

**MARKDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD MEETING – JAN. 20, 2010**

MINUTES

ATTENDING: Doug Crawford; Charmaine Peever; Don Kopplin; Wayne Fitzgerald; Lynn Silverton; Janie Badgerow; Rick Gamblen, Kathy Gamblen; JD Daly; Kate Russell.

REGRETS: Charlie Nicholson.

DINNER: \$60 collected for dinner – toward Heart & Stroke Foundation.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA ADDITIONS: None.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Review and approval of Oct. 22, 2009 minutes.

MOTION: Moved by Janie Badgerow, Wayne Fitzgerald seconded by that the minutes from the previous meeting held Oct. 22, 2009 be accepted as presented. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING:

Snow removal – no issues so far this winter. Lynn commented that snow fell in a large piece off the Trafford building. It was cleaned up by municipality. Good thing we haven't had too much snow. Wayne suggested cleaning would be appropriate.

ACTION: Lynn will talk to the municipality on behalf on the Chamber to ask that snow be cleared after unanimous discussion with the board.

Parkette letter – Kate has emailed the treasurer regarding any funds left in the Parkette account – Glen McAllister – no response as yet.

Christmas hamper donation – donation was delivered – Chamber donation was applied to the purchase of fresh oranges for Christmas hampers.

Membership drive brochure – no time to get it done. Decision to postpone until after the BR&E. Some brochures are available for review. Hydro One was a sponsor on some, potential to seek funds from them for printing. Hanover example was provided as a overview as well. Concise more likely to be reviewed by busy business people.

ACTION: Seek sponsorship for printing of membership brochure. We could include membership survey in with renewals – some info on what we do. Review renewals in April.

FEO membership – paid as an associate member – to save funds (approved at AGM) \$50 plus tax.

Collection at parade – not done. Firefighters did not want to do this as they must always be ready to go on a call during parade.

February fundraiser – cancelled due to BR&E project as priority. May look into a joint event later in the year.

Memorial donation to Durham hospital – pending. This was to be in memory of Kathy Rust.

ACTION: Kate will follow-up on this.

Card to Mother Daughter Fitness – pending.

ACTION: Kate will send a card asap.

AGM ad and meeting – good evening. Done well on food. Excellent follow-up.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Economic Dev. Cmte. – First meeting – something in next couple of weeks. Need to put some things on the go – time to schedule. Doug outlined that an action plan is going to be developed to see where the committee wants to go. Meeting date was set for: Wed. Feb. 3rd at 7 p.m. at Wayne's office.

Chapman's update – footings going in on new building. Water issue – when Dave said he would rebuild on the day of the fire, he couldn't back away. Ongoing issue with architects – needed sprinkler systems throughout the building. When told he had to have them, had to feed them. Right now has to come up with a water tower or retention pond at an estimated cost of \$3M. If he had known at the time, he might not have rebuilt here. So many municipalities have been courting me, with no cost for water, worst is that water should have been in place before this happened. Doug would like to see some initiative to go after council to get loans to fix the water issue for the whole community. Water pressure is the problem – downspout system does not provide enough pressure to fight a fire or supply sprinkler system. Council should think about part of development charges go toward to Chapman's to offset costs of Chapman's water.

Lynn suggested the municipality has looked at second towers over the years. The trouble is its user pay, it would be the users who would finance it. It was held off to see if there was a development planned to come in to assist with the cost coverage. The hold up is because of this issue. Two wells have been put in – upgrades have been done through to help with the manufacturing. If Chapman's puts in a tower, Lynn will support if anyone taps in to it, then they have to pay. If municipality takes it over bit by bit, then it is possible to pay back.

Wayne suggested a larger facility could be built to service Chapmans and the potential for a new hospital. Perhaps someone needs to talk to Chapman's about this. Maintenance has been done to add things to the tower to maintain it. Nothing has been said by water department or public works, about this issue. We need to have this reviewed for future.

ACTION: Need a delegation to council. Petition? Letter? Initiative? Lynn suggests a letter – concerns over future. Without the water, development cannot occur in the future. Open letter send to council and papers. 10:45 a.m. President will read out – say in the letter we want hear back. Not discussed in front of public – want to have response for next meeting – by second Monday of next month. Delegation to receive report on status of request. Press copies – potential wider distribution.

MOTION: Moved by WF, CP moved that a deligation go before council to advise council on water pressure issues, barrier to development and firefighting ability as well as expansion and Chapmans, and further Chamber recs that council investigate all funds and grants to rfemediate this situartion, and that a portion of development charges should ber specifically deligate towars paying down expense on such a project. Carried.

Merger discussions – They are eager for end of year – many questions to ask and answers to hear. Open the floor for discussion:

Doug: Leasons – what kind of a mission statement are we going to have? What are we doing? What good is it going to do us? What are the benefits?

