

**SMITHS FALLS & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**February 12, 2014**

**Valley Heart Land Board Room**

**7:30 am**

**Present:** *Dave Lawrence, Eileen Crosbie, John Maloney, Barry Webster, Jim Pankow, CY Wells*

**Regrets:** *Chris Saumure, Tracey Pankow, Joe Gallipeau, Jeff Banks, Kristine Fair, Anne Shropshire, Sean Lawrence, John Gray,*

**Guests:** *Bev Street, Donna Gough*

**Call to Order**

Dave Lawrence called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**New Business to add to Agenda**

No new business to add

**Motion to accept Agenda**

**Moved** Eileen Crosbie  
**Seconded** CY Wells

**Changes to the minutes from January 15, 2014**

No Changes to the minutes from January 15, 2014

**Motion to accept the minutes from January 15, 2014**

**Moved** Eileen Crosbie  
**Seconded** CY Wells

**Disclosure of Monetary Interest**

None

**Council Report –Town of Smiths Falls**

- Councilor Brennan discussed the proposed amendment to a zoning by law REPORT # 2014-22
  - The developers BBQ want to build a 6 storey condo building along with 47 units of which 27 will be townhouses

- The Mayor excused himself on this issue as he declared a conflict of interest
- As this would mean an influx in residence in the area a public meeting was held for the area residence to voice their concerns
- This is land across from the County Fair Mall
- Insurance issue with the negligence act
- Tankard was a success, the overall comments heard throughout the week were favorable to the town and the facilities
  - Waiting on the exact numbers for the attendance and monies
- There have been several good news items for the town recently
  - Tweed Inc. received their license from Health Canada and are in production
  - Ottawa Senators organization will be building a “Rink of Dreams” in Smiths Falls
  - Brooke Henderson won another top event in golf
- Mayor Staples brought with him the report that Anne Shropshire had requested on tourism which will help us with our strategic planning, Anne was not in attendance therefore the report will be given next board meeting
- The final reading of the budget will be February 24, 2014 at the Committee of the Whole meeting
  - There will be a 13% increase in the water bills
  - The vote for a raise in taxes was 4- 3 in favor of raising
- There will be a public meeting at the Memorial Community Centre on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February for an update on the towns Strategic plan
- The budget requests from various community groups total a sum of \$200-300 thousand
  - There has been a cap put on the amount to be given to organizations of this nature the cap is \$80,000 the distribution has not yet been determined
    - Town council may have to set policy and come up with criteria and accountability for organizations requesting funds from the town

### **Council Report – Township of Rideau Lakes**

N/A

### **Smiths Falls Home Show**

- Dawn Quinn approached the Chamber to inquire if the Chamber could possibly organize this year’s Smiths Falls Home Show
  - Dawn Quinn has had contact with 35 vendors from previous shows
  - The decision made was that it is too late this year for the Chamber to organize such an event
  - The possibilities of the Chamber to become involved in the coming years is very positive
  - There are some questions to be looked at and decisions to be made, such as: What other home shows provide? Costs involved? How many people attend? Proper target demographics?
  - The overall consensus is that it is too late for the Chamber to take over organizing

### Finance Update

- Eileen went over the financials with the board
  - A difference will be seen in 2014 for a few reasons: the CPP that the Chamber paid in 2013 (due to an oversight in 2012) was a onetime cost; there are no longer staff receiving group insurance; and 2013 saw an increase in overlapping pay for Victoria's retirement and Ashley's maternity leave
  - Melissa mentioned that the money from the GICs has the potential to be leveraged to receive a grant of up to \$60,000 with the Sports and Recreation fund. The focus would be possible for next year as the deadline for this year has passed

### Strategic Planning/ Committees

N/A Deferred until next meeting

### Chamber Update

- Visitor Guide is almost complete and ready for printing
  - 49 Ad's Sold
  - Sending out to the Board for feedback
- Chamber has applied for 3 grants for the summer student this year
  - Looking into wage subsidized
  - Looking at several projects for JCPs
- The benefit to replace the TD merchant services benefit will be released shortly. The rates are guaranteed to be better than CFIB
  - This benefit will be a good selling point for the membership
- The Chamber has been asked to provide information about the town (maps, attractions, coupons, etc.) to the visiting Student Physicians. There will be 12 coming to the area soon
- Networking sessions are scheduled up until June 2014. Upcoming events are:
  - February 26 at Ontrac
  - March 27 Customer Service Excellence workshop with OTHO
- Big Brother Big Sisters - Bowl for Kids: Melissa and Liz participating Feb 22 at 4:30 pm at Gratton Lanes. We have space on our team if Board members are interested
- Golf tournament date chosen June 11, 2014 at Lombard Glen
  - Need to remind Lombard Glen about the food issues of previous year and reiterate that this cannot be a problem this year
  - The board would like to have some sort of Guarantee from Lombard Glen

### Nomination of 2 New Directors

- There are two additional nominations that have been brought forward for the board of directors
- Hugh Colton (Town & Country Chrysler) and Bev Street (Street Kia)
- Both have submitted their resumes/application and are well known in the community

- Bev Street was in attendance and left the room while the vote was carried out

**Motion to accept Bev Street as a Director of the Smiths Falls & District Chamber of Commerce 2014**

**Moved** Eileen Crosbie  
**Seconded** John Maloney  
Motion Carried

**Motion to accept Hugh Colton as a Director of the Smiths Falls & District Chamber of Commerce 2014**

**Moved** Jim Pankow  
**Seconded** Eileen Crosbie  
Motion Carried

Bev Street and Hugh Colton are now Directors of the Smiths Falls & District Chamber of Commerce with their acceptance the board is not full

- Dave Lawrence suggested contacting the media, so they can report on the renewed interest in the Board

**Physician Recruitment**

- The task force is being worked on
- No reports to the public as of yet, as they want to have concrete information beforehand
- Need to have a full time person with authority to work on this
- Task force will revamped and letters of invitation will be sent to those who participated in the original workshop

**Economic Development**

- At this time there is no one in the position
- There have been interviews for the position

**Upcoming Board Meetings --**

**March 12, 2014**

**April 9, 2014**

**May 14, 2014**

**Mission Statement**

**The Smiths Falls & District Chamber of Commerce is the Voice of Commerce dedicated to the promotion of economic development and the prosperity for the enrichment of our community.**