

Pontiac Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 22, 2009 6:30 p.m.
Sonia's Restaurant, Portage-du-Fort, Québec

Board members present :

Betsy Farrell	Clarendon
Jim Gibson	Pointe aux Pins Lodge, Rapides des Joachims
Julie Graveline	épicerie Picanoc, Otter Lake
Dave Guitard	Canadian Tire, Clarendon
Mike Hodgins	148 Auto Tech, Clarendon
Todd Hoffman	Campbell's Bay Ciment, Litchfield
Luc Lapointe	Lucca Equestrian Centre, Clarendon
Ron MacKillop	MacKillop Financial Group, Thorne
Tom Orr	Tom Orr Cartage, Clarendon
Jean Claude Rivest	Jericom Inc., Campbell's Bay
Bill Telford	Bill Telford Catering, Clarendon, Campbell's Bay
Jim Thompson	Pine Lodge, Bristol
Joanne Labadie	Lavender Ridge Farms, Luskville

Non board members present:

Jenny Bousfield	Minutes recorder
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1. The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m.
2. The agenda was approved with the following additions: 4. Treasurer's Report and under New business, b) Kiosk in Luskville. Motioned by Betsy Farrell, seconded by Luc Lapointe.
3. The minutes of November 13, 2008 were approved. Motioned by Betsy Farrell, seconded by Bill Telford.
4. Treasurer's Report: The balance as of December 11, 2008 was 7,281.04, the outstanding bills were 293.91, and the balance is 5,646.99. Motion to pay the phone bill, motioned by Julie Graveline, seconded by Jim Gibson.
5. Committee Reports and Priorities:
 - a) Government relations:
 - i) Federal – Infrastructure: On January 5th chair of the committee (Todd Hoffman), and chamber president (Jim Thompson) were invited and attended the Outaouais 2009 Federal Budget Roundtable convened by Member of

Parliament, Lawrence Cannon. The chamber made the following recommendations; 1) that federal government continues to insure the permanence of the Gas Tax Fund and increase allocations to it, and 2) that the government work more closely with our MNA to ensure dispersments of the Community Development Trust. The Government Relations Committee also advocated for forestry industry relief and the easing of credit.

ii) Provincial: The Government Relations Committee met with MNA L'Ecuyer January 22nd that had four items for discussion: 1) CLD, getting a seat for the chamber on the board, 2) Gas Tax, status of file, 3) Transportation, roads in the non-organized territories, 4) Community Development Trust: allocation of funds to the Pontiac.

iii) Regional – CDE tendering: CDE tendering, ongoing. Elected warden/Industrial commissioner: Board passes resolution advocating elected full time warden.

The board of the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce is of strong conviction that MRC Pontiac adopt a bylaw permitting the election of a full time warden via a county wide vote.

Motioned by Todd Hoffman, seconded by Mike Hodgins. Unanimous.

Municipality of Pontiac: Municipality of Pontiac mayor Eddie McCann desires to address our board with respect to the fusion of MRC Pontiac with the Municipality of Pontiac.

-Database project:

-Buy Local campaign – Spring launch: Betsy participated in a radio interview. The stickers are being used on everything that is being sent out.

b) Membership:

i) Refining new membership stream: Luc Lapointe passed around the package that every member will receive when they sign up. The committee is looking at revising the package. Send any comments or feedback to Luc. Another mail-out will be going out the 1st of April and an insert will be included for the Annual General Meeting. Jim Thompson suggests, without advertising, giving new members who sign

up before April 1st, a 2009 card. Jim motioned to approve a \$1000 budget, seconded by Julie Graveline.

ii) Website – content completion: Content completion is moving forward. If there are any content ideas, please submit to Betsy.

iii) Business to Business – Content:

iv) Recruitment and Retention – strategy: Word of mouth. Betsy suggested a road trip.

c) Transportation:

i) Rail project – Federal support and CN interest: CN has bought the Ottawa Central Railway. The trains are down from 10 per week to 4 per week.

ii) Non-organized Territory Roads: A committee was formed for this issue. Charlotte has been informed about it.

iii) Quyon ferry upgrade: Will be going ahead and will be built in Shawville.

iv) Portage bridge repair: Is not an issue.

d) Bylaws:

i) Presentation of new bylaws at Feb 3. exec. meeting: Will be available at the next board meeting for review.

e) Strategic planning:

i) Presentation of strategic plan at Feb. 3. exec. meeting: Will be available next week.

f) Finance:

i) Prepare budget for 2009: A thorough strategic plan will be made.

g) Fundraising:

i) Committee leadership determined:

ii) Develop strategy: The committee will get together to develop a strategy.

6. New Business:

- a) Chamber Dinner with Minister Cannon: The dinner will be held at Sonya's Restaurant on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per member and \$25 per non-member. Betsy and Sonya are taking reservations. CHIP, the Journal, and the Equity will be there.
- b) Kiosk in Luskville: Is weak of brochures. Businesses may drop of their brochures and business cards at Tom Orr's, Lavender Ridge and at Campbell's Bay Ciment.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.