



Economic Development and Planning Committee Minutes

Thursday, December 5, 2024

3:00 p.m.

LaunchIt Minto

Members Present: Chair Glen Hall, Cameron Green, Amy Heinmiller, Charlene Hofbauer, Jamie Doherty, Mike Hallam, Councillor Judy Dirksen, George Bridge, Mary Lou Colwell,

Staff Present: Belinda Wick-Graham, Director of Economic & Community Development, Erin Raftis, Marketing & Community Development, Wesley Graham, Building Inspector, Gordon Duff, Treasurer

Regrets: Councillor Geoff Gunson, Brian Currie, Shirley Borges, Rob McLaughlin, Kelly Schafer.

1. **Call to Order at 3:02 p.m.**
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
 - a. Minutes of September 5, 2024, Economic Development and Planning Committee

MOTION:

Moved by: Councillor Judy Dirksen Seconded by: Cameron Green

THAT the Economic Development Planning Committee minutes of the September 5, 2024, meeting be approved.

CARRIED.

Wick-Graham provided a staffing update, noting that Caitlyn Turton has left her position as Business Development Coordinator and Raisa Abraham has been hired as the new BDC starting January 2025.

3. **Committee Minutes for Approval**
 - a. Minutes of September 16, 2024, Clifford Connects Steering Committee
 - b. Minutes of September 16, 2024, Harriston Rising Steering Committee
 - c. Minutes of September 18, 2024, All Aboard Palmerston Steering Committee

Raftis reviewed the minutes that are attached as Schedule “A”.

MOTION

Moved by: Mary Lou Colwell Seconded by: Amy Heinmiller

THAT the minutes of the September 16, 2024, Clifford Connects, September 16, 2024, Harriston Rising, and September 18, 2024, All Aboard Palmerston meetings be approved. CARRIED.

4. Roundtable Discussion

- a. January - October 2024 Building and Planning Update

Wesley Graham presented a year-to-date building update.

2024 PERMIT #'s YTD		
PERMIT TYPE	PERMITS ISSUED	DOLLAR VALUE
Single Family Dwelling / Semi	19	\$ 9,109,000.00
Multi-Family Dwelling	-	\$ -
Res. Reno / Addition	19	\$ 1,634,500.00
Accessory Structures	38	\$ 1,362,000.00
Additional Dwelling units	6	\$ 980,100.00
Commercial	11	\$ 946,600.00
Industrial	3	\$ 685,000.00
Institutional	9	\$ 5,356,888.00
Agricultural	35	\$ 7,425,000.00
Sewage Systems	15	\$ 250,000.00
Demolitions	7	\$ 38,000.00
Change of Use	1	\$ 40,000.00
Misc. (Solar, Tent, Retaining Wall)	13	\$ 362,275.00
Total	176	\$ 28,189,363.00

- b. Local Labour Market Update

Charlene Hofbauer provided a labour market update, attached as Schedule “B”.

- c. Review Terms of Reference

The Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference to update for 2025. Wick-Graham shared we are now looking for an agricultural representative, since Rob McLaughlin is stepping off the Committee after many years of service. The Committee recommended the mandate include room for representation from both grain and livestock agriculture. The Terms of Reference will also be updated to reflect our new structure of quarterly meetings with corporate call tours. The final version will be presented at the next meeting in 2025.

d. 2025 Meeting Dates and Corporate Call suggestions

The 2025 meetings are as follows and will take place at the new Launchit location at 39 Elora St. Harriston.

- March 13th
- June 5th
- September 11th
- December 11th

Corporate call suggestions include

- Palmerston Manufacturing
- Minto Agromart
- Well Initiatives
- Pike Lake
- Subdivision Tour (Finoro & Wriighthaven)

e. Committee Member Updates and Question of the Day

George Bridge thanked Wightman Telecom for bringing fibre internet to the rural area.

Charlene Hofbauer shared that the Workforce Planning Board of Waterloo Wellington Dufferin is currently working on the EmployerOne Survey and research on Engaging Youth in the Labour Market. They are also researching the kind of housing needed to accommodate the employment demand in our communities.

Jamie Doherty shared that the Canada Summer Jobs grant is now open. He noted that Hawk's Nest is scheduled for June 18th in Hanover and training sessions are already underway.

Mayor David Turton shared that the Ontario Health Minister was in Palmerston to highlight the Practice Ready Ontario Program that streamlines the process for internationally trained family physicians to practice medicine in rural or northern communities. We are excited to welcome Dr. Luzinga to the Minto Rural Health Centre.

Amy Heinmiller provided stats on housing in Minto.

- Palmerston: 17 active listings, 2 conditional, 8 pending with an average selling price of \$510,000
- Harriston: 19 active listings, 2 conditional, 4 pending, with an average selling price of \$539,000
- Clifford: 10 active listings, 4 conditional, 2 pending, with an average selling price of \$535,000.

Gordon Duff updated on various grant applications currently submitted by the Town of Minto, including applications for the Palmerston Main Street roads and underground systems, Clifford Splash Pad, and Fire Department grants.

Erin Raftis shared that Fire and Ice will now be a Pre-NYE Party on December 29th.

Mike Hallam reported that power outages were costing their company tens of thousands of dollars, and they are investigating solutions.

Mary Lou Colwell shared that the Harriston Legion had an impressive turnout at Remembrance Day. She also thanked the community at large for supporting the Food Banks so effectively this holiday season.

Cameron Green shared that the installation of fibre optic internet in Clifford will be completed in 2025. The company continues to expand fibre to various rural areas and has allocated over \$2 million for rural funding. Green also shared that he enjoyed his involvement in Hanover's HIPP Business Competition, similar to Minto's own Pitchit Competition.

Councillor Dirkson noted an increase in insurance costs for businesses offering snow removal services, which will make it more expensive for those looking to get this service.

Glen Hall reported that his business continues to be busy.

Wick-Graham added that she is almost completed her term as EDCO President and was grateful for the opportunity and experience. She added that the Outdoor Life Show in Clifford is booked for 2025.

Turton added that the high school is hosting a provincial bonspiel in the coming year.

5. Reports

- a. Ratification of Community Improvement Grants approved by Committee via email September 26, 2024, and November 19, 2024

**Moved By: Councillor Judy Dirkson Seconded By: Amy Heinmiller
THAT the Economic Development and Planning Committee ratify the Community Improvement Grants approved by email on September 26, 2024, and November 19, 2024.
CARRIED.**

- b. Facade Grant - 1001027301 Inc, 29 Elora St. N Unit B

**Moved By: Mary Lou Colwell Seconded By: Cameron Green
THAT the Economic Development and Planning Committee approves the Façade Grant – 1001027301 Inc, 29 Elora St. N. Unit B submitted by Shawn and Carloyn LeMay.
CARRIED.**

6. Adjournment at 4:35 p.m.