

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES
Economic Development Advisory Committee

MINUTES

March 4, 2019

The meeting of Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Committee Room, Civic Centre on March 4, 2019 from 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.

PRESENT: J. Cumming, Chair, Mayor J. Caul, J. McTaggart, R. Avis, D. Eldridge, M. Caron, K. McCaig and J. Gillon.

ALSO PRESENT: D. Brown, CAO, L. Mose, (MNDM), T. Drysdale, Consultant, G. Gillon, (RRFDC) and K. Lawson, Deputy Clerk/ Committee Secretary

REGRETS: D. Kircher, K. Firth, Chief W. Windigo

1. Call to Order - 11:40 a.m.

2. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof - none identified

3. Approval of Previous Advisory Committee Minutes

3.1 February 4, 2019.

McCaig-Eldridge: THAT the minutes from the February 4, 2019 regular meeting be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

4. New Business

- 4.1 Presentation from Michael Willick, R.P.F. President, M.L. Willick & Associates Ltd. re: Enhanced Sustainable Forest License (ESFL) Implementation.
- Mr. Willick was in attendance to provide an update and have a general discussion with the Committee respecting Forest Tenure and implementation of the SFL. He advised that the Forest License is used to manage the forest and is done every 5 years. The Licensee under the Forestry License has the right to tell contractors where to cut, ensure that crown charges are paid and to ensure that reforestation is done within the legal obligations of the License. He stated that the Province is unhappy that large companies are holding these licenses and making it difficult for smaller contractors, First Nation communities and municipalities. He believes that the time for such designations has passed. The Sustainable Forest License (SFL) has now moved to Enhanced Sustainable Forest License (ESFL) which will be a partnership of interested parties. The RRFDC will be a signatory to this agreement. Payment will be based on usage. An independent General Manager will be appointed. There is still discussion about the size of the group. There is a good opportunity for having the company be located locally. Presently, the group is undertaking new plans for the Crossroute and Sapawe Forest management which should be in place by April 1, 2020. This is good news from an economic stand point as wood costs will be cheaper, making for happier contractors. The International Falls mill cannot bid on the wood controlled under this license. The management group may not override any decision made by the Ministry. Mr. Willick stated that there was enough wood at the time Expira was looking to purchase the mill, in stark contrast to Resolute's contention that they do not have enough wood to manage their needs.

5. Standing Items

- 5.1 Follow up from T. Drysdale on February 4th, 2019 Position Paper from J. Cumming and Immigration Pilot Update.
- G. Gillon advised of a meeting he attended, where he had a chance to speak with Aime Dimatteo who recommended partnering with Kenora. Geoff will be asking Mayor Caul to forward a letter of support which will serve to confirm that the Town of Fort Frances

wishes to support the Lake of the Woods Business Incentive Corporation (LOWBIC) application in partnership with the City of Kenora for participation in the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot Program. Through this support, the Town is ready to work cooperatively with the City of Kenora, LOWBIC and its partners toward better positioning the Town of Fort Frances to welcome newcomers to our community.

As a side note Councillor McTaggart challenged the EDAC Committee to provide ideas that the municipality could incorporate along with the Strategic Plan to drive economic growth. Some suggestions included:

- 1) Enhancement of Health Care;*
- 2) Placing of a Health Care Facility in the area of the old woodyard;*
- 3) Age Friendly Seniors Facilities;*
- 4) I Cloud enhancement;*
- 5) Industrial Jobs.*

This matter will be added to the next regular meeting for further discussion.

5.2 Mill Update.

Tannis advised that REPAP is in Town this week. She advised that they will be submitting a bid to Resolute outside of any NDA agreement. She believes that Resolute is also entertaining a bid from a community redevelopment organization..

6. **Adjourn / Next Meeting Date - April 1, 2019**