



## Southwold Economic Development Committee

# Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.  
Council Chambers/Webex Meeting**

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

Regrets: Michelle Hoffsuemmer

Staff/Resource: Aaron VanOorspronk, Director of Infrastructure and Development  
Jeff Carswell, CAO/Clerk  
Anne Kleinsteuber, Business Enterprise Facilitator  
Tanya Wilson, Elgin Business Resource Centre

### **1. Call to Order**

Deputy Mayor Pennings called the meeting to order at 8:06 am.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

The Committee approved the agenda for the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting.

### **3. Approval of the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Minutes**

The Committee approved the minutes as drafted from the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting.

### **4. Property Disposals and Acquisitions**

CAO/Clerk Jeff Carswell provided an update on recent property disposals and acquisitions:

- a. Former Shedden

- Firehall sold to Heather Harris (Evelyn's Market) – Closed August 8th
- b. Commercial Plaza to be sold to DHP – To close January 15, 2026
  - c. Township purchased 35369 Fingal Line (immediately west of office) – Closed August 11th

## **5. Development and Infrastructure Updates**

Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, Aaron VanOorspronk reported on the following matters:

- a. Shedden/Fingal Sanitary Servicing – The Shedden Union Road project started in the spring and is nearing completion. The north Shedden Sanitary Project was awarded to ASG Excavating at the September 8<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. The contract awards for the Fingal Pumping Station and the Fingal Reconstruction Project with the County are scheduled for the September 22<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting.
- b. WWTP Updates for Shedden & Talbotville – The Shedden WWTP is out for tender and will be closing shortly. The Talbotville WWTP upgrade/relocation is being further reviewed by Colliers. The original Financial Analysis did not include provisions for Industrial connections since they are highly variable and difficult to quantify. Council directed that some provision for Industrial be included, along with
- c. The Parks and Trails Master Plan Project is nearing completion with a report to Council planned for September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **6. Elgin County Economic Development Update**

Anne Kleinsteuber, Business Enterprise Facilitator provided updates on the following matters:

- Department Update – Business Enterprise Facilitator
- Economic Development and Tourism Strategy – Progress Update
- Elgincentives CIP Update – Engagement Strategy
- Fall Backroad Elgin Map – Tourism Promotion Initiative
- Cultivating Success Fall 2025 – Networking Event

## **7. Rural Ontario Development (ROD) Program**

Information on the Rural Ontario Development Grant Program was reviewed by the Committee. The Committee considered several options for a grant application including:

- Updated Economic Development Plan – the last one was completed in 2020, prior to Amazon and plans for servicing Shedden/Fingal
- Infrastructure enhancements, such as Shedden Parking

Based on the program criteria suggesting that any infrastructure projects should

have an existing plan supporting construction applications, the Committee directed staff to proceed with an application for an updated Economic Development Plan.

**8. Sign Auction**

There are 23 signs remaining. The Committee discussed holding another sign auction in the fall. Chairperson Justin Pennings will reach out to Graydon Laing to coordinate another auction.

**9. Business Networking Events**

Steve Bushell provided an update from the June 18<sup>th</sup> Resilient & Ready Joint Business Networking Event at Prim Peony Event Co.

**10. New and Other Business**

The Committee discussed attracting additional members. From time to time the Township posts information about the Township Committees to inform the public about opportunities to participate in Township activities. For the EDC, members have in the past reached out to people that may have interest in serving on the Committee. They have often attended a meeting before expressing interest in joining.

**11. Next Meeting date, time and location**

The next meeting was scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 8:00 am.

**12. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9 am.

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Chairperson, Justin Pennings

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Staff Resource, Jeff Carswell