

County of Huron  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, January 11, 2024 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 January 11, 2024 at 57 Napier Street in Goderich.

Members of the Board present: Bryan Vincent, Jim Ginn, Jamie Heffer, Lynne Harris, Glen McNeil (arrived at 9:51AM), Tina Bax, Jason Oud, and Derek Van Dieten. Members of the Board absent: John Kiser and Frances Westley.

Staff present: Director of Economic Development Vicki Lass, Chief Administrative Officer Meighan Wark (arrived at 9:46 AM) and Director of Legislative Services/ County Clerk Susan Cronin

**1. Chair Vincent called the Huron County Economic Development Board meeting to order at 9:01 AM.**

**2. Approval of Agenda:**

Moved by Member Ginn and Seconded by Member Bax

THAT:

The Economic Development Board Agenda for January 11, 2024 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 Harris and Seconded by: Member Heffer

THAT:

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

CARRIED

**5. Presentations/Delegations: None.**

**6. Opening Comments and Updates from the Chair:**

Chair Vincent informed members that he had a request from the Town of Goderich to support the historic Avro Lancaster return flight to Goderich Airport in celebration of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of retirement to be held on June 14, 2024. The Goderich Regional Airport Committee is requesting the Board support this event in principle.

Moved by: Member Ginn and Seconded by: Member Bax

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The Huron County Economic Development Board support the Goderich Regional Airport Committee request for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Avro Lancaster return flight to the Goderich Airport to be held on June 14, 2024 in principle.

CARRIED

Chair Vincent congratulated Eddington's of Exeter, owned by James Eddington, for being included on Open Table's list of the top 100 restaurants in Canada.

Chair Vincent stated that the Eat Local Huron was recognized with the Excellence in Agricultural Awards by OMAFRA in the Agri Food Promotional Excellence division.

Chair Vincent informed members that the Recruitment Committee will be looking to fill the vacancy on the committee. He also asked if any members were unable to continue in their term, they should notify the Director as they commence the process.

Warden McNeil recognized the Economic Development Department on the success of the transition and succession plan workshop.

**7. Board Member Comments:**

Member Kiser, via Director Lass, would like to discuss the meeting times as he is having difficulty making the day meetings.

Member Bax asked if the Visitor's Guide 2024 was going to be produced again. Staff stated that it was being produced in an updated format.

**8. Correspondence:** None.

**9. New Business and / or Unfinished Business:**

9.1. Department Monthly Update (presented by Vicki Lass)

Moved by: Member Van Dieten and Seconded by: Member Bax

THAT:

The Chair and Members of the Economic Development Board receives the report by Vicki Lass, Economic Development Director, dated January 11, 2024, titled Economic Development Department November 2023 Update, as presented for information.

CARRIED

9.2. Starter Company Plus Graduates Access to Funding (presented by Vicki Lass)

Moved by: Member Bax and Seconded by: Member Ginn

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The Chair and Members of the Economic Development Board receive the report by Vicki Lass, Economic Development Director, dated January 11, 2024, titled Starter Company Plus Graduates Access to Funding for information.

CARRIED

9.3. Small Business Enterprise Center Letters of Support (presented by Vicki Lass)

Moved by: Warden McNeil and Seconded by: Member Heffer

THAT:

The Chair and Members of the Economic Development Board receives the report by Vicki Lass, Economic Development Director, dated January 11, 2024, titled Small Business Enterprise Center Letters of Support for information.

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Board directs the Chair to send a letter to Minister Fedeli and Minister Thompson on behalf of the Huron County Economic Development Board citing the value and importance of the provincial funding supporting this program and requesting that Small Business Enterprise Center's continue to be funded.

CARRIED

9.4. Workforce Development Update December 2023 (presented by Clara Leney)

Moved by: Member Bax and Seconded by: Member Heffer

THAT:

The Chair and Members of the Economic Development Board receives the report by Clara Leney, Economic Development Coordinator, dated January 11, 2024, titled Workforce Development Update December 2023, as presented for information.

CARRIED

9.5. Huron County Immigration Partnership Contract Renewal Letter of Support (presented by Vicki Lass)

Moved by: Warden McNeil and Seconded by: Member Bax

THAT:

The Chair and Members of the Huron County Economic Development Board receives the report by Vicki Lass, Economic Development Director, dated January 11, 2024, titled Huron County Local Immigration Partnership Contract Renewal Letter of Support for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board directs the Chair to send a letter to Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada on behalf of the Huron County Economic Development Board supporting a response to five-year funding proposal to continue the work of the Immigration Partnership from 2025-2030.

CARRIED

**10. Financial Statements:**

10.1. The Draft Financial Statements for the month ending November 30, 2023 were reviewed.

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Moved by: Member Ginn and Seconded by: Member Van Dieten

THAT:

The draft financial statements for the month ending November 30, 2023 be received.

CARRIED

**11. Closed to the Public Session:** None.

**12. Future Meeting Topics:**

- Recruitment Committee Report
- Presentation/Delegation by Jim Lynn, John Marshall

**13. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Huron County Economic Development Board will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 9:00 AM.

**14. Adjournment:**

Moved by: Member Heffer and Seconded by: Member Lynn

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board meeting adjourn at 10:34 AM.

CARRIED

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Chair Bryan Vincent