

County of Huron
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 9:00 AM

This meeting took place at 57 Napier Street, Goderich and virtually through zoom.

The Economic Development Board met in a hybrid meeting setting on October 5, 2023 at 57 Napier Street in Goderich.

Members of the Board present: Bryan Vincent, Jim Ginn, Jamie Heffer, Glen McNeil, Jason Oud, Tina Bax and Frances Westley. Members of the Board absent: John Kiser, Derek Van Dieten and Lynne Harris

Staff present: Director of Economic Development Vicki Lass and Deputy Clerk Ljubica Blazevic

Staff absent: Chief Administrative Officer Meighan Wark and Director of Legislative Services/ County Clerk Susan Cronin

1. Chair Vincent called the Huron County Economic Development Board meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Moved by Member Heffer and Seconded by Member Ginn

THAT:

The Economic Development Board Agenda for October 5, 2023 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof:

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest stated.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Moved by: Member Ginn and Seconded by: Member Westley

THAT:

The minutes of the Huron County Economic Development Board meeting of September 7, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Presentations/Delegations:

5.1. Clean Energy Frontier (presented by Chad Richards)

Moved by: Member Oud and Seconded by: Member Bax

THAT:

The Economic Development Board receives the presentation by Chad Richards, Director, Policy and Partnership with Nuclear Innovation Institute, dated October 5, 2023, as presented for information.

CARRIED

6. Opening Comments and Updates from the Chair:

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Chair Vincent reminded the Board members of the upcoming events:

- Succession planning for farmers
- Octoberfest Celebration
- Feast on the Farm

Chair Vincent brought attention to the closure of the two long-term care facilities-one in Seaforth and one in Hensall, a decision made by the province during Covid without prior notice or consultation with the community. A new facility is to open in Exeter.

7. Board Member Comments:

Member Oud gave an update on the ongoing railroad concerns.

Members were reminded of the podcast on succession planning and were asked for suggestions for podcast.

8. Correspondence: None.

9. New Business and / or Unfinished Business:

- 9.1. Terms of Reference - Economic Readiness & Investment Attraction: Business Case (presented by Natasha Gaudio Harrison)

Moved by: Member Ginn and Seconded by: Member Westley

THAT:

The Chair and Board Members of the Huron Economic Development Board accept the Terms of Reference for the creation of Economic Readiness & Investment Attraction Business Case as presented for information.

CARRIED

- 9.2. Economic Development Board Council Priorities Alignment (presented by Natasha Gaudio Harrison)

Moved by: Member Heffer and Seconded by: Member Bax

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board receives the report dated October 5, 2023 titled Economic Development Board Council Priorities Alignment presented by Natasha Gaudio Harrison, Economic Development Officer for reference and information.

CARRIED

- 9.3. Housing Sub Committee Update (presented by Vicki Lass and Natasha Gaudio Harrison)

Moved by: Warden McNeil and Seconded by: Member Bax

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The Chair and Members of the Economic Development Board receive the report titled Housing Sub Committee Update by Vicki Lass and Natasha Gaudio-Harrison, dated October 5, 2023, for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Chair and Members of the Economic Development Board approve utilizing up to \$25,000 of its budget towards the Housing Communications Campaign.

CARRIED

9.4. Terms of Reference Review and Update (presented by Vicki Lass)

Moved by: Warden McNeil and Seconded by: Member Bax

THAT:

The Chair and Members of the Economic Development Board receive the report titled Terms of Reference Review and Update, by Vicki Lass, Economic Development Director, dated October 5, 2023 for information;

AND FURTHER THAT

The Chair and Members of the Economic Board accept the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference as discussed on October 5, 2023 that the number of meetings be changed from a minimum of 8 meetings per year to a minimum of 6 meetings per year, and the timing of these meetings be as follows:

- January
- March
- May
- July
- October
- November.

CARRIED

9.5. Economic Development Dept August 2023 Report (presented by Vicki Lass)

Moved by: Member Heffer and Seconded by: Member Ginn

THAT:

The Economic Development Board receives the report by Vicki Lass, Economic Development Director, dated October 5, 2023, titled Economic Development Department August 2023 Update, as presented for information.

CARRIED

10. Financial Statements:

10.1. The Draft Financial Statements for the month ending August 31, 2023 were reviewed.

Moved by: Member Oud and Seconded by: Member Bax

THAT:

The draft financial statements for the month ending August 31, 2023 be received.

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CARRIED

11. Closed to the Public Session: None.

12. Future Meeting Topics:

- Member Oud put forward the idea of connecting with communities and inspiring them to explore our offerings during the quieter off-peak seasons. In response, Director Lass shared that the department is actively exploring ways to spotlight hosting opportunities during the shoulder months, specifically tailoring promotions to resonate with cultural groups hosting events and celebrations during that period.

13. Next Meeting:

There was discussion regarding the November meeting and conflicting schedules. Director Lass recommended that members attend the Working Group meeting for the purpose of strengthening public-private partnership were multiple organizations and speakers will be presenting scheduled for November 27, 2023 at 11:30 AM.

Moved by: Member Bax and Seconded by: Westley

THAT:

The next meeting of the Huron County Economic Development Board be rescheduled from November 2, 2023 to November 27, 2023 at 11:30 AM.

CARRIED

14. Adjournment:

Moved by: Member Heffer and Seconded by: Warden McNeil

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board meeting adjourn at 11:53 AM.

CARRIED

Chair Bryan Vincent