

County of Huron
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 7, 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 March 7, 2024 at 57 Napier Street in Goderich.

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

Staff present: Director of Economic Development Vicki Lass, 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 9:01 AM.

2. Approval of Agenda:

As quorum would only be maintained for a short time the board only dealt the following items of the agenda. All other items will be considered at the next meeting. Items considered: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9.3, 9.5, 10, 11, 13, 14.

Moved by Member Heffer and Seconded by Member Ginn

THAT:

The Economic Development Board Agenda for March 7, 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 Bax and Seconded by: Member Ginn

THAT:

The minutes of the Huron County Economic Development Board meeting of January 1, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Presentations/Delegations: None.

6. Opening Comments and Updates from the Chair:

Chair Vincent informed members that he received correspondence from the Goderich Port Authority requesting a letter of support by the Board for a proposed expansion project. There was no financial request, just to support the project in principle.

Moved by: Member Ginn and Seconded by: Warden McNeil

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THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board send a letter of support to the Goderich Port Authority for the proposed expansion project as an economic benefit to Huron County.

CARRIED

Member Bax congratulated Warden McNeil on his award from Bruce Power.

7. Board Member Comments: None.

8. Correspondence: None.

9. New Business and / or Unfinished Business:

9.1. Posting of Council, Committee, Board Meeting Recordings (presented by Susan Cronin)

Report deferred to next meeting.

9.2. Economic Developers Council of Ontario Bright Ideas Competition (presented by Brittany Wise)

Report deferred to next meeting.

9.3. 2023 SLED Final Report and 2024 Objectives (presented by Rick Sickinger)

Moved by: Member Ginn and Seconded by: Member Bax

THAT:

The Chair and Members of the Economic Development Board receive the report by Rick Sickinger, EDO, dated March 7, 2024, titled 2023 SLED Final Report and 2024 objectives, for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Economic Development Board approves maintaining the same objectives for the 2024 SLED program, which are as follows:

The project focuses on Huron County and achieves one of the priorities from THRIVE 2022-2025 Economic Development Strategic Plan:

Re-engagement, education, attraction and/or retention of workforce;

Impacts business districts and/or key sectors;

Advances community development and/or tourism sector development;

Projects focused on youth and/or newcomers building a stronger sense of community;

Prepares for investment attraction.

CARRIED

9.4. Budget Update (presented by Vicki Lass)

Report deferred to next meeting.

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9.5. Housing Working Group Update (presented by Natasha Gaudio Harrison)

Moved by: Member Bax and Seconded by: Warden McNeil

THAT:

The Chair and Members of the Economic Development Board receive the report by Natasha Gaudio Harrison, dated March 7, 2024, titled Housing Working Group Update for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Board pause the activities of the Housing Working Group once the Housing Communications Video campaign project is launched and complete.

CARRIED

9.6. Board Member Roles 2024 (presented by Vicki Lass)

Report deferred to next meeting.

9.7. Economic Development Departmental Update, December 2023 (presented by Vicki Lass)

Report deferred to next meeting.

9.8. Economic Development Department January 2024 Report (presented by Vicki Lass)

Report deferred to next meeting.

9.9. 2023 Tourism Annual Report (presented by Rick Sickinger)

Report deferred to next meeting.

9.10. EDCO Memberships for Board Members (presented by Vicki Lass)

Report deferred to next meeting.

10. Financial Statements:

10.1. Financial Statements: Year-end statements are in progress and currently not available.

11. Closed to the Public Session: None.

12. Future Meeting Topics:

13. Next Meeting:

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

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14. Adjournment:

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

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board meeting adjourn at 9:38 AM.

CARRIED

Chair Bryan Vincent