

**MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL MANITOULIN
FINANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES – October 15, 2020**

A video meeting of the Finance & Economic Development Committee was held on October 15, 2020 with the following in attendance:

Chair Councillor Johnston, Mayor Stephens, Councillors Diebolt, Scott, Shaffer, D. Stephens, Tribinevicius, Treasurer D. Deforge, CDOC M. Mohr, Press T. Sasvari, M. Erskine and a 3 members of the Huron Shores and Manitoulin Island Community Owned Fiber Infrastructure Group.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

MOTION: SCOTT and TRIBINEVICIUS

That the agenda be approved as presented...carried.

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest.

MOTION: TRIBINEVICIUS and R. STEPHENS

That the minutes of the last regular Finance and Economic Development Committee meeting of September 17, 2020 be approved as presented...carried.

The committee heard from the Huron Shores and Manitoulin Island Community Owned Fiber Infrastructure Group (H&MCOFI) regarding rural broadband. The committee deferred further discussion to the next meeting.

MOTION: SCOTT and R. STEPHENS

That the Finance and Economic Development Committee accepts the September 12, 2020 to October 9, 2020 report of the Community Development Outreach Coordinator...carried.

MOTION: R. STEPHENS and SHAFFER

That we recommend to council to pass the following motion:

WHEREAS community social and economic well-being is dependent on fast, reliable, and affordable broadband connectivity and better cellular coverage;

AND WHEREAS Municipal, Provincial and Federal Governments as well as healthcare, education and other sectors will continue to depend on the internet to communicate, provide services and ensure accessibility to information;

AND WHEREAS digital literacy skills are essential to collaborate, innovate, and compete both regionally and globally and require appropriate and affordable broadband;

AND WHEREAS the availability of broadband that is on par with larger, urban areas in Canada is essential for Northern Ontario to achieve economic sustainability and social well-being;

AND WHEREAS in 2016 the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the internet be designated as an essential service and those efforts are undertaken to ensure all municipalities have access to affordable, fast, and reliable broadband;

AND WHEREAS the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) agreed that an option to explore and hopefully support would be the Starlink Program, by SpaceX.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Central Manitoulin agrees that that Broadband is an essential service, and that the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) should allow SpaceX and other private ventures to compete with those presently acting in the communication field, as they have the private financial ability to move forward.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Federal Minister of Science, Innovation, and Economic Development, the Provincial Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure, the Provincial Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), Northeastern MPs and MPPs, the Leaders of the Opposition Parties, and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities...carried

MOTION: SCOTT and TRIBINEVICIUS

That the Finance and Economic Development Committee accepts the Tax Arrears List as of October 14, 2020...carried.

MOTION: R. STEPHENS and SHAFFER

That we recommend to Council to approve the year to date financial report ending September 30, 2020 for the Finance and Economic Development Committee...carried.

The committee discussed the COVID penalty deferral and chose not to extend the program any further.

MOTION: DIEBOLT and SHAFFER

That we recommend to Council to approve the cheque register for the month of September 2020 in the amount of \$1,308,937.53...carried.

MOTION: SHAFFER and R. STEPHENS

That we recommend to Council to support the COOP 2021 Aerial Imagery program and to provide the MNRF with a Letter of Intent to participate ...carried.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion from Councillor Scott at 9:10 p.m.