

County of Huron
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 25, 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 April 25, 2024 at 57 Napier Street in Goderich.

Members of the Board present: Bryan Vincent, Jim Ginn, Jamie Heffer (arrived at 9:10 AM), Glen McNeil, Tina Bax, Lynne Harris, Jason Oud and Derek Van Dieten. Members of the Board absent: None. Members John Kiser and Frances Westley have resigned.
Staff present: Director of Economic Development Vicki Lass and Director of Legislative Services/ County Clerk Susan Cronin. Staff absent: Chief Administrative Officer Meighan Wark.

1. Chair Vincent called the Huron County Economic Development Board meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Moved by Member Ginn and Seconded by Member Van Dieten

THAT:

The Economic Development Board Agenda for April 25, 2024 be approved as presented.

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: Warden McNeil and Seconded by: Member Bax

THAT:

The minutes of the Huron County Economic Development Board meeting of March 7, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Presentations/Delegations: None.

6. Opening Comments and Updates from the Chair:

Chair Vincent introduced Chris Watson, Economic Development Officer. Chair Vincent stated that Vice Chair John Kiser has submitted his resignation due to work commitments. A thank you letter will be sent on behalf of the board.

Moved by: Member Ginn and Seconded by: Member Bax

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board appoint Member Lynn Harris as Vice Chair of the Huron County Economic Development Board.

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Chair Vincent stated that Member Frances Westley has submitted her resignation due to commitments. Member Westley also received the Award of Canada. A thank you letter and congratulatory letter will be sent on behalf of the board.

7. Board Member Comments:

Warden McNeil stated that he was approached by a consultant regarding transit in Huron County. An initial discussion has been held with a consultant, Economic Development staff, and Town of Goderich. Director Lass stated there is money in the budget for a feasibility study and further information will be presented to the board.

8. Correspondence: None.

9. New Business and / or Unfinished Business:

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

Moved by: Warden McNeil and Seconded by: Member Van Dieten

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board receive the report by Susan Cronin, Director of Legislative Services/County Clerk dated April 25, 2024 titled Posting of Council, Committee, Board Meeting Recordings as presented for information.

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

Moved by: Warden McNeil and Seconded by: Member Ginn

THAT:

The Chair and Members of the Economic Development Board receive the report by Brittany Wise, Manager Small Business Enterprise Centre, dated April 25, 2024, titled Economic Developer's Council of Ontario, Bright Ideas Competition, for information.

CARRIED

9.3. Budget Update (presented by Vicki Lass)

Moved by: Member Ginn and Seconded by: Member Harris

THAT:

The Chair and Members of the Economic Development Board receive the report by Vicki Lass, Economic Development Director, dated April 25, 2024, titled Budget Update, for information.

CARRIED

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

Moved by: Member Bax and Seconded by: Member Harris

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The Chair and Members of the Economic Development Board receive the report by Vicki Lass, Economic Development Director, dated April 25, 2024, titled Board Member Roles 2024, for information.

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Economic Development Board approve individual board members for these roles including SLED judges, Working Group memberships, and Starter Company Plus 2024 judge.

CARRIED

- 9.5. Economic Development Departmental Update, December 2023 (presented by Vicki Lass)
- 9.6. Economic Development Department Update, January 2024 Report (presented by Vicki Lass)
- 9.7. Economic Development Departmental Update, February 2024 (presented by Vicki Lass)
- 9.8. Economic Development Departmental Update, March 2024 (presented by Vicki Lass)

Moved by: Member Ginn 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 April 25, 2024, titled Economic Development December 2023, January, February and March 2024 Update, as presented for information.

CARRIED

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

Moved by: Member Harris and Seconded by: Member Heffer

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board receive the EDCO Memberships for Board Members Report by Vicki Lass, Economic Development Director, dated April 25, 2024, as presented for information.

AND FURTHER THAT:

The following members be appointed to listed working groups:

Selection Committee – Chair Vincent, Warden McNeil, CAO Wark, Director Lass

Workforce / Housing - Frances Westley, Derek Van Dieten and Planning Department

Clean Energy Investment Attraction – Bryan Vincent, Jamie Heffer, Jim Ginn

Business Transitions – Important –Tina Bax, Derek Van Dieten, Glenn McNeil and Bryan Vincent

SLED Judging Panel – Lynn Harris and Bryan Vincent

Starter Co Plus Judge – Tina Bax

CARRIED

- 9.10. Economic Development Department 2023 Annual Report (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 April 25, 2024, titled Economic Development Department 2023 Annual Report, as presented for information.

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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:

- Board Recruitment
- Succession Planning

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.

14. Adjournment:

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

THAT:

The Huron County Economic Development Board meeting adjourn at 10:28 AM.

CARRIED

Chair Bryan Vincent