



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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING

Minutes of the Virtual Economic Development Meeting of May 6th, 2020

PRESENT: Steve Austin
Jake Lacourse
Rod Clouthier
Claude Champagne
Greg Kirton, Manager of Planning and Economic Development
Kari Hanselman, Recording Clerk
Phil Koning
Angela Knight van Schaayk
Steven Trahan, Councillor

EXCUSED ABSENT: Veronica Mulligan

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Guy Paquette

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 3:31 p.m.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

Motion No. 2020-08

Moved by Angela Knight van Schaayk

Seconded by Steven Trahan

THAT the draft agenda circulated to the Economic Development Committee and dated the 6th day of May 2020 be hereby adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **Acceptance of Minutes of the Last Regular Meeting Held on February 26th, 2020**

Motion No. 2020-09

Moved by Phil Koning

Seconded by Rod Clothier

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Committee held February 26th, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

The report received from Ms. Knight van Schaayk from the Northern Policy Institute Conference will be added to the Minutes of February 26th, 2020

CARRIED

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

5. **Chair's Comments**

Mr. Lacourse welcomed the committee and would like to consider virtual meetings in the future.

6. Updates/New Business

6.1 General Conversation – COVID-19

6.1.1 Provincial Jobs and Recovery Committee

Discussions were had regarding the Ontario Jobs and Recovery Committee and the letter from Mayor Rochefort.

6.1.2 Meet the Ministers Webinar – May 6, 2020

Ms. Knight van Schaayk shared with the committee provincial initiatives that were discussed at the Meet the Northern Ministers webinar.

6.1.3 East Ferris EcDev Committee Role in months moving forward

The Committee discussed picking up where they left off with regards to the sub-committees. It is possible for sub-committee to meet virtually. It will be hard to know how local businesses are coping, until they are able to open. Ms. Knight van Schaayk suggested that local businesses should be made aware of the NOHFC funding that is available. Mr. Kirton will follow up with Ms. Marleau regarding the funding.

6.2 Priority #6 (Vacant/Underutilized Land Development Opportunities) – Update

Mr. Kirton advised that the inventory of municipal property is completed. A report is going to Council next week containing properties that may be deemed surplus. Mr. Kirton will bring the information to the next meeting.

6.3 Tradeshow 2020 Cancelation

Mr. Kirton advised that most bookings for the Tradeshow have been cancelled. Ms. Hanselman advised that there were some vendors and sponsors who have transferred their registration to 2021. Refund cheques will be mailed out next week.

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 discussion

8.2 Priority #1 (Update Economic Development Strategy – Phil, Veronica, Angela, Greg

No discussion

8.3 Priority #2 (Review Policies) re: Council Resolution 2020-45 – February 11, 2020 – Greg

No discussion

8.4 Priority #3 (Farmers/Artisan Market) – Jake, Veronica

No discussion

8.5 Priority #4 (Internet)

Mr. Koning advised the Committee he has heard some concerns from residents regarding the internet given the current situation. Mr. Koning has yet to hear what

came of the presentation given to Council in February regarding the internet. The Committee discussed prioritizing internet and the following resolution was carried:

Motion No. 2020-10

Moved by Phil Koning

Seconded by Angela Knight van Schaayk

That Priority #4 (Internet) of the previously prioritized mandate letter items be moved up to Priority #1 and the remaining priorities be shifted downward.

CARRIED

Mr. Kirton advised the Committee there has been no update received from Blue Sky. After discussing the mandate letter and Committee responsibilities the Committee passed the following resolution:

Motion No. 2020-11

Moved by Phil Koning

Seconded by Angela Knight van Schaayk

Given the rapidly changing business and social landscape as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Economic Development Committee has voted in favour of reorganizing Internet as our top priority.

As such, the Committee is seeking clarification from Council regarding our mandate, as laid out in our mandate letter, with regards to our role in advocating for internet within the community, both through informing residents and seeking solutions to our local challenges.

Furthermore, please clarify who is taking the lead on lobbying the government with respect to broadband internet as the Committee would be interested in playing a more involved role.

CARRIED

8.6 **Priority #5 (Light Industrial Park Feasibility) - Greg**

No discussion

8.6 **Priority #6 (Vacant/Underutilized Land Development Opportunities)**

No discussion

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

No discussion

8.8 **BizPal Program – Phil**

No discussion

8.9 **Digital Mainstreet – Follow up on Phil's Report**

No discussion – to be removed from future agendas

9. General Follow Up/Roundtable Discussion

Councillor Trahan discussed the welcome package and that he will be in touch with Mr. Champagne. Mr. Paquette inquired about the funding application to FedNor. Mr. Kirton advised he will be submitting shortly and the intake for the NOHFC application closes on June 30th. The FedNor funding does not have a closing date.

10. Adjournment

No. 2020-12

Moved by Angela Knight van Schaayk

Seconded by Rod Clouthier

That the Economic Development Committee adjourn at 4:31 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDING CLERK