

**PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2009**

President Robert Lawn called the meeting to order at noon at the Red George Public House. Present were: Vice-President Brent Laton, Directors Allan Norton, Bill Pakeman, Heather Lawless, Brenda Minish, Jessie DeVries, Roger Rhodes, Jen Wyman, Ray Young, and members Lorne Mallory, Pat Sayeau, Hugh Cameron, Larry Dishaw, Julie Marshall, Don Farnsworth, Dan Cook, Marianne Sears, Steve Golledge and guest Susan Smith. Minutes recorded by secretary/treasurer Debbie Lawless.

1. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Bill Pakeman introduced Susan Smith of Travel Counsellors in Cardinal. Ray Young introduced Dan Cook of Brister Insurance. Don Farnsworth introduced Marianne Sears, the new RBC Branch Manager for Prescott and Spencerville and Allan Norton introduced Steve Golledge, the Financial Services Representative for Toronto Dominion.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Brent Laton. (6 for, 0 opposed) Carried.

3. REVIEW OF BUSINESS FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING: No report.

4. APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES: The minutes for November 18, 2009 were approved as circulated on motion by Brenda Minish and seconded by Jessie DeVries. (5 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Robert Lawn reported he attended the first Economic Development Summit Sector Panel series on Tourism which MPP Robert Runciman and MP Gord Brown also attended. The Ontario government has set aside \$40 million to support tourism, \$20 million in 2011 and \$20 million for 2012.

Robert noted Tourism is the best potential to increase jobs and funding and more time and money should be spent on Tourism in our area. Also the general population should take tourism more seriously, tourism fills in the gap of no industries.

Robert also noted this is his last meeting as President but will remain as a Director for 2010. One of his highlights as President for 2009 was looking at the Chamber pulling local areas, town and townships of our community together for economic development and we should embrace all of South Grenville.

6. VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Brent Laton extended appreciation to all those who helped to welcome the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics Torch relay noting Mike Dimopoulos, OPP Sgt Paul Bisson and police presence, Royal Bank of Canada and Coke.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report for period ending November 30, 2009 was presented by treasurer Debbie Lawless. The financial statement was accepted on motion by Jen Wyman and seconded by Brent Laton. (6 for, 0 opposed) Carried. Copy enclosed.

8. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** No report.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** A list of correspondence received for December 2009 was distributed to all present.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **FINANCE:** Bill Pakeman reported no requests were received but reminded committees to bring budgets forward for the upcoming year.

2. **PROGRAM AND PLANNING:** No report.

3. **MEMBERSHIP:** Bill Pakeman reported one new member.

Travel Counsellor
Cardinal, Ontario
Susan Smith
(Travel Agency)

This new member was accepted on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Roger Rhodes. (8 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

Bill Pakeman presented the nominating committee report for the Board of Directors for 2010 which included resignations and motioned the presented list be forwarded to the annual general meeting in January 2010 for approval. Jen Wyman seconded this motion. (7 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

Heather Lawless nominated Dan Cook for Director for 2010. Heather motioned and Roger Rhodes seconded Dan Cook be accepted for nomination for Director to the 2010 Board of Directors (9 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

Bill Pakeman motioned and Ray Young seconded changing our bylaw of having 25 Directors serving on the Board to 20 and also lowering the quorum to 5 from the present 7. It was motioned by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Jen Wyman to have the above motion forwarded to the annual general meeting in January 2010 for approval. (5 for, 0 opposed) Carried.

11. **LIAISON REPORTS:**

1. **TOWN OF PRESCOTT:** Ray Young reported Council is presently working on next year's budget.

A valuation has been received for the former OPP station and the town will pass on purchasing it.

Council is requesting funding from the province for water and sewer servicing of industrial lands north and south of 401 and the new OPP station and Riverside.

2. TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA: Bill Pakeman reported on the following:

- the waste management contract with Fast Eddie has been renewed at 0% increase
- the official plan is scheduled to be completed in 2010
- Westport Mayor Bill Thake is the new warden for the United Counties of L&G
- budget discussions are ongoing
- Ontario Hydro has granted \$10,000 to upgrade lighting for the ball park
- the North Augusta Fire Hall expansion work is on schedule
- union negotiations will begin shortly
- the township has sold its first lot in the Industrial/Business Park
- the OPP budget for the township was presented to Council with a plus of \$38,000 but with reconciliation at year end should come in with a 0% increase
- council is continuing to work with UCLG in Economic Development
- construction on the second concession will begin this spring
- challenges for Council is to keep UCDSB, OPP, South Nation Conservation, Health Unit and UCLG budgets all in order
- Council is looking at purchasing the former Maitland School property

On behalf of Augusta Township, Bill wished all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year and is looking forward to working with the Chamber next year.

3. TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH/CARDINAL: Pat

Sayeau noted Bill Thake has been the longest serving municipal politician (41 years) and it is his fourth time serving as Warden, an historical event.

Council will begin negotiations with CUPE soon. The new public works manager started yesterday. Council has began work on the budget. The bin project will be finished by the end of January 2010.

Mayor Larry Dishaw reported meeting with Mayors and Reeves concerning the sale of the lottery business, LCBO and Hydro.

The township is moving forward to working with China. Property values have reached the \$10 million point and 30 new homes have been built, the best since 2001.

The townships challenge for 2010 is the Ontario Stability Support payments ramifications noting it will not be good and a challenge to work through.

Larry also urged all to support their Councils regarding the new Harmonized Sales Tax effective July 1, 2010.

4. GCFDC: Heather Lawless reported GCFDC has increased their new business loans limit to \$250,000 as of the end of March 2010 only and new Eastern Ontario investment pool business loans up to \$600,000. Contact Mike O'Keefe at 925-4275 for more information.

GCFDC assessed \$1.3 million, approved \$1.6 million and dispersed \$1.25 million YTD November 30, 2009.

The self-employment benefit program is on hold by the government until April 1, 2010.

The Eastern Ontario Development program has been fully committed to for this fiscal year, March 31, 2010.

Two request for proposals are out for corporate marketing materials and corporate website redesign.

5. **BIA:** Ray young noted many stores are open Sunday and wished all the best for the new year.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:** No report.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Robert thanked everyone for their support and assistance over the past year and welcomed new president Brent Laton.

14. **NEXT MEETING:** The next Board of Directors meeting will be the **Annual General Meeting** to be held on **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2010** at the **BRIDGEVIEW RESTAURANT** commencing at noon. "Everyone Welcome"

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m. on motion by Heather Lawless and seconded by Brent Laton. (6 for, 0 opposed) Carried.