

The Corporation of the Township of White River

Minutes for the Open Session of the Special Meeting of Council held October 1, 2024.

Present:	Tara Hart	Mayor
	Dwijen Bharad	Councillor
	Raymond St. Louis	Councillor
	Rob Sedore	Councillor
	Rodney Swarek	Councillor
	Rosalie Evans	Acting Deputy Clerk (Remote via Zoom)
	Renée Berube	Administrative Assistant

Members of the Public: Angelo Bazzoni; Louise Seguin; David Jensen (in person); Linda Houston; Michelle Galoni (remote via Zoom).

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Hart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

No declarations were made.

4. Resolution to Adopt the Agenda

Resolution No. 2024-206

Moved by: Councillor Swarek

Seconded by: Councillor St. Louis

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for The Corporation of the Township of White River approves the agenda for the Special Meeting of October 1, 2024, as circulated.

Carried

5. Delegations

Discussion with members of the Economic Development Committee ensued.

The resignation of Ms. Simpson, Culture Tourism Community Co-ordinator was noted. Potential future staffing was reviewed. The Committee would like to see both a full time,

permanent position and an intern position. The Committee would like to hire “sooner” rather than “later”.

Job descriptions need to be developed; applications to NOHFC for internship position(s) need to be pursued.

It was noted that the Committee had brought Ms. Galoni on as a consultant for the purposes of grant applications.

Mr. Bazonni offered that the Committee feels it is best if it operates “arm’s length” from the Township. The Township, however, would be required to provide payroll services and funding. Council members mentioned supervision of the staff being a potential issue.

The Committee would prefer that the personnel operate from the Colbourne Building, rather than at the Township offices. The possibility that staff would feel isolated was discussed. The Tourist Information Center was discussed as an alternate site. It was noted that there is internet and Hydro already available there. It was suggested that Wawa staff be contacted regarding their experience.

The potential of a partnership between the Township and the Economic Development Corporation was mentioned. “Partnership” vs. “collaboration” was discussed.

The complications of the collective agreement were discussed; some staff are unionized, and this needs to be examined. Ms. Simpson supervised summer students. Some of the work that the Committee seeks to take on (i.e. groundskeeping) is union staff work and cannot be transferred pursuant to the Collective Agreement.

It was noted that research is required regarding the Disney relationship with the “Winnie the Pooh” branding.

The need for a person to undertake grant applications was noted. As previously noted, the Committee has retained Ms. Galoni for this purpose.

Promotion as part of the “Group of Seven” artist movement is required and has not been historically undertaken.

Roles need to be established between the Economic Development Committee; the Economic Development Corporation; and the Township. The tracking of funds raised is important in this regard. The job description for the position of “Culture Tourism Community Co-Ordinator” needs to be revamped, with clarification as to reporting obligations.

Projects that the Township, the Committee and the Corporation wish to see need to be clearly articulated and set out – this could be part of the Township’s strategic plan.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee is October 21st. The Committee will provide Council with recommendations, to be included in the Council meeting agenda for October 30th.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business on the agenda, Mayor Hart declared the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Jane Hart
Mayor

Rosalie Alvares
Acting Deputy Clerk

