

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, December 18, 2009				Report Date	Monday, December 14, 2009			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

REPORT TITLE
Economic Development and Swisha Report #18/12/09/201

Subject: Issue with des Joachims' participation in the Joint Economic Development Committee Meeting with no commitment to financial participation.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council consider this one option for addressing this situation.

WHEREAS after the first fall meeting of 2009 there was some concern by the Chair of the Joint Economic Development Committee (JEDC) with the number of attendees at the meeting from the Townships of Head, Clara & Maria with the Clerk and two members of Council present;

AND WHEREAS the Clerk and the Reeve had made a point of requesting permission approved by Mr. John Walden to attend that meeting;

AND WHEREAS the by-law establishing the committee allows for two representatives from each municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Clerk attended as staff;

AND WHEREAS at the meeting of December 8, 2009 a representative of the Swisha Economic Development Group attended the Joint Economic Development Committee and in fact gave a full report without being a dues paying member;

AND WHEREAS Swisha is about the same size as our municipality which pays \$4,500 annually towards the Joint Economic Development Committee;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby agree to formally request a review of the current pay structure for the Joint Economic Development Committee and the inclusion of Rapides de Joachim's in its membership with fair compensation being paid by all parties.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The resolution is pretty self explanatory. Over the past number of years Swisha has been participating on an occasional basis in the JEDC meetings without financially contributing.

In an effort to increase the exposure of the Municipality in the events and projects of the JEDC our Clerk and Reeve attended the first fall meeting of 2009. Subsequent to that meeting the chair, Mary McCafferty spoke with Reeve Stewart and explained that we had too many people at the meeting and that the Clerk was not allowed to speak. As an aside, I had requested permission to speak and was granted it. I had asked questions for clarification and made a suggestion. I did not

otherwise participate in the meeting. I stayed later to speak with John to clear up incorrect information about the Municipality within Committee publications.

Reeve Stewart explained that as the Town of Deep River, we had two Council members and a staff member present. We did not see the conflict.

At the last JEDC meeting, there was a representative from Swisha who participated fully in the meeting and in fact gave a presentation to the group. To date Swisha has refused to contribute financially towards the JEDC. I was requested to include this issue in this week's meeting.

When I forwarded a letter to the Clerk of Swisha requesting whether or not they intended to contribute towards the JEDC and the Physician Recruitment group I did not receive a response. Later, when this was addressed at Council I was directed to let things be.

My attendance at the October meeting was an attempt at determining what benefit we actually receive from membership. I will begin attending again in the New Year to find information to prepare a report to Council to determine the worth in continued attendance or whether we might be better off spending this \$4500 elsewhere toward our own ED projects.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS/BUDGET IMPACT: Having the costs of the JEDC committee shared by a fourth entity might decrease the amount we pay.

POLICY IMPACT: None currently. We did just sign a lease for the visitor's centre with the other members of the JEDC. Not sure at this point what impact this might have.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

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