

**MINUTES
AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
May 4, 2020**

Present: Jeff Shaver, Gary Albers, Judi Baril, Lisa Severson, Mark Primeau, David Annable, Wendy Onstein, Graham Houze, Doug Malanka, Annette Simonian, Ray Morrison, Myron Belej

1. Call to Order

Chair called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

2. Chair's Opening Remarks

Thank you for working with us to conduct this electronic meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Wendy Onstein and Seconded by Gary Albers

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this committee approves the agenda dated May 4, 2020.

Carried

4. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by David Annable and Seconded by Wendy Onstein

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of this committee dated February 3, 2020 are hereby approved as circulated.

Carried

5. Disclosure of Interest

6.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.

9. Delegations

10. New and Unfinished Business

9.1 Business of the Year

- The committee agreed to wait until July/August to decide if and how we would go ahead with the Business of the year.
- The committee suggested that we might do an announcement, but not have a gathering.
- The committee discussed incorporating a special category that would highlight businesses that reinvented themselves during this crisis.
- It was suggested that we do write ups of companies that have restricted or retooled to continue to support the community during this time. David Annable offered to assist Myron with finding companies that would be a good story.

9.2 COVID-19 Township response

9.2.1 What are we doing?

The UCLG conducted a survey of area businesses on how they are coping with the Covid crisis and how can we help. Of the businesses surveyed, 75-80% said they were struggling, but coping. Myron called all the businesses that were surveyed from Augusta. The committee suggested that it would probably be worth reaching out to them again soon to see if anything has changed.

9.2.2 What more should we be doing?

The committee suggested that it would be good to reach out to every business in Augusta. It would be difficult because we do not require businesses to register, therefore we have no master list. Committee suggested we put pressure on the government to start opening things to get the economy rolling again. Even when businesses start operating again, it will take a long time for people to be comfortable with going out to businesses, it will take time to build confidence again.

9.3 Industrial Park & Corridor Commission Update

- At the Corridor meeting the board discussed what their role might be during Covid-19. They were willing to help reach out to see what aid can be given to help existing businesses survive.

9.4 Roundtable

- the Prescott Journal has offered a discounted advertising page to the Township. The space will be offered to area businesses free of charge.
- The LGSBEC is providing free webinars
- Not for profits and charities are hurting during this time, the township is offering financial assistance where it can.
- EORN has issued the RFP for cellular network.
- COVID has pushed the network to the extreme and has proven the need for more funds for better connectivity.
- LG Approved has created a webpage for small businesses that breaks down COVID information in easy to read language.
- Curling Club is trying to restructure how it will continue with the distancing rules.
- OMAFRA funds are available for agri businesses. The township is trying to coordinate a farmer's market.
- The Ministry is approaching certain businesses asking how they think they can rollout safety practices to reopen safely.

10. Next Meeting – Monday June 1, 2020 at 1:30pm

11. Adjournment

Moved by Mark Primeau and Seconded by Lisa Severson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Committee does now adjourn at 2:55p.m until June 1 June 1, 2020 or until the call of the Chair subject to need.

Carried