

The Corporation of the  
Township of Billings  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

March 3, 2020

Park Centre, Upper

**PRESENT:** Mayor Ian Anderson, Councillors Sharon Alkenbrack, Bryan Barker, Michael Hunt and Sharon Jackson

Staff: Floyd Becks, Public Works Superintendent; Megan Bonenfant, Deputy Clerk, Todd Gordon, Economic Development Officer; Kathy McDonald, CAO/Clerk

Media: Tom Sasvari

Members of the General Public

Regrets: none

**1. Opening of Meeting**

**2020-67 Barker – Hunt**

BE IT RESOLVED that this regular meeting of council be opened with a quorum present at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Anderson presiding.

Carried

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**2020-68 Alkenbrack – Jackson**

BE IT RESOLVED that the agenda for the March 3, 2020 regular meeting of council be accepted as amended.

Carried

An additional item was added to the agenda as 12 a) closed session for an item involving personal matters about identifiable individuals.

**3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

Councillor Hunt declared as follows: "I, Councillor Michael Hunt declare a potential pecuniary interest on Agenda item No. 11(6157) Item Title Accounts for Payment for the following reason: I am the Postmaster where postage was purchased".

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

**2020-69 Jackson – Barker**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts the minutes of the February 12, 2020, special meeting as presented.

Carried

**2020-70 Hunt – Jackson**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts the minutes of the February 20, 2020, regular meeting as presented.

Carried

**5. Delegations**

There were no delegations presented.

**6. Committee Reports**

Councillor Barker reported on the January 29, 2020, Rebranding Committee meeting.

Mayor Anderson reported on the February 19, 2020, Manitoulin Municipal Association meeting.

Councillor Jackson reported on the February 24, 2020, Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee meeting.

**7. Old Business**

**a) By-law 2020-08 to authorize tourist information centre operations agreement**

**2020-71 Alkenbrack – Hunt**

BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 2020-08, being a by-law to enter into an agreement with the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands *et. al.*, be given first, second, third reading and enacted.

Carried

**b) Western Manitoulin Community Network economic development priorities**

The EDO presented updated materials (appended to these minutes) which included a synopsis of public input received and his recommendations for priorities to forward to the WMCN. Council reached consensus to defer the matter until the March 16 regular meeting to allow council more time to reflect on the information provided.

**c) FONOM conference 2020**

**2020-72 Hunt – Barker**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council authorizes Councillor Alkenbrack to attend the 2020 FONOM conference in Timmins, May 13-15, 2020.

Carried

**8. New Business**

**a) Drinking water system financial plan 2021-2027**

**2020-73 Alkenbrack – Barker**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council approves the Township of Billings Water System Financial Plan 2021-2027 as presented.

Carried

**b) Transition of Blue Box to full producer responsibility**

**2020-74 Jackson – Barker**

WHEREAS the amount of single-use plastics leaking into our lakes, rivers and waterways is a growing area of public concern; and,

WHEREAS reducing the waste we generate and reincorporating valuable resources from our waste stream into new goods can reduce GHGs significantly; and,

WHEREAS the transition to full producer responsibility for packaging, paper and paper products is a critical step in reducing waste, improving recycling and driving better economic and environmental outcomes; and,

WHEREAS the move to a circular economy is a global movement, and the transition of Blue Box programs to full producer responsibility would go a long way towards this outcome; and,

WHEREAS the Township of Billings is supportive of a timely, seamless, and successful transition of Blue Box programs to full financial and operational responsibility by producers of packaging, paper and paper products; and,

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has requested municipal governments with Blue Box programs to provide an indication of the best date to transition our Blue Box program to full producer responsibility;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Township of Billings would like to transition their Blue Box program to full producer responsibility as of January 1, 2023; and

THAT this decision is based on the following rationale:

- We currently do not have a contract with our Blue Box collection service provider and can therefore transition at any time without financial penalty; and,

THAT the Township of Billings would be interested in providing a collection depot service to Producers should we be able to arrive at mutually agreeable commercial terms.

Carried

**c) Manitoulin Streams NOHFC application support**

**2020-75 Hunt – Jackson**

BE IT RESOLVED that:

- Council supports Manitoulin Streams funding application to the NOHFC for various restoration projects throughout Manitoulin; and,
- Should Manitoulin Streams be successful in their application, Council commits to supporting the Kagawong River projects financially in the amount of \$2,500 per year for three years; and,
- Council directs staff to prepare a letter of support for Manitoulin Streams to include with their application.

