

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SABLES-SPANISH RIVERS
Economic Development & Community Services Committee Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 21, 2023

PRESENT: **CHAIR (S):** Merri-Ann HOBBS,
MEMBERS: Jolie BIANCHIN; Harold CRABS, Thoma CRABS; John MOONEY;
ABSENT: Edie FAIRBURN; Susan SONNENBURG
STAFF: Amanda ST. MICHEL; Louisa ORFORD

Opening

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Committee was called to order at 6:50PM on February 21st, 2023 by Merri-Ann Hobbs.

Economic Development

A REGIONAL EDO INITIATIVES

- The Regional Economic Development Officer (REDO) provided a presentation outlining the responsibilities of her position, goals for the LaCloche Foothills communities, what she has accomplished so far and information regarding grant/funding opportunities.
- The committee reviewed the REDO February report and discussed the upcoming job fair & career expo and Buzz on Business Newsletter.

B GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- The Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers Economic Development Officer (EDO) provided an update on the RED application for a Cultural Heritage Banner Project in partnership with the Massey Legion to honour Township veterans.
- The application is asking for 40 banners and 15 additional pole brackets at a total cost of \$8,554.86 and has requesting the maximum 30% from RED totaling \$2,566.46. If approved, the township portion would be \$5,988.40.
- The figures noted above are before tax, as taxes are not an eligible cost in the RED Program (taxes would be approx. \$1,112.13 bringing the Township total to approx. \$7,100.53).
- Currently \$7,000 has been included in the proposed 2023 budget for these banners and brackets.
- The cost of the banners will ultimately be dependent the design chosen because of the design fee per banner/side (examples: 2 sided with different veterans, 2 sided with the same veteran, 2 sided with a veteran and graphic image), the application cost has accounted for two different designs on either side of the banner.

C TSSR BUSINESS COMMUNITY UPDATES/OPPORTUNITIES

- No update.

D DONATIONS/COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS

- No update.

Community Services

E COMMUNITY AESTHETICS

- No update.

F AGE-FRIENDLY PROGRAMING

- Discussion regarding the Seniors Walking Program at St. Mary's School and Seniors Exercise Classes held at the Massey and District Arena at no cost to residents.
- The committee intends to support these initiatives in any way possible.
- The EDO will continue to advertise them on all Township platforms.

G MUNICIPAL EVENTS/INITIATIVES

- The EDO provided an update regarding the Township being a community sponsor for the 2023 Ontario Ice Fishing Challenge and the \$500 allocated to local prizing. As of February 21st, TSSR had 17 participants and was sitting in 7th place.

H COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- No update.

Other Business

I BUDGET

- The committee reviewed the proposed 2023 Economic Development & Community Services and was advised that the budget is still in review by the Finance Committee.
- Concerns regarding the discrepancy between spending and the total budget in prior years was discussed. The EDO explained that the reduced spending in past years had been a result of the pandemic.
- Discussion regarding the goals noted in the Special Programing account, the EDO noted that additional special projects will most likely be identified in the Strategic Plan when it is updated and budgeted for in future years.
- Discussion regarding the past farmers markets, the marketplace and agricultural society efforts towards a market. The committee believes the fairground still has potential to be the hub for these types of events and hopes to explore this opportunity/partnership in the future.

J TSSR STRATEGIC PLAN

- The Committee was provided with a copy of the Strategic Plan (2018-2021) for information as it will need to be updated in 2023.
- The EDO noted that the committee will need to establish a work plan for the update and intends to seek support from the REDO and LAMBAC for assistance.
- The committee will review the existing strategic plan and determine potential next steps at the March meeting.

Recommendations to Council

- None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM. The next meeting will be held on March 21st, 2023, in Council Chambers, at 6:30pm or at the call of the chair.

Minutes Submitted by: Amanda St.Michel

Approved by: Merri-Ann Hobbs