



Huron County Economic Development Board

Minutes – November 16, 2015

Goderich, Ontario

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Goderich, Ontario
November 16, 2015

The Huron County Economic Development Board met in the Committee Room at the County Courthouse on the 16th day of November 2015.

Members of the Board present: J. Lynn, P. Gowing, M. Vanderloo, S. Baker, K. Davis, S. Sparling, P. Smith, B. MacLellan, T. Hessel

Staff present: Chief Administrative Officer Brenda Orchard, Economic Development Consultant Ron Gaudet, Economic Development Coordinator Natasha Fritzley, Director of Planning & IT Scott Tousaw, Planning Manager Sandra Weber

Members Absent: J. Eddington

1. Chair Lynn called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Agenda:

MOTION:

Moved by: Member Davis and Seconded by: Member Gowing

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board Agenda for Monday, November 16th, 2015 be accepted and all attachments included in the Agenda be received as presented.

CARRIED

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof:

None Stated.

4. Minutes Approval

MOTION:

Moved by: Member Davis and Seconded by: Member Smith

THAT:

The minutes of the previous Huron County Economic Development Board meeting

on October 8th, 2015 be adopted.
CARRIED

5. Opening Comments (Chair Lynn): Chair Lynn spoke at a networking meeting in Holmesville on behalf of the Board. Chair Lynn referenced the draft Board report in his update. Review of the draft strategic plan went well, Chair Lynn appreciated the opportunity to review and Member Smith's presentation on the Blyth 14/19 project. Chair Lynn suggested that the Board set aside some time for a brainstorming session at the next meeting.

6. Delegations:

A. Employment Lands Strategy: Jamie Cook from Watson & Associates presented a recap of findings from the County Employment Lands Study to the Board. Chair Lynn directed Board Members to send any questions for Mr. Cook to staff Natasha Fritzley.

B. Perceived Barriers to Planning Report: Mark Seasons presented his findings on the perceived barriers to planning study to the Economic Development Board. Staff will come back to the Board with a report on planned actions to respond to Mr. Seasons' recommendations. Board members were encouraged to send any further questions or comments on this report to staff Natasha Fritzley.

7. Draft Strategic Plan: Staff Ron Gaudet presented a draft of the Huron County Economic Development Plan (2016-2020). The draft is not entirely complete as it still requires information from the County's partner municipalities. The presentation was for information, and will require further follow-up at the December 9, 2015 Board meeting.

8. Draft Annual Board Report: Chair Lynn shared the draft annual Board Report with Board Members. The Board would like to arrange an open to the public celebration and recap of their first year in January.

MOTION:

Moved by: Member Vanderloo and Seconded by: Member MacLellan

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board Annual Report be accepted as amended and submitted to Council.

CARRIED

9. Staff Report: Economic Development Office location:

MOTION:

Moved by: Member Davis and Seconded by: Member Vanderloo

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board highly endorses the philosophy behind and will financially support, until December 31st 2016, the costs incurred to

create a storefront operation for the Economic Development Department up to an amount of \$20,000.

CARRIED

10. Proposal: The Case for Immigration in Huron County:

MOTION:

Moved by: Member Sparling and Seconded by: Member MacLellan

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board strongly believes that an effective immigration program can be a key solution to the workforce issue and that the Board approve phase 1 of what is viewed as a longer term initiative to support an effective strategy.

CARRIED

11. Staff Report: Temp Staff

MOTION:

Moved by: Member Smith and Seconded by: Member MacLellan

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board approved the staff recommendation to hire a temporary staff member at a cost of \$2000.

CARRIED

MOTION:

Moved by: Member Smith and Seconded by: Member MacLellan

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board send a letter to the Four County Labour Market Board suggesting that this type of information is critical and useful and that if they do not have the resources to collect it we are willing to support them in an ask to the province.

CARRIED

Moved by: Member Gowing and Seconded by: Member Davis

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board send a letter to the Four County Labour Market Board at the Board Retreat supporting the collection of data regarding labour force shortages, outlining the Board's current relevant projects and asking them to discuss.

CARRIED

12. Financial Summary

13. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Economic Development Board will be on Wednesday, December 9th, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the Committee Room at the County Courthouse, in Goderich.

14. Did Well/Do Better:

Board members provided a brief update on what they felt was done well at the meeting and what could be improved upon.

15. Adjournment:

The Huron County Economic Development Board adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Chair J. Lynn