Carried

**d) Blue Sky Net request for support**

**2020-76 Alkenbrack – Barker**

WHEREAS access to affordable and reliable broadband networks is an important part of everyday life and key to economic, education, social and health development; and, WHEREAS communities outside urban centres face challenges in accessing internet service levels comparable to those in cities due to factors such as low population, distance and challenging terrain; and, WHEREAS we believe future ICT infrastructure investment in our community would benefit from a holistic model that takes into account the connectivity needs of regional community partnerships rather than just one community; and, WHEREAS this regional partnership should begin with a comprehensive needs analysis conducted by Blue Sky Net, a publicly-funded non-profit development corporation using their expertise and data-based mapping tool (BAIMAP – Broadband and Associated Infrastructure Mapping Analysis Project); and, WHEREAS, from the analysis and public consultation Blue Sky Net will conduct, it will be determined where internet gaps remain while also acknowledging what may be the best technology to fill these gaps based on access to the closest ICT infrastructure like fibre or other existing network infrastructure; and, WHEREAS, once we determine priority areas, we propose establishing three classes of gaps:

- (1) Gaps in fibre/backbone infrastructure
- (2) Gaps in last mile/local access to businesses and residents; and,
- (3) Gaps in access in remote/very isolated areas; and,

WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments are proposing funding programs that will support the implementation of broadband projects and will require this in-depth information;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Billings supports Blue Sky Net leading a steering committee to which a representative from the Township of Billings will be appointed, and that Blue Sky Net work with this committee during the period of analysis, funding application and any subsequent RFP engagement.

Carried

**e) By-law 2020-09 to authorize transfer payment agreement**

**2020-77 Alkenbrack – Hunt**

BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 2020-09, being a by-law to enter into an agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of Ontario, as represented by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, be given first, second, third reading and enacted.

Carried

**f) Health and Safety contract**

**2020-78 Alkenbrack – Barker**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council supports in principle the continuation of the joint contract with the municipality of Central Manitoulin for a Health and Safety Coordinator.

Carried

**g) Climate Action Committee appointments**

Recorded votes as per Procedure By-law to select appointees:

Bob Clifford

<u>Recorded Vote:</u>	For	Against
Alkenbrack, Sharon	X	
Anderson, Ian	X	
Barker, Bryan	X	
Hunt, Michael	X	
Jackson, Sharon	X	

Sandy Cook

<u>Recorded Vote:</u>	For	Against
Alkenbrack, Sharon		X
Anderson, Ian	X	
Barker, Bryan	X	
Hunt, Michael		X
Jackson, Sharon		X

Paul Darlaston

<u>Recorded Vote:</u>	For	Against
Alkenbrack, Sharon	X	
Anderson, Ian	X	
Barker, Bryan	X	
Hunt, Michael		X
Jackson, Sharon	X	

Barb Erskine

<u>Recorded Vote:</u>	For	Against
Alkenbrack, Sharon		X
Anderson, Ian		X
Barker, Bryan		X
Hunt, Michael	X	
Jackson, Sharon		X

John Hoekstra

<u>Recorded Vote:</u>	For	Against
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Alkenbrack, Sharon	X	
Anderson, Ian	X	
Barker, Bryan	X	
Hunt, Michael	X	
Jackson, Sharon	X	

Chris Theijsmeijer

Recorded Vote:	For	Against
Alkenbrack, Sharon		X
Anderson, Ian	X	
Barker, Bryan	X	
Hunt, Michael	X	
Jackson, Sharon	X	

**2020-79 Alkenbrack – Jackson**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council appoints the following persons to the Climate Action Committee: Bob Clifford, Paul Darlaston, John Hoekstra, and Chris Theijsmeijer.

Carried

**h) Newsletter**

Council reached consensus to begin a monthly newsletter.

**9. Correspondence**

**a) Chief of Emergency Management re: 2019 *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* compliance**

No discussion.

**b) Haliburton County re: Tourism Oriented Destination Signage fee increase**

**2020-80 Barker – Jackson**

WHEREAS Council for the Township of Billings has received a request from the County of Haliburton to support their resolution calling for a phasing in of fee increases for Tourism Oriented Destination Signage; and,

WHEREAS Manitoulin businesses rely heavily on this signage to direct customers;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby joins the County of Haliburton in requesting that the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport and Minister of Transportation reconsider or phase in the Tourism Oriented Destination Signage fees increase, allowing an appropriate amount of time for businesses to adjust; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded the County of Haliburton, MPP Michael Mantha, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport and the Minister of Transportation.

