



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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Virtual Economic Development Meeting of June 17th, 2020

PRESENT: Steve Austin Phil Koning
Jake Lacourse Angela Knight van Schaayk
Veronica Mulligan Claude Champagne
Greg Kirton, Manager of Planning and Economic Development
Kari Hanselman, Recording Clerk

EXCUSED ABSENT: Rod Clouthier, Steven Trahan

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Guy Paquette, Dom Marleau, Jason Trottier

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 1:06 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No. 2020-13

Moved by Angela Knight van Schaayk

Seconded by Phil Koning

THAT the draft agenda circulated to the Economic Development Committee and dated the 17th day of June 2020 be hereby adopted as circulated.

-The agenda was amended by adding item 6.12 Canada Economic Recovery

CARRIED

3. Acceptance of Minutes of the Last Regular Meeting Held on May 6th, 2020

Motion No. 2020-14

Moved by Claude Champagne

Seconded by Phil Koning

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Committee held May 6th, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest – None for this session

5. Chair's Comments – None for this session

6. Updates/New Business

6.1 Priority #1 (Internet) – Update – Jason Trottier

Mr. Trottier shared with the Committee a summary of the initiatives that have taken place over the last year with regards to improving internet in the community. Discussions were had regarding the municipality improving internet privately. Mr. Trottier advised this is not a viable option. The Committee agreed to table Priority #1 until the end of the year since their hands are tied. If new information becomes available or the Committee has any new ideas to advocate, the Committee will revisit sooner.

6.2 OMAFRA Agri-Food Open for E-Business Program – Phil

The Committee discussed ways of improving notification times for funding programs as the deadline for this program was cut short. Mr. Kirton advised he will re-share the BTIF information on social media.

6.3 Ministry of Education Letter to Federal Ministries – Angela

The Committee discussed the letter from the Ministry of Education regarding federal funding to address poor access to broadband internet. The Committee recommended staff work with Council to write a response letter to be sent to Ministers.

6.4 Priority #2 (Update Economic Development Strategy – Phil, Veronica, Angela, Greg – Update

Mr. Kirton shared with the Committee a summary table of the action items outlined in the 2013 plan. Mr. Kirton is in the process of completing the table to show what items have been completed to date.

6.5 Priority #3 (Review Policies) re: Council Resolution 2020-45 – February 11, 2020 – Greg – Update

The Planning Department is making progress in the new Zoning By-law. Mr. Kirton is working with the By-law Enforcement Officer. The Committee discussed the current by-laws around owning chickens and roosters. Discussions were had regarding public consultation for the new zoning by-law including regulations surrounding home based businesses. Receiving input from residents via e-mail may be the best options as public meetings are still not taking place. The Committee discussed what the by-law may say about protecting flocks. Mr. Kirton will look into it.

6.6 Priority #4 (Farmers/Artisan Market) – Jake, Veronica, Greg

Mr. Kirton advised he has received 17 responses from the recent call out for interest, which is enough to form a steering committee. The next step is to send a confirmation e-mail out to those who responded.

6.7 Priority #5 (Light Industrial Park Feasibility) –Greg

Applications have been prepared. Mr. Kirton has been in touch with Miller & Urso Surveying regarding a survey of the property at the Callander end of the municipality.

6.8 Priority #6 (Vacant/Underutilized Land Development Opportunities) – Greg – Update on Report to Council re: Municipal Surplus Lands

A stock of land has been completed. A number of pieces of vacant land have been deemed surplus land. Mr. Koning asked if there was any plan to market these properties for sale. Mr. Kirton advised there is no plan for advertising these properties for sale. This exercise was completed to expedite future sales of municipal land. This Priority is now completed.

6.8.1 Follow Up Project – All Vacant Lands

Mr. Kirton advised staff is taking inventory of all vacant land, private and public, in the Municipality.

6.9 Priority #7 (New Business Welcome Package) – Steve T., Phil, Steve A.

Mr. Koning advised they are waiting for the new municipal website to go live. The document will link back to the website. The sub-committee is looking at welcome packages in other communities.

6.10 Community Profile – Draft from Karen Jones Consulting – For your review and comment – Update from Greg

A draft plan has been circulated. If Committee members have any recommendations or feedback, the deadline for comments is next Friday. Imagery in the document has yet to be updated.

6.11 Digital Meetings Going Forward – Update

Continuing with electronic meetings will require an amendment to the Municipal Act. Once the Emergency Order has ended, in person meetings must resume. Committee members can participate electronically, but do not form part of quorum. Mr. Koning expressed interest in enabling the public to participate in meetings. Historically, no members of the public have attended Economic Development Committee meetings. Electronic meetings are being recorded and stored locally.

6.12 Canada's Recovery Plan

Ms. Knight van Schaayk advised information provided from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce is beneficial for economic recovery. Collaboration will be needed to re-open our economies. There is another webinar tomorrow about 5G technology. Membership is not required to partake in webinars.

7. Action Items – None for this session

8. Ongoing/Unresolved/Inactive Items

8.1 Sub-committee (Centennial Committee Project) – Steve T., Steve A., Angela

No update

8.2 BizPal Program – Phil

No update

8.3 Digital Mainstreet – Follow up on Phil's Report

No update

9. General Follow Up/Roundtable Discussion

Mr. Paquette advised they are busy helping businesses experiencing liquidity issues.

10. Adjournment

No. 2020-15

Moved by Angela Knight van Schaayk

Seconded by Claude Champagne

That the Economic Development Committee adjourn at 2:39 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDING CLERK