Wayne: How do membership fees work – how do an in-between thing. Financially won't work if the increase of their fees aren't there. Let's stop talking about all the other nitty gritty, if can't get agreement on the money, can't do it at all. Our members won't need to vote on fees dropping.

Kathy reviewed the Saugeen Shores experience, the board was combined the members from each. Then have a split of funds and missions. Flesherton has trouble getting people to sit on the board.

Kate concerns about the share of work, the administrator

Charmaine could stage a phased cost. Potentially drop fees to bring others up.

Lynn talked about Leagion amalgamation – had a committee to review, work together then go back to membership. There are various levels of Chamber membership there.

Two Chamber could think about continuing as two organizations, could run a municipal wide BIA to assess levy to support – good source of funding. That should be on the table as well. The politicians get involved and as a committee of council. Most recent legislation does not require 60% approval of property owners to approve levy.

Doug – will we loose our identity as far as a Chamber. Do the things we address going to wash out when people are included. Loose identity of Markdale.

Funds amalgamating – what do we do – how to we keep on with the individual projects. Reality dictates the money has to be there.

The joint projects are good to see us work together, but haven't really done anything to assist them. If merging need to look at what can be done together.

What is the benefit of a BIA to a business owner. Wayne explained how the BIA levy is attached to commercial tax base within an identified Business Improvement Area. Money

is distributed throughout the municipality. There is precedent about the levy being attached to businesses outside the BIA (eg. Orangeville)

Charmaine suggested Flesherton is rumouring that Markdale is dragging our heels. Seems there is a courtship issue here where people are now souring the potential for a smooth transition.

Doug explained we have to have questions and answers for this. Do we sit down now and pick a committee? Charmaine & Doug have discussed this somewhat – potential to have would be three people from each Chamber. Charmaine can't continue into spring due to April tax season. Potential to bring in Colleen Boer. Wayne can't be involved until May. Rick – what projects would be want to help each other with in future. Still an issue about money to be surveyed.

Charmaine said she wants to focus on BR&E at this time.

Markdale members are Doug & Wayne – March meeting.

ACTION: Set one meeting between now and end of February. These are concerns, take it back to your people – see what can be said. Wayne could do a meeting in March.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Survey on hold – covered as above. Survey copies circulated to committee. If this is direction, we will go. This is simple and easy to reply to. Return with your payment as well as details on your business. Charmaine – great survey already prepared – potential to include in the membership renewals.

MOTION: Moved by JD, seconded Charmaine to okay the survey for members as reviewed by the board. Carried.

ACTION: Kathy & Kate to streamline – out by end of January. Survey of members to go out with renewals.

Committee needed for membership – can we establish it. Recommendations back to next meeting.

Renewals pending – renewals will go out by end of meeting. Charmaine will do email follow-ups. Kathy will follow-up into April.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

FT Hill bequest – Court order is down – actual amount still TBD. Press release drafted, with Kate for review. Researched background and will have the press release. Lawyer needed to assist drafting the FT Hill foundation bylaws etc. Ask Eber as a founder, will he help form the foundation. He is very fair. Payment expected end of January. Congrats to Wayne for working so hard for so long.

ACTION: Kate & Wayne to work on press release. Wayne to approach Eber to assist with setting up FT Hill.

Old school board building: Wayne reported someone has purchased the old school building. He has spoken to Wayne about the use for the building. Potential CHC or doctor's offices. Pending due diligence, closes in April.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Financial Statements – Don Kopplin reported on two statement, year end initial report and first for 2010.

Dec. 31, 2009: \$1900 in bank, lower amount than last year due to wages, reimbursed in January. Page 2 profit and loss shows deficit – some for BR&E for reimbursement. Significant loss – deficit spending more than making. Whether we merge or not, the money needs to keep coming in. Still have some handouts for the Cruise Night. Doug suggested we could find a sponsor – maybe Neverest will do it as well. Potential to raise funds at events to offset costs – maybe the Chamber does a BBQ to raise funds.

MOTION: Moved by Kathy seconded by Wayne that the draft financial statement for the year 2009 and January be accepted as presented. Carried.

Jan. 21, 2010: Reimbursement of wages has come in. Ask for projected income from membership. Could increase if all collected. In a short time, have a surplus. Cash flow needed to meet costs.

Payables – defer some things: Grey Bruce Map – not pay; defer Pust; defer grey Bruce Escape; defer Foodland.

MOTION: Moved by Wayne, seconded by Rick Gamblen to pay the bills as outlined in the payable list attached. Defer some payments as noted to await membership renewal payments. Carried.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

- **BR&E Project** – general update to board members on leadership team status
- **Website listings** – project is paying for listing update - still “members only”?
- **Budget committee** – to review costs and projects for budget presentation at next meeting.

