

Agenda
Board Meeting
Pontiac Chamber of Commerce
Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009
Café 349, Shawville

Board members present:

Dan Eagan	Elmside View Farms/DanNan Holsteins, Bristol
Betsy Farrell	Clarendon
Jim Gibson	Pointe aux Pins Lodge, Rapides des Joachims
Julie Graveline	Epicerie Picanoc, Otter Lake
Mike Hodgins	148 Auto Tech, Clarendon
Todd Hoffman	Campbell's Bay Ciment, Litchfield
Tom Orr	Tom Orr Cartage, Clarendon
Jean Claude Rivest	Jericom Inc., Campbell's Bay
Jim Thompson	Pine Lodge, Bristol

Non board members present:

Jenny Bousfield	Minutes recorder
Remi Bertrand	Guest from the MRC
Isabelle de Bruyn	Guest from the CLD

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.
2. The agenda was approved. Motioned by Betsy Farrell, seconded by Jim Gibson.
3. The minutes of January 22, 2009 were approved. Motioned by Julie Graveline, seconded by Betsy Farrell.
4. Isabelle de Bruyn gave a presentation on the role of the CLD.

Q: What percent of provincial funds would go to for-profit businesses?
Take last year, for example.

A: About 4%.

Q: What is the success rate for young entrepreneurs?

A: The first three years are hard and some give up in the first few years.

Q: It is hard to have businesses that are almost there then have another business start up with help from the government.

A: The Québec government's vision is for everyone to have a chance.
They will give money to start another business even if there is one already.

Q: Do you have control over the board seats?

A: The MRC controls the board seats.

Remi Bertrand said that he was happy to see the chamber coming to life and that it is very important to get off on the right foot because if not, there will be friction and it will be counterproductive for the next bit of time. We both need to find a way of communication.

He referred to Mike Hodgins' comment on why the mayors are afraid. He said the answer was change. He also commented that the Chamber is seen as having a hidden agenda.

Mr. Bertrand said that he will keep working on, and is committed to the warden issue.

Q: Are CLD meetings public?

A: No.

Q: Can there be a Chamber seat on the CLD?

A: No. It has to be an individual.

Q: Other CLDs have a chamber seat.

A: A chamber seat is not allowed, but it will be looked into.

Q: Are the positions in the CLD voting positions?

A: Yes.

Q: Are there courses that councilors can take?

A: Yes, but they are not mandatory.

Isabelle de Bruyn stated that she thinks it would be better if, instead of having one seat for the Chamber, there be two individual seats. She believes that it will work better.

She also said we need to have a good communication link; if the CLD knows about it, they can help.

Remi Bertrand brought up an issue that he had heard about: that the Chamber is very English oriented. Jim Thompson agreed that this has been an issue and will certainly be dealt with.

5. Communications: The strategic plan lays out the targets and money for '09 to '12. It explains how to get started on issues we want to pursue. There will be a vote the next board meeting.

6. Committee Reports:

Tom Orr reported that he was been corresponding with Ottawa Valley Fuels and had a meeting a few weeks ago. He is still waiting for an answer on the issue.

Todd Hoffman reported that CDE tendering will be another month away. Also, the Chamber has been invited to a meeting on Friday, Feb. 13th to discuss the sewer plant.

Jim Thompson reported that Minister Cannon does not want CN to abandon the rail line. Minister Cannon is also very supportive of the Quyon Ferry, which is to be built at Sylvio Richard's place.

Whereas the continuation of freight rail service is of the utmost importance to the future businesses and industrial growth of the Pontiac.

Whereas any future population growth in Pontiac would be made possible by an accessible, affordable, environmentally friendly commuter rail link to the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau.

Whereas passenger rail service will serve to develop and support a renewed tourism industry.

Moved by President Jim Thompson, seconded by Mike Hodgins, that the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce fully supports the endeavors of the Upper Ottawa Valley/Pontiac Rail Committee to maintain and expand the rail network and the resulting economic growth and prosperity this vital transportation link would ensure for the people and business sector of Pontiac County

Carried Unanimously.

Mike Hodgins passed around a financial sheet that listed costs coming from the committees. He reported that the Chamber made only \$100 from the fundraiser. Motion for outstanding invoices to be paid, motioned by Mike Hodgins, seconded by Julie Graveline.

7. New Business: Building Materials Drive Sat. Feb. 28 12:00 – 4:00: Jim Thompson has set up the date with Tom McCann, who made a list of what he needs. Tom will contact the press.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.