



## **MINUTES**

### **Public Meeting**

**United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry**

**Thursday, April 8, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

### **Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** County Council: Warden Frank Prevost, Councillors Tony Fraser, Kirsten Gardner, David Smith, Lyle Warden, Carma Williams

County Staff: Tim Simpson, Chief Administrative Officer, Tara Kirkpatrick, Manager of Economic Development, Karina Belanger, Tourism Coordinator, Kimberley Casselman, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk

Public Attendees: Jeff Manley, Councillor, Township of North Glengarry, Shauna Baggs, Deputy Clerk, Township of South Glengarry, Rochelle Johnston, Business Owner/Resident

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

Warden Prevost called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and asked Clerk Casselman to provide housekeeping information for the meeting.

#### **2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest - None**

#### **3. Public Meeting**

- 3.1 Words of introduction by SDG Warden Frank Prevost.**
- 3.2 Remarks by Regional Incentives Program Approvals Committee member Tony Fraser (Mayor, Township of North Dundas) regarding the successes of the Regional Incentives Program.**
- 3.3 Short video highlighting completed Regional Incentives Projects.**

Warden Prevost introduced a short video which highlighted the Regional Incentives Program and showcased completed projects.



### **3.4 Proposed amendments to the Regional Incentives Program Policy Document and Terms of Reference.**

Tara Kirkpatrick, Manager of Economic Development, presented a PowerPoint presentation which provided information on the proposed amendments to the Regional Incentives Program, highlighted past projects, and next steps in the amendment process. A copy of the presentation is held on file.

#### **4. Question Period**

Jeff Manley, Councillor, Township of North Glengarry, raised concerns regarding non-profit and for-profit trail groups no longer being eligible under the program. He stated that the North Glengarry Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee would like to see trail enhancements being left in the Regional Incentives Program. Councillor Carma Williams asked if there was a way to fund these not-for-profit volunteer projects without funding conservation authorities or municipalities. CAO Simpson spoke to the overall goals of the program focusing on business enhancements and job creation and added that trail projects could be directed to the tourism grant program.

Rochelle Johnston, 14081 Groves Road, Ingleside, spoke to ecotourism developments and the growing demand for outdoor accommodations such as full-services yurts and tents. She questioned removing campgrounds from the eligibility criteria, as outlined in the definition for “roofed accommodations”. Ms. Johnston asked if this type of business would be eligible under the Regional Incentives Program. Tara Kirkpatrick, Manager of Economic Development, stated that program applicants must meet local municipal zoning requirements and that she would need to see the proposal in further detail before commenting on eligibility. Councillor Tony Fraser added that it was difficult to give a definitive answer at the current venue and that eligibility questions could be referred to local Economic Development Officers. Councillor Kirsten Gardner stated that the program was a competitive process with applications being scored by a committee. She added that the committee received several excellent applications.

Jeff Manley, Councillor, Township of North Glengarry, stated that he liked the idea of trails being funded through tourism grants, if that was a possibility.

Councillor David Smith asked if business owners, who were tenants, could apply for funds for renovations, or if the property owner needed to apply. Tara Kirkpatrick, Manager of Economic Development, stated that the tenant would



need to receive authorization from the property owner, as part of the application process.

Councillor Tony Fraser spoke to the proposed elimination of certain elements within the program and stated that the Regional Incentives Program Approvals Committee reviewed the program and determined that it should be about supporting businesses. He added that this came as a direct result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Tara Kirkpatrick, Manager of Economic Development, highlighted the next steps in the amendment process.

## **5. Adjournment**

Warden Prevost adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.