ACTION: Don & Doug will look into this, Kate will simplify headings to make draft budget easier to review by committee and executive board. In advance of next meeting.

- **Need new computer** – office desktop failing – update required – costed for budget deliberations
- **Council Presentation** – BR&E, CAF 2 Intake; potential other grants to pursue – see overview report
- **Begun Business Development ads for website** – completed on for Markdale Sewing
- **Ads place in:** OS Sun Times business card directory; hats & mittens ad.
- **Member concern** re: local stores promoting dept. store card – not “shop local” cards.

ACTION: Doug noted this is a corporate thing with Sobeys, so he can't opt out. There is a Moneris program you can do local shop cards, he will look into it.

- **Business directory** – Grey Highlands, Markdale & Flesherton Chambers each have website – redundancy, propose they continue – except bus. Directory a cooperative site. See attached notes (hard copy only) Businesses on list will be checked. System generated renewal required to update. Letter by mun. by Feb. 15th asking if want on. By March 15th if not confirmed. Will allow to note changes as well. Another letter by end of March – approx. launch is in April. A further note – Summer Student will review and contact all businesses with Chamber members only. Self administer our site by end of this month.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- **SEDC** – has moved to Neustadt office space – 515 Mill St. – *For information – file.*
- **BR&E compliments** – local businessman commends Chamber on study – asks if home bus. Incl. – *read to committee.*
- **Dunlop, Johnson & Pust** – copy of letter from Eber Willis – anticipated payout end Jan. 2010 – *file & follow-up.*
- **Ontario Minister of Tourism (x2)** – re: new DMO regional boundaries/use of HST to support DMOs – *file.*
- **Chapman's** – thanks for the plant – now called the Phoenix project – *file*
- **Website feedback** – email compliments on website – *filed.*
- **OMTCU** – re: JCP application – received – they will contact us – *file*
- **West Grey Chamber** – HST motion for support – *too late – file.*
- **Volunteer** – Toronto marketing man offer – called back – no answer – *file.*
- **Group Insurance reports for Nov. & Dec.** – \$535.22/mos. – *file.*
- **SurveyGreyBruce.ca** – new service – to Budget – *file for BR&E reference.*
- **Various holiday greetings:** SEDC; Larry Miller; provincial ministries...*file.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Justice Circle – Outlined process – re: vandalism downtown. Lynn, Elly Pennings, Doug to participate and report back on this process.

Radio co-op ads – Doug will meet with Janet to get a “more aggressive” shop local message out there on the radio in the coming month.

ADJOURNMENT: 9 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Feb. 18, 2010 – Sidekicks – okay to continue there.

**MARKDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PAYABLES – JANUARY 2010
(covers period from November 2009)**

PREPAID (auto withdrawal)

Telizon – Dec. phones (includes 10.62 reimbursable)	80.57
Telizon – Jan. phones (includes 11.17 reimbursable)	76.79
Hydro One – Olde Firehall utility	145.78

Subtotal
303.14

TO PAY:

Dragonfly Designs – 09-0179- regular updates	173.25
<i>Dragonfly Designs – third installment on upgrade (BR&E)</i>	<i>105.00</i>
<i>Dragonfly Designs – fourth installment on upgrade (BRE)</i>	<i>105.00 - defer</i>
Dunlop, Johnson & Pust – FT Hill account balance	731.47 - <i>defer</i>
Dundalk Herald – Santa Parade/Moonlight Mad. Ad	27.51
Dundalk Herald – Santa parade thanks ad	52.50
Bayshore Broadcasting – radio ads	236.25
Leesons – office supplies	174.91
Municipality of Grey Highlands – water utility	92.07
Osprey Media Group – newspaper ads	282.87
Markdale Foodland – Santa parade candy	339.53 - <i>defer</i>
Union Gas – Olde Firehall utility	185.71
Kate Fitzpatrick – news tourism booth sign	108.00
Royal Cdn. Legion – Br. 333 – memorial wreath	40.97
SEGSS – snow removal Olde Firehall	48.00

Subtotal **2703.04**

ANNUAL FEES DUE:

Ontario Chamber of Commerce - committed	646.80
Municipal World – subscription	55.95

Subtotal **702.75**

FOR APPROVAL:

Grey Bruce Map contribution – suggested amount	300.00 – <i>NO PAY – not 2010</i>
Grey Bruce Escape – Multi-Chamber ad (OSCoC)	300.00 - <i>defer</i>
Petty Cash refresh - \$200	200.00
BR&E training costs – snacks and drinks for 24	100.00

Subtotal **900.00**

TOTAL (covering 3 mos. & annual fees/special projects) **4608.93**

