



Southwold Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 9th, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.
Council Chambers/Webex Meeting

Voting Members

Present: Deputy Mayor Pennings
Councillor John Adzija
Steve Bushell
Barry Harrison
Grayden Laing

Regrets: Michelle Hoffsuemmer
Carolyn Krahn, Manager of Economic Development and Strategic Initiatives

Staff/Resource: Lisa Higgs, CAO/Clerk
Aaron Van Oorspronk, Director of Infrastructure and Development
Tanya Wilson, Elgin Business Resource Centre

1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Pennings called the meeting to order at 8:16 am.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda for the May 9th meeting.

3. Approval of the February 8th Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes as drafted from the February 8th, 2024 meeting.

4. Development and Infrastructure Updates

a. Shedden and Fingal Wastewater Servicing Updates

Mr. VanOorspronk provided an update on the design of the infrastructure for Shedden and Fingal; Dillon is close to the 90% in terms of designing the conveyance system. The Township has also received some concepts for plans of Subdivision in Shedden, with many trending more towards multi-residential building forms.

b. Talbotville EA Addendum Completion & Next Steps

Mr. VanOorspronk updated that the Talbotville EA is complete and the Township is moving forward with additional studies (assimilative capacity and archaeological) to advance the development of the updated WWTP at the new site.

Councillor Adjiza asked questions about the timelines for the WWTP in both Shedden/Fingal & Talbotville with Shedden/Fingal being anticipated to be operational by 2026 and Talbotville may take 18 months – 2 years with the approved EA. Mr. VanOorspronk also spoke to the Township's recent Enabling Housing Water Systems Fund, which is a request for nearly \$30 million to support the WWTP construction in Shedden.

c. Planning Department Personnel

Mr. VanOorspronk updated the Committee that the previous Planner, Danielle Truax has left the municipality. The Township is actively recruiting for a new Planner and using the services of Paul Hicks (County consultant planner) in the interim.

4. Elgin County Updates

Elgin County Manager of Economic Development Carolyn Krahn sent her regrets to the meeting, so the Elgin County updates would be forthcoming at a future meeting.

a. BR & E Status Update

b. Elgin County Tourism Signage Program Update

5. Southwold Business Networking Event Planning

The Committee continued to discuss this opportunity. It was decided that a Dutton Dunwich representative attend the next meeting to determine the scope of the event and whether to invite multiple western Elgin businesses to the event.

6. Items for Sale Strategy

The Committee reviewed the CAO's report on the disposition of municipal signs that contain the Township's previous branding. The Committee determined that

the best mechanism to dispose of the signs was through a public auction hosted via Facebook, culminating in a Live online event hosted by Grayden Laing through Establish Media.

7. Southwold’s 175th Anniversary Planning - 2025

The Committee was excited about the prospect of a Southwold 175 event and proposed that the idea of an EDC Subcommittee be brought forward to Council for their consideration. Staff agreed to bring the recommendation report to Council at their meeting on May 13, 2024.

9. New and Other Business

10. Next Meeting date, time and location

The next meeting was scheduled for June 20th 2024 at 8 am.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 am.

Chairperson, Justin Pennings

Staff Resource, Lisa Higgs