

**March 3, 2016**  
**Township of Strong Municipal Office**

**Present:** Sundridge – Don Richardson  
Strong – Les Blackwell  
South River – Sharon Smith  
Machar – Lynda Carleton  
Joly – Chris Nicholson  
Business Reps – Jennifer Farquhar  
MNDM – Carole Mantha  
FedNor – Ron Begin

**Absent:** Gary McLaren, Luke Preston

**Guests:**

**Delegates:** Garvin Cole & Don Curry – North Bay & District Multicultural Centre

**Staff Present:** Kim Dunnett – Recording Secretary  
John Santarossa – Interim EDO

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chair Les Blackwell.

**Delegations:**

Garvin Cole presented an update on Phase 1 of the Immigration Strategy process, with an end date of August 31, 2016 for the program. The draft plan is being worked on by the Employment Council group taking place in March and June, then the next steps will be to present the plan and implement it. Garvin spoke about the declining population in Northern Ontario and the hope of increasing the population would be through immigration. The following recommendations were given in regards to immigration; Equip, Align, Mobilize and Retain. Retaining is important and a better job needs to be done in this area. Retirees were discussed and the timelines of the Baby Boomers. Garvin stated that in Phase 2 the Multicultural Centre will assist with the following; implementation of the Immigration Strategy, help create local partnerships and encourage the use of the immigration portal. Garvin turned the presentation over to Don Curry to further explain Phase 2 process. Don spoke about Phase 2 process and provided goals. Garvin and Don thanked CAEDA for listening and their partnership for the Immigration Strategy.

## **General Discussion:**

**FedNor Update:** Ron Begin stated Federal Budget will be presented on March 22, 2016, from there FedNor will know the direction they will be taking. Ron gave a brief update on the Canada 150 funding, stating letters have been sent out. Projects were discussed as well.

**MNDM Update:** Carole Mantha gave her regrets, as she was unable to attend the Strategic Planning session on February 25, 2016, but looked like good progress was achieved. Carole gave an update on the BR&E status and the next steps that will be taken after the surveys are completed. The BR&E results will be presented at the Show Case Almaguin event on June 10, 2016. The BR&E preliminary results will also be presented at the Parry Sound District Municipal Association Meeting on April 29, 2016. Carole spoke about some of the trends coming from the surveys being, the lack of staffing and the lack of broadband.

**Business Rep Report:** Jennifer Farquhar reported each Municipality will be offered a free booth at FAB16 event in order to promote their area. The Sunflower Festival is gearing up, but probably the triathlon will probably not take place due to the lack of volunteer directors. Jennifer did state they are hoping to incorporate some kind of fitness event with the Sunflower Festival (i.e. biking). The Sunflower Festival will likely be held over a two day period. FAB16 planning is still in full gear and is expected to be a great event.

**EDO Report:** John Santarossa reviewed his report that was submitted on the BR&E progress. John stated that 60% of the overall BR&E project has been completed. John felt that there will be at least 70-75 businesses to be targeted in the CAEDA area and he has completed approximately 80%. The results from the project seem to be the same trends. A thank you to all the volunteers for their hard work was acknowledged.

**Biomass Workshop Proposal:** The CAEDA members reviewed and discussed the workshop proposal and felt that the present time was not good. A suggestion of partnerships to be formed for the workshop presentation may be a better idea, this way it would encompass a larger area, with a cost savings to be found. Chair stated that it could be revisited after the Strategic Plan was in place, as he feels it will be a lower priority for CAEDA. The Chair will reach out to BAR EDO for collaboration and will draft a letter to Biomass explaining CAEDA position at this time. The Chair felt that the workshop proposal could be revisited in six months.

**Development Services Housing Task Force:** The Chair announced there was a second call for proposals in regards to housing. Housing needs for the area were discussed and if anyone is aware of private developers in their municipalities they could direct them to CHMC or DSSAB. CAEDA will give the task of housing needs to the new EDO once they are in place.

## **Correspondence:**

Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce documents were reviewed and the Chamber is heading in a new direction. Jennifer provided goals in their Strategic Plan. The plans to use "The Village of Almaguin" was discussed and it will be used to benefit for the whole area. In the future partnering for marketing ideas with the Chamber was discussed to provide a cost savings measure.

### **Resolution: 2016-17**

**Moved by:** Don Richardson

**Seconded by:** Sharon Smith

Be it resolved that this committee does hereby recommend to member Councils, to accept by resolution, the 2016 CAEDA Budget in the amount of \$73,661.83, with each of the four municipality's contribution being \$5,408.24 and Joly will contribute \$1,750.00.

***Carried***

## **Adoption of Minutes:**

### **Resolution: 2016-18**

**Moved by:** Jennifer Farquhar

**Seconded by:** Lynda Carleton

Be it resolved that this committee does hereby adopt the minutes of regular meeting of February 4, 2016, as circulated.

***Carried***

## **Approve CAEDA Expenses:**

### **Resolution: 2016-19**

**Moved by:** Don Richardson

**Seconded by:** Chris Nicholson

Be it resolved that this committee does hereby approve expenses between February 5, 2016 and March 3, 2016 in the amount of \$1,966.59 and authorize the administrator to issue cheques for the same.

***Carried***

## **New Business:**

The Chair updated the members on a recent meeting he had with the President of the Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce and a couple of their Directors. They spoke about common goals and priorities, as well as being more transparent with each other.

Chair, Les Blackwell shared details from the Strategic Planning session on February 25, 2016. A date for the next planning session was set for April 7, 2016 at 5:00 pm, it will take place after the regular CAEDA meeting.

Humanity services were discussed and the secretary will contact BAR EDO to discuss further.



**Next Meeting:** April 7, 2016 – **5:00 pm** (Regular meeting with Strategic Planning session to follow after)

**Adjournment:**

**Resolution: 2016-20**

**Moved by:** Lynda Carleton

**Seconded by:** Chris Nicholson

Be it resolved that this committee does hereby adjourn at 18:37 until the next regular meeting April 7, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at the Strong Township Municipal Office, or at the call of the Chair.  
**Carried**

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**Chair, Les Blackwell**

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**Recording Secretary, Kim Dunnett**