

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

## Economic Development Committee

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

An Economic Development Committee was held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Wednesday October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Present was Chair Doug Humphries, Councillor Tom Webster, and Mayor Bennett. Public Advisory Members present were Debbie Grantham, Laurie Wichers-Schreur and Jeff Scott. Staff present was Hope Dillabough, CAO/Clerk and Shane Lambert, Community Liaison Officer.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Humphries called the Meeting to Order at 4:00 pm.

The Public Advisory Members introduced themselves and provided a brief history of their experience and interest in Economic Development.

### 2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

CAO/Clerk Hope Dillabough reviewed for the Committee members what a Declaration of Pecuniary Interest means.

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest by Members of the Committee or Staff.

### 3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN HORTON – BRAINSTORM SESSION

Chair Humphries reviewed what all has been done thus far in terms of economic development. Lists of businesses within the Township have been developed and reviewed along with the development of a survey to provide to local businesses for input.

There was some discussion regarding commercial and/or industrial property set aside for development. Mayor Bennett reviewed the information pertaining to the Official Plan for Horton which implements a large quantity of properties deemed agriculture which precludes a lot of development happening within the Township. It was discussed that some of the existing businesses that are zoned properly and not in the Agriculture OP area do have the opportunity to expand their business if desired. Chair Humphries suggested it may help to have a section on the website detailing lots/properties for sale within Horton.

Both Chair Humphries and Community Liaison Officer Shane Lambert felt that business retention is key at this point. Thus, the Committee should work with existing businesses now and review what they need to maintain and potentially expand. Discussion occurred regarding the benefits that would arise by getting all of the existing business owners together to network. A newcomer's night was also briefly discussed.

Councillor Webster felt that a business directory should be created and found on the website. Additional information such as number of residents, business, lots for sale etc.. should be compiled and provided for as information listed on the website also. He stressed the importance of being proactive, rather than reactive. Chair Humphries and Mr. Lambert are to review and provide a more detailed background of existing businesses as well as details of the Township to provide to newcomers, perhaps as a promotional document.

The Committee would like to see a map of the 417 expansion. Staff will try to find something to provide to the Committee.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**9. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next Committee Meeting will be November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

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CHAIR Doug Humphries

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CAO/Clerk Hope Dillabough