Carried

## 10. Information

### **2020-81 Alkenbrack – Hunt**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council received and accepts the 2019 Annual and Summary report on the Kagawong Water System.

Carried

Council received the remaining items listed as information.

## 11. Accounts for Payment

Councillor Hunt declared as follows: “I, Councillor Michael Hunt declare a potential pecuniary interest on Agenda item No. 11(6157) Item Title Accounts for Payment for the following reason: I am the Postmaster where postage was purchased”.

### **2020-82 Alkenbrack – Barker**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council authorizes the following accounts for payment:

General Accounts \$171,665.20

and that cheques number 6155 to 6176 be authorized for signing as described in the attached register.

Carried

## 12. Closed Session

### **2020-83 Hunt – Jackson**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT in accordance with Section 239(2)(b) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* S.O. Chapter 25, this Council proceed to a Closed Session at 8:55 p.m. in order to discuss an item involving personal matters about identifiable individuals.

Carried

Resolution 2020-84 was passed in closed session to accept the minutes of the previous closed meetings.

### **2020-85 Alkenbrack – Hunt**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council move out of Closed Session at 9:36 p.m. and resume their regular, open meeting.

Carried

## 13. Confirming By-Law

### **2020-86 Jackson – Barker**

BE IT RESOLVED that By-law 2020-10, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council be given first, second, third reading and enacted.

Carried

## 14. Adjournment

**2020-87 Barker – Hunt**

BE IT RESOLVED that this regular meeting of council be adjourned at 9:37 p.m. until the next regular meeting on March 16, 2020, or call of the Chair.

Carried

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Ian Anderson, Mayor

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Kathy McDonald, CAO/Clerk

03/04/2020: mb



# Memorandum

To: Council

cc: CAO/Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Treasurer, Administrative Assistant

From: Todd Gordon, EDO

Date: 03.03.2020

***RE: Identifying 3 Economic Development Priorities for the Western Manitoulin Network***

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## **Purpose:**

*(This is a follow-up to the memo and direction by council from the February 20th Council Meeting)* To engage Council in a process to identify 3 economic development priorities that are of interest to The Township of Billings, within the context of our position as a municipality in Western Manitoulin, and as a member of the Western Manitoulin Community Network (WMCN).

## **Background:**

The Western Manitoulin Community Network (WMCN) is just that: A network of Manitoulin municipalities and First Nations with an interest in mutually beneficial economic development. Crudely speaking, the network was established several years ago, and more recently received FedNor funding to hire an Economic Development Officer. Councillor Alkenbrack represents the Township of Billings on the stakeholder committee that is guiding the Network's work through the EDO.

The WMCN EDO, Brad Hawke, and the LAMBAC Community Development Officer, Dianne Newlands, met with myself and our CAO in January to discuss a refocussing of the WMCN efforts, which include better communication with the communities involved (municipal and First Nation) and also a request from each stakeholder to identify economic development priorities that each entity could identify as being important/relevant locally (within their respective communities) but also usefully engaged at the more regional level (Western Manitoulin).

## **Process:**

Council directed me to attempt to solicit ideas from the community/public. To that end, I created a basic explanation along with a request for ideas submission, and the administrative assistant posted this on the municipal website as well as the municipal Facebook page.

We *have* had feedback so far (as of Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>). Not extensive, but good, if I may say so. I include below, paraphrased, abbreviated, and combined if/as appropriate (and anonymous), specific ideas that have been submitted. They are numbered, not for ranking, but for reference. Keep in mind that the goal of this activity was to develop economic development ideas that we, as a municipality are interested in supporting, but are not necessarily pursuing in depth ourselves, and/or simply lend themselves to collaborative regional (Western Manitoulin) approach. I also note here that we gave people until Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> to submit ideas, so if there are

additional appropriate submissions, I will add them at the council meeting. And it is the case that I did receive additional submissions, and I am including them here.

### **Paraphrased and Grouped Ideas as Received:**

I received submissions from 6 respondents. Although the number of *responders* was relatively low, most included a wide array of suggestions, so the total number of ideas generated is impressive. Of course, for this exercise, where we are trying to pass on economic development ideas that might be incorporated as priorities as the WMCN continues to work regionally, it is not up to us to develop advanced concepts or methodologies. In addition, there is a relatively short time for us to pass these along. Therefore, I've done my best to paraphrase and group information. This means of course, that I am not necessarily doing justice to any individual idea presented. My best effort, in a very limited window, is to present the following as a reasonable capture of what was presented.

