

Wingham BIA Board Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2020 @ 6:30pm by Video Conference Call

Members Present:

Ryan Fergusson - The Co-operators
Lisa Hearnden - Foxton Fuels
Doug Kuyvenhoven - Wingham Super Storage
Annette Monsma - Annette's Treasures Galore
Jason Schiestel - Petropolis
Trevor Seip - North Huron Council Representative
Jim Snyder - Snyder Concepts
Dave Tiffin - Freedom 55 Financial

Members Absent:

Jordan Hodgins

Others Present:

Brett Bauer - Bauer Lawn Services
Alicia Dietner - The 2 Step
Bill George / Ashley Vandervelde - Bilbo Bongins
Paul Heffer - Township of North Huron Councillor
Marla Valdez - The Gift Chest

1. Call to Order

Chair Kuyvenhoven called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

2. Welcome

Kuyvenhoven welcomed all participants to the video conference call board meeting. Kuyvenhoven explained the official rules and procedures to be followed by all participants during the electronic meeting.

3. Public Input (Opportunity for guests to speak up to 2 minutes on any agenda item)

None noted.

4. Approval of the Agenda

No changes made to the draft agenda.

5. Approval of Previous Minutes

5.1. Approval of BIA AGM minutes - Feb 20, 2020

Moved by: L. Hearnden

Seconded by: J. Schiestel

THAT the Wingham BIA Board hereby adopts the minutes of the February 20, 2020 Wingham BIA AGM Meeting; as presented.

For (8): J. Snyder, D. Kuyvenhoven, J. Schiestel, L. Hearnden, T. Seip, D. Tiffin, R. Fergusson, A. Monsma

CARRIED (8-0)

5.2. Approval of BIA General Meeting minutes - Mar 5, 2020

Moved by: T. Seip

Seconded by: J. Schiestel

THAT the Wingham BIA Board hereby adopts the minutes of the March 5, 2020 Wingham BIA General Meeting; as presented.

For (8): J. Snyder, D. Kuyvenhoven, J. Schiestel, L. Hearnden, T. Seip, D. Tiffen, R. Fergusson, A. Monsma

CARRIED (8-0)

6. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

7. Financials

7.1. Financial Statements - Jason Schiestel

Board Member Schiestel reviewed the financial statements of the Wingham BIA. Schiestel read the cheques written since the last board meeting.

7.2. Cheques Written - approval

Moved by: L. Hearnden

Seconded by: J. Snyder

THAT the Wingham BIA Board hereby approves the cheques written since the March 5, 2020 Board Meeting.

For (8): J. Snyder, D. Kuyvenhoven, J. Schiestel, L. Hearnden, T. Seip, D. Tiffen, R. Fergusson, A. Monsma

CARRIED (8-0)

7.3. Accounts Receivable Review

Accounts Receivable was reviewed by the Board.

8. COVID-19 Crisis

8.1. Government Assistance Programs for Businesses

Chair Kuyvenhoven discussed the Government Assistance Programs for Businesses that are currently available. This included a discussion of: the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA), the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA), the Rural Business and Communities through Community Futures Huron, and Small and Medium Size Businesses funding.

The following was noted about each Government Assistance Program: The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) pays 75% of employee's wages to the employer to avoid laying off their employees due to COVID-19.

The Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) is a \$40,000 interest free loan of which \$10,000 is forgivable. To qualify for this loan, businesses must have a minimum \$20,000 payroll in 2019.

The Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program allows 50% of commercial rent to be paid by the government, while 25% is paid by the landlord and 25% paid by the tenant.

Community Futures has received enhanced resources to help local businesses deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. \$287 million has been made available through Community Futures for rural businesses and communities.

For small and medium size businesses unable to access other support measures, \$675 million has been made available through FedDev.

8.2. Reopening Businesses

It was noted that Board Member Tiffin has sent out mailchimp emails to BIA members with links and information from Huron County Economic Development on reopening businesses.

8.3. Huron County Recovery Team - Trina Huffman

Trina Huffman, County of Huron reported on the stages of work of the Huron County Recovery Team. It was noted that stage one is to update a directory by making approximately 4,000 calls to businesses while in stage 2, organizations will be getting resources out of the surveys. Board Member Seip explained that the North Huron municipal recovery team is working to get on the same page and coordinate with Huron County Economic Development.

8.4. COVID-19 Assistant for Small Retailers - Marla Valdez

Marla Valdez noted how there was not much assistance available for small businesses that do not qualify for support under any of the other categories.

9. BIA Committees & Liaisons

9.1. Retail Committee - Jordan Hodgins

Board Member Hodgins was unable to attend the meeting.

It was noted that the Board needs to set up a virtual meeting with the retailers and discuss how to reopen, and potentially develop a promotion with a passport to shop in Wingham. Kuyvenhoven will follow up with a mailchimp to organize a Zoom meeting with the retailers.

9.2. Radio Ads - Jordan Hodgins

Board Member Hodgins was unable to attend the meeting.

9.3. Curb Appeal - Doug Kuyvenhoven

Chair Kuyvenhoven provided the following updates: BIA flower baskets are at the greenhouse and will be back after May 25th; Lamp Post flower baskets were

suspended by Council for 2020; and Canada Flags have been ordered and the Township will hopefully be able put them up in early June.

