



## **Southwold Economic Development Committee**

# **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 8:00 am  
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  
Carolyn Krahn, Manager of Economic Development  
& Strategic Initiatives  
Tanya Wilson, Elgin Business Resource Centre

Guests: Scott Young  
Tanya Buttinger  
Stuart Lackey

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

Deputy Mayor Pennings called the meeting to order at 8:05 am.

Since several potential committee members were in attendance as guests, committee members, staff and the guests introduced themselves.

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

The Committee approved the agenda for the November 6, 2025 meeting.

### **3. Approval of the October 9, 2025 Minutes**

The Committee approved the minutes as drafted from the October 9, 2025 meeting.

### **4. Development and Infrastructure Updates**

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

- a. Fingal Reconstruction – Construction start is anticipated for November 16<sup>th</sup>. Aaron reviewed the potential timing and encouraged people to sign up for updates on the project to stay informed on road closures and local impacts. Additional consultation with the farming community will be taking place to review possible impacts on larger equipment on Fingal Line in particular.
- b. Shedden/Fingal Sanitary Servicing – The Shedden Union Road project is nearing completion. The contractor is completing work to remedy any infiltration and complete commissioning of the sewer. The road will remain as base asphalt over the winter. The contract awards for the Fingal Pumping Station and the Fingal Reconstruction Project with the County were awarded at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting. Construction schedules and required detours are being developed and will be communicated shortly.
- c. WWTP Updates for Shedden & Talbotville – The Shedden WWTP contract has been awarded, with construction to start in the fall.
- d. Parks and Trails Master Plan Project – Staff are compiling input from Council on the draft plan. Once incorporated by the consultant the plan will be circulated to committees and the public for additional input, prior to finalization by Council.

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

Carolyn Krahn, Manager of Economic Development & Strategic Initiatives, provided updates on the following matters:

- Reviewed the Fall 2025 Economic Update
- Highlighted nominations for the St. Thomas & District Chamber of Commerce Impact Awards are being accepted until November 16, 2025
- Reviewed the Fall 2025 Tourism Update
- Encouraged members to share information about the 2026 Southern Ontario Tourism Conference with tourism-related businesses in the community

## **6. Feedback on Elgincentives Community Improvement Plan Review and Update**

Carolyn Krahn provided an update on the Elgincentives review. Members were encouraged to review the information and complete the questionnaire. The County and local municipalities are working to implement the updates in early 2026. It is anticipated that the first intake under the updated CIP will be in spring 2026.

## **7. Feedback on October 15 Cultivating Success: The Fall 2025 Elgin County Business Networking Event**

Committee members provided positive feedback on the Business Networking Event. Steve Bushell advised the sub-committee is planning two events in 2026 (spring/fall). He also advised that one more representative from Southwold to sit on the planning sub-committee would be helpful. Dutton–Dunwich and West Elgin each have two members, and additional representation would be helpful.

## **8. New and Other Business**

Committee members made several inquiries:

- Water Hauling to Oneida Reserve – the contractor was originally hauling from a hydrant, but has been setup on the bulk water station
- DHP Subdivision, Shedden – Aaron provided updates on activity and status of the development
- Questions regarding planned designed for the Highway 4/Longhurst/Clinton Line area – staff will investigate what information the Township has for the intersection design
- Township Industrial Lands – the lands remain designated for industrial development and continue to promote – The County will be completing an RFP for an Employment Lands/Industrial Attraction project which would include the Township industrial lands

## **9. Next Meeting date, time and location**

The next meeting was scheduled for December 4, 2025 at 8:00 am.

## **10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 am.

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Chairperson, Justin Pennings

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Staff Resource, Jeff Carswell