deferred to next meeting.

4.4 Ontario Government – Job Site Challenge Announcement

Mr. Kirton briefly explained the program to the committee and advised that the sites the government is looking for are quite large.

4.5 Christmas Party – December 7th East Ferris Arena

Mr. Kirton asked the Committee to please RSVP to the office.

4.6 Member Crawl

Mr. Lacourse suggested the Committee do a member crawl. This would involve interested Committee members visiting local businesses and discussing various topics such as challenges and opportunities. North Bay Plastic Molders was mentioned as a potential site to visit.

5. General Follow Up/Roundtable

Mr. Clouthier expressed the desire to bring more snowmobilers into the community this winter season and the economic benefits that could be had. Mr. Kirton advised he will reach out to the South Shore Restoule Snowmobile Club. Mr. Clouthier advised he will also reach out to an interested individual and invite them to attend the next committee meeting.

After previously speaking with Mr. Koning, Mr. Kirton suggested that an "ongoing items" section be added to the agenda. This will allow the committee to keep track of previously discussed items.

Mr. Kirton advised that he received an e-mail from NECO regarding a Northern Ontario women's grant that is available to support business that are primarily led by women.

Ms. Marleau advised that Blue Sky Net has announced the Business Technology Improvement Fund. This fund may be available for small-to-medium sized businesses to enhance their websites.

Discussion were had regarding the Municipality's online Business Registry. Mr. Austin suggested assisting businesses in some manner with their websites/internet presence. Mr. Kirton advised that since the municipality does not require business registrations, there is no complete list of all businesses within the municipality, but that Ms. Hanselman is working on updating the registry. Ms. Mulligan suggested sending something out with the tax bills to gather information on local businesses.

6. Adjournment

No. 2019-03

Moved by Steven Trahan

Seconded by Veronica Mulligan

That the Economic Development Committee adjourn at 1:52 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDING CLERK