9.4. Communications - Dave Tiffin

Board Member Tiffin noted that he will continue to keep updating the website. Tiffin also noted that businesses should register with Grey-Bruce-Huron Power Strong to promote their business and explained that the Digital Main Street website is still running and contains a wealth of information for businesses.

9.5. Economic Development - Dave Tiffin or Jordan Hodgins

It was noted that the North Huron Economic Development Committee is suspended at this time.

9.6. Branding Wingham for Music - Doug Kuyvenhoven

Chair Kuyvenhoven explained that this has been suspended at this time.

9.7. NH Museum Committee - Doug Kuyvenhoven

Chair Kuyvenhoven commented that this Committee is suspended at this time due to COVID-19.

9.8. Wingham Community Connectors - Dave Tiffin

It was noted that there has been a continuation of posting updates. Tiffin explained that the Video Show and Volunteer Fair have both been postponed.

9.9. Wingham Farmers Market - Jim Snyder

Board Member Snyder commented that the Wingham Farmers Market will be cancelled for this year.

9.10. Musical Muskrat Festival - Jason Schiestel

Board Member Schiestel noted that the Festival has been cancelled.

9.11. Festival of Lanterns - Lisa Hearden

Board Member Hearden explained that it will be decided closer to the Festival date if the event will still run.

9.12. Wingham Town Hall - Doug Kuyvenhoven

Chair Kuyvenhoven commented that all events are cancelled for the year except the Elvis Christmas concert and dinner at the Knights of Columbus which will hopefully be able to proceed.

10. Other Business

10.1. LED Sign at Tim Hortons Corner - Doug Kuyvenhoven

Chair Kuyvenhoven commented that the recommendation from 2 of the 3 vendors is that the sign be placed where the 'Welcome to Wingham' sign is currently located.

Kuyvenhoven explained that the 'Welcome to Wingham' sign would be the default display on the LED sign and if there are other events to promote in Wingham, they could alternate with the Welcome to Wingham graphic. Board Member Snyder suggested that the letters from the old sign should be used somewhere else in the community.

10.2. Gemstone Closure

It was noted that Gemstone has closed down their business and has moved to Goderich.

11. Elections for Executive Positions

2019 Chair Kuyvenhoven conducted the election for Executive Officers on the Wingham BIA Board for the 2020 term.

11.1. Nominations for Chair

Chair Kuyvenhoven called for nominations for the Office of Chair.

Board Member Dave Tiffin nominated Board Member Kuyvenhoven. Kuyvenhoven accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received.

Moved by: D. Tiffin

Seconded by: J. Snyder

THAT the Wingham BIA hereby appoints Board Member Kuyvenhoven to the Office of Chairperson for the year of 2020.

For (8): J. Snyder, D. Kuyvenhoven, J. Schiestel, L. Hearnden, T. Seip, D. Tiffen, R. Fergusson, A. Monsma

CARRIED (8- 1)

11.2. Nominations for Vice-Chair

Chair Kuyvenhoven called for nominations for the Office of Vice-Chair.

Board Member Dave Tiffin nominated Board Member Hearnden. Hearnden accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received.

Moved by: D. Tiffin

Seconded by: J. Snyder

THAT the Wingham BIA hereby appoints Board Member Hearnden to the Office of Vice-Chairperson for the year of 2020.

For (8): J. Snyder, D. Kuyvenhoven, J. Schiestel, L. Hearnden, T. Seip, D. Tiffen, R. Fergusson, A. Monsma

CARRIED (8- 1)

11.3. Nominations for Treasurer

Chair Kuyvenhoven called for nominations for the Office of Treasurer.

Kuyvenhoven nominated Board Member Schiestel. Schiestel accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received.

Moved by: J. Snyder

Seconded by: D. Tiffin

THAT the Wingham BIA hereby appoints Board Member Schiestel to the Office of Treasurer for the year of 2020.

For (8): J. Snyder, D. Kuyvenhoven, J. Schiestel, L. Hearnden, T. Seip, D. Tiffen, R. Fergusson, A. Monsma

CARRIED (8-0)

11.4. Nominations for Secretary

Chair Kuyvenhoven called for nominations for the Office of Secretary.

Board Member Hearnden nominated Board Member Monsma. Monsma accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received

Moved by: R. Fergusson

Seconded by: J. Schiestel

THAT the Wingham BIA hereby appoints Board Member Monsma to the Office of Secretary for the year of 2020.

For (8): J. Snyder, D. Kuyvenhoven, J. Schiestel, L. Hearnden, T. Seip, D. Tiffen, R. Fergusson, A. Monsma

CARRIED (8-0)

12. Next BIA General & Board Meetings - TBA.

Board Member Tiffin will develop a Facebook notice and mailchimp explaining that there will be no general meetings during COVID-19. It was noted that the notice will explain that businesses are encouraged to email if they have something to discuss.

13. Motion to Adjourn


Moved by: J. Schiestel

Seconded by: J. Snyder


THAT there being no further business before the Wingham BIA Board, the meeting be hereby adjourned at 8:22pm.

For (8): J. Snyder, D. Kuyvenhoven, J. Schiestel, L. Hearnden, T. Seip, D. Tiffen, R. Fergusson, A. Monsma

CARRIED (8-0)



Doug Kuyvenhoven, Chair



Annette Monsma, Secretary