



Minutes

Business Economic Support and Recovery Task Force Regular Meeting

December 3, 2020

11:00 am

Video Conference

Click the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzuUpFqxcEI8OG-dOYKteFQ>

Member Present Mayor Strathdee, Councillor Edney, Ed Parkinson, Greg Thompson, Scott Taylor, Sue Griffiths

Member Absent Allan Stewart

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chair Parkinson called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM.

2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None

3. **AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved By Greg Thompson

Seconded By Sue Griffiths

THAT the December 3, 2020 Business Economic Support & Recovery Task Force agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

4. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Moved By Sue Griffiths

Seconded By Greg Thompson

THAT the October 28, 2020 Business Economic Support & Recovery Task Force minutes be accepted as presented.

Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5.1 COVID Relief Fund Update

André Morin provided a verbal report on the outcome of the Business Grant Program that closed last Friday. The Town received 36 applications with a total of \$102,000. The amount requested was oversubscribed of the \$50,000 that Council approved. Staff will provide a full report in January to both Council and the Task Force. Needs varied from PPE, digital enhancements, capital projects, rent and taxes relief and staffing costs.

Of the 36 we have 3 pending further information, 4 that didn't meet the need and 11 have been put on hold. The 11 applications that are put on hold qualify for a future grant that we expect to receive in the coming days.

The next step is to analyze what we received and put forward a report on the outcome of this process, lessons learned and recommendations on how to move forward.

5.2 Tourism and Business Promotion Site project status

Kelly Deeks-Johnson provided a verbal update to the group about the status of the project. The hope it to be able to show a mock-up of the site in January.

6. REPORTS

None

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Snow clearing downtown - Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works

Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works spoke to the group about the Town's service level for snow clearing in the downtown. The snow removal downtown has been a point of discussion annually. Jed Kelly noted the

difficulties with regular removal and the hiring of contractors due to changes in insurance needs.

The Town will explore the possibility of hiring an external resource to help with the downtown snow removal.

7.2 Provincial Budget –changes to commercial small business class

André Morin reviewed the potential changes to the class regulations in the Provincial budget. Staff still don't have all the information regarding this. It is still very new, but the changes would change the amount paid from commercial small businesses.

7.3 2021 Town Budget

André Morin updated the task force on the public budget meetings. Currently the budget is sitting at around a 1% net tax levy increase. We are assuming we will be operating as we are right now with reduced revenues at Town facilities. The budget includes an extra \$100,000 as an extra COVID relief.

Greg Thompson raised the potential to explore buying rapid testing. Town staff will explore this idea.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The preferred is January 20th at 10:00 AM. If needed, we can call a meeting earlier.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Scott Taylor

Seconded By Greg Thompson

THAT the Business Economic Support & Recovery Task Force meeting adjourn at 12:12 PM.

Carried

Chair

Committee Secretary