

**Economic Development and Business Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday October 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Township of Selwyn
Zoom meeting**

Present: Andy Mitchell, Mayor for Selwyn Township
Sherry Senis, Deputy Mayor for Selwyn Township
Rick Hickson, R&J Machine
Donna Rork, Cottage Toys
Pat Smith, Paluski Boats & Adventure Outfitters
Troy Percy, Napa Auto Parts
Diana Carter, Style Boutique
Braden Clark, Community Futures Peterborough
Nigel Broersma, Kawartha Chamber of Commerce (joined for 4)g))

Regrets: Erin McLean, McLean Berry Farms
Gabi Dragomir, PKED, Rural Economic Development Officer

Staff: Angela Chittick, Manager of Community & Corporate Services
Leisha Newton, Economic Development Coordinator (Acting)

Chair, Andy Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None.

1. Deputations and/or Invited Persons

- Braden Clark from Community Futures Peterborough provided a summary of the services and products that are offered for our region
- The goal is to stimulate economic growth, and job growth through their programming
- Their programming is focused on rural areas, and it is a not-for profit so funds are reinvested back into the community it serves.
- Business loans are available for small businesses that may have issues getting loans through common channels. They offer flexible lending, with forgiving payment schedules
- Funding can also be provided to businesses for community economic development (through the township, up to \$5,000), similar to the Business Reopening Program that was facilitated last year

- They are currently working on a communications plan that will be launched soon through the townships and local partners that will help to get the word out about their programming.

2. Minutes

The minutes of June 28, 2021 and September 27, 2021 were reviewed for information purposes.

Moved by: Sherry Senis; Seconded by: Troy Percy

That the EDBC minutes of June 28, 2021 and September 27, 2021 be received for information.

Carried.

3. Question Period

None.

4. Correspondence for Discussion and/or Decision

Information Items

- a) Chamber Consolidation (September 30, 2021)
 - Nigel joined the meeting from the gallery to answer some questions regarding the Chamber.
 - It was confirmed that with the consolidation, the office in Lakefield will be maintained.
 - How the revenue from the Service Ontario office will be handled moving forward is still being discussed, but will be decided by the Finance Committee as they move through the consolidation process.
 - The consolidation will be effective January 1, 2022
- b) WDB
 - Eye on the Labour Market, September 2021
- c) Teeny Tiny Summit (Webinar Series)
 - Teeny Tiny Resurgence
December 1, 2021 10am – noon
 - Renewed, Refreshed and the New Rural
March 2, 2022 10am – noon

5. Reports

- a) Building & Planning Reports
 - Building & Planning Q3 Dashboard (October 12, 2021)

- Building Permit Fee Restructuring (October 12, 2021)
 - Public Meeting, November 9, 2021
- The dashboard includes key performance indicators, and provides Council with a snapshot of what the building and planning department is doing on a quarterly basis. The planning department will be going online with their applications soon, which will allow for the same kind of data. Council and Staff are able to see where there is a hold up in the process/ delay and what the turnaround times are.
- There is a public meeting on November 9 to discuss the rate restructuring for building permit fees. We are moving to a new fee structure that will be calculated per square foot instead of based on construction value. This will reduce fees for some, and increase fees for larger builds. It is recommended that everyone take a look at the attached report and suggested fee schedule and attend the meeting if they have any comment or questions. This information was also sent out by email to the business email list today and will be included in the Business e-newsletter next week, so that businesses have been advised.

6. Other, New and Unfinished Business

a) PKED Report – Verbal Update - Gabi Dragomir (no update)

b) Business News/Updates – All Committee Members

Sherry:

- Fred has shared that there is a new Chiropractor/ Physiotherapist (Lee O'Neil) taking the place of Kawartha Home Health Care and a dentist has also located to the Chemong Medical Centre.
- Sherry noted that the Gas Station property at 6th Line & Lakefield Road is listed for sale again.
- Fred needs to find a Physician in Bridgenorth, and he is finding it difficult. There seems to be a discrepancy in the Physician Recruitment grants & supports that are available throughout the County.
- The Morton Medical Centre provides supports for a new doctor moving into the area: furnishing for office space; rent reprieve; and assistance filling roster (currently 16,000 without a doctor in Peterborough area).

The need for equal funding for physician recruitment throughout the County was discussed.

Moved by: Sherry Senis; Seconded by: Pat Smith

That the EDBC recommend that Council lobby the Provincial government to address physician recruitment grants so that Selwyn can be competitive in its physician recruitment efforts.

Carried.

- Pat suggested that as the EDBC has had two members resign that the Committee request that Council consider recruiting some replacements. He is aware of a few business owners who may be interested in getting involved.

Moved by: Rick Hickson; Seconded by: Pat Smith

That the EDBC recommend that Selwyn Council recruit up to 2 new members to join the Economic Development & Business Committee for the remainder of this term (until December 2022).

Carried.

- Pat also noted that Max MacKenzie who owns Max Towing and operates a business from Lakefield Road is selling his property. He is interested in the possibility of severing portions of the property. Sherry suggested that Mr. MacKenzie contact the County of Peterborough about severance options.

Donna:

- Lorri Rork (Community Care) has indicated that she would be interested in attending a future meeting to discuss the elderly needs in our community.
- The committee agreed that we should invite her to the November meeting.

Rick

- How is the LINK service performing?
 - The biggest users are students out of Trent, and we have an agreement with the student association to recoup costs through their student fees. This is a new revenue stream to help support the service.
 - The bus is currently running Monday through Friday
Route #31 had 161 riders last week
Route #32 had 71 riders last week
 - Committee members have commented that they are noticing more people waiting at the bus stops and along County Road 23, flagging down the bus. Interest in the bus is definitely increasing which is a good sign.

Troy:

- Bill Jones found a new operator for Buckhorn Garage. He sold to Reshad Formuly.

Andy:

- On October 23, most of the federal COVID support programs ended. They were replaced by:
 - Tourism & Hospitality Funding
 - Hardest Hit Business
 - Canada Recovery
- Ontario announced reopening changes that affect the vaccine passport and proof of vaccine processes for certain types of businesses. Dependent on the numbers, the Ontario government is hopeful that most of the restrictions can be lifted by the spring.

c) CIP/Township Report – Verbal update – Leisha

- As of October 25, Selwyn Township has approved 26 CIP applications for 17 businesses in 2021. For a municipal investment of approximately \$160,000, it is expected that the total project value in the township will be over \$335,000 for these projects.
- Ontario Garlic Week is an event that the Toronto Garlic Festival has created and invited businesses from across the province to participate in, and register on their website. We have invited our food & restaurant businesses to participate.

d) Update on Community Safety & Well-Being Plan (Peterborough City & County)

- The CSWB consultant will be hosting six focus groups, two each for Poverty, Mental Health and Barriers to Participation between November 15-26.

e) Invitation for Guests

- Leisha has invited MP Michelle Ferreri to our next meeting.
- Leisha will also invite Lorri Rork from Community Care to attend the November meeting, as discussed earlier in the meeting.

7. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Moved by: Diana Carter; Second by: Rick Hickson

- That the meeting of October 25th, 2021 be adjourned.

Carried.

- The Committee meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Next Meeting

- The next EDBC meeting will be held on **Monday, November 22, 2021** at **6:00 p.m.** using the zoom platform.

DRAFT