- Local, practical, research related to tourism/recreation and other sectors, including alternative agriculture and agri-tourism. The idea is to capture what is happening now, locally, with a mind to the greater tourism context in Northern Ontario, Ontario, Canada, and internationally, and to identify existing trends, and ways/means of harbouring the potential locally going forward.
- Increasing the range and diversity of tourism/visitor "experiences," particularly through various "tours": historic, food/beverage, cultural, outdoor activities.
- Shared waste management solutions that contribute to greater waste diversion. Examples include some sort of wood waste processing that would result in wood pelletizing for efficient energy generation, and shared glass processing to
- Western Manitoulin development of alternative energy, including wind and solar.
- Promoting boating, especially sail boating, and promoting getting boaters landside more, and engaged in environmentally friendly activities, or at least those with less environmental impact.
- Promotion, advocacy and support for electric vehicles, including creating a network of EV charging stations across Western Manitoulin. Include development of electric vehicle rental options for visitors, on various scales.
- Promotion, advertising, activities which reinforce the benefits and appeal of living here, or at least spending more quality time on/in Western Manitoulin.
- Creating an island arts, culture, and lifestyle institute, something along the lines of the North House Folk School (Grand Marais, Minnesota) or the Haliburton School of the Arts. These types of development, when they build on local strengths, create very large regional economic impacts, and if done correctly, do so with relatively low environmental impact.
- Create an information portal, promote existing tourism and recreation activities, signage, branding, etc., - a combination of methods what will get existing island visitors to Western Manitoulin, particularly beyond Bridal Veil Falls. Tapping into some significantly increased portion of existing Manitoulin visitors - those who don't get further West - would have a big economic impact.
- Creating an economic climate that supports a greater range and availability of food and accommodation options across Western Manitoulin.

It is worth noting that there are common themes that reveal themselves across these ideas. These include minimizing environmental/ecological impacts; Taking advantage of

trends in eco and low impact tourism and recreation; maximizing positive economic impact from *existing* island visitors; improving the lifestyle and living conditions of residents and promoting the lifestyle benefits to attract permanent residents, and or encourage visitors to spend more time here. I know there are others, and of course, there is, as there should be, and emphasis in all these ideas, on inter municipal, inter-community collaboration.

### **Recommendations:**

The window for this process – gathering public input, has been very short, and exacerbated by the reality that I have been away from the office Thursday through Monday. I think we also have bought a little more time because of the reality that the WMCN has been in the process of advertising for and hiring a new EDO. Therefore, council may wish to defer deciding on priorities to forward to the network.

*However*, since the goal of this exercise is to produce a few (3 or 4) relatively simply articulated priorities to recommend to the WMCN, I make the following recommendations to council, at least as a starting point for council discussion. . . . I welcome questions and further direction from council and the CAO.

My recommendations, currently, are that council recommend, to the WMCU, the following

1. Use the WMCN EDO, with some additional resources, to do some on-the-ground, current, local, practical economic development research. What topics? Certainly, around tourism activity, but there is also opportunity to look at other sectors that are important to this region. Agriculture remains important for example, certainly for many residents, with operations large and small. And there are, increasingly, opportunities (at least in theory) to intersect with tourism and recreation trends and activities. Primary research is expensive. However, it can also be extraordinarily useful. It also doesn't have to be *complex* to be useful, *and* if thought is invested in setting up the methodology initially, these activities can be maintained over time, which lowers the cost, and makes the whole process useful over a longer time-frame, because it can be replicated while the depth of the data grows
2. Engage in a Western Manitoulin tourism and recreation marketing campaign. It needs to be collaborative - as in creating benefit for the whole network AND where possible, working effectively with broader partners like Destination Manitoulin (for example). This can include branding (which respects and compliments the branding of local communities), regional signage, etc. Ideas include creating maps, guides, tours. Again, work with individual communities collaboratively, for the common good, and work with other partners like Destination Manitoulin, MICA, Great Spirit Circle Trail, etc., etc. This also could include approaches, materials that explicitly recognize/incorporate historic, cultural and natural sites, something that western Manitoulin and the island generally, has/have not been particularly coherent in presenting/promoting. In general, there is an opportunity to create an array of interconnected Western Manitoulin "experiences," a hot term/concept in tourism these days.

3. Be the advocate/facilitator for better broadband access for all on Western Manitoulin.

Broadband access is no considered an absolute economic and social development necessity, and yet significant areas of all our Western Manitoulin communities have very limited, and/or very poor-quality Internet access.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Todd Gordon, EDO