

**Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce
Business Support Committee Minutes
October 10, 2008 *** Revised**

Attendance:

Ed Despres, Chair	George Duncan	Carol Ogilvie
Peter Gosline	Peter Brown	Laura Gingras
Dave Reilly	Pam Crook	Pamela Gleeson
Bonnie Kurylo	Gordon Hale	Beth Côté - Guest
Rodney Bartlett – Guest	John Vance	Ken Simonetta

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes:

Chair Ed Despres called the Meeting to order at 7:30AM with greetings and a welcoming to all present.

The September 12th meeting minutes were reviewed and one correction was noted by Gordon Hale. He suggested that Peter Robinson be nominated for Business Hero and Al Roy as a Business Legend. The minutes were approved as amended.

Updates and Acknowledgements:

- The Shaw's market and CVS project is proceeding.
- The Peterborough Historical Society's current display is called "Peterborough and Our Town" and is recommended for all to see.
- The 2009 Chamber Guide is underway. Please contact the Chamber Office for more information and advertising opportunities.
- The Connector Road through the MCH Campus is delayed because the bids all came in above the project budget. The project is expected to be completed on time in the fall of 2009.
- The Chamber Sign Committee received a commendation from Governor Lynch for their work on the new welcome signs. Ed thanked Ken Simonetta for his contributions to the effort. Ed also thanked Rodney Bartlett and the town road crew for their work to install the six signs and manicure the areas around them prior to the Governor's arrival! We presented pictures and a gift of note cards to Rodney.

Guest Speaker:

Ed introduced Rodney Bartlett, Director, Town of Peterborough Public Works Department, as our speaker for the meeting to discuss the subject of "Capital Improvements Overview."

Rodney reviewed the major projects on the town's horizon as summaries on a handout. Highlights include:

- Water System Improvements
- Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Town Connector Road off Route 202
- West Peterborough TIF Infrastructure Improvements
- Main Street Bridge and Route 202 Retaining Wall
- Union Street Bridge

The projects total \$24.328 million, of which only \$1.6 million will come from the Town's general fund.

Discussion:

- Gordon Hale, resident of Cheney Ave, complimented the work crew on the water system project near his home. Rodney described extraordinary events that caused the project to extend two months beyond schedule.

- Ed Despres asked about the Orchard Hill neighborhood water pressure. Rodney stated that it has been addressed with a new high water pressure system.
- Peter Brown asked if there would be any infrastructure improvements on the roads near the new waste water treatment plant. Rodney stated that the only improvements would be done to Pheasant Road.
- Ken Simonetta asked what traffic options would be used when Granite Street is closed for renovation. Rodney stated that Old Street Road and the new Connector Road is the best option.
- Laura Gingras asked how long the Main Street Bridge and Granite Street project would take. Rodney stated that the project is scheduled for about one year.
- John Vance mentioned that ten years ago, the capital projects on the Town's schedule totaled about \$16 - \$20 million.
- Pam Crook asked how the \$1.6 million would be funded through the general fund. Rodney stated that \$1 million was raised in 2006 through user fees and of the remaining \$600,000; \$162,000 was in the bank.
- Ed Despres asked if there would be an increase in access fees for new users. Rodney stated that a plan will be developed to incorporate new users.
- Carol Ogilvie reviewed a plan to reach out to downtown merchants early in the process of the Main Street Bridge project. A breakfast is planned later this month for all downtown merchants to reorient them to the Downtown TIF and review the process. Carol stated that participation from the merchants is a key factor in the projects success.
- Laura Gingras asked for a layman's description of how traffic would be dealt with during the project. Rodney stated that the town is waiting to hear the concerns of the merchants before designing a plan. Keeping one lane open on the bridge is one option.
- Carol Ogilvie stated that Rodney and Pam Brenner worked hard to get DOT funding for the project. Timing is critical. If it doesn't go forward, the funding is at risk.
- Dave Reilly asked which roads would be impacted by the retaining wall project. He is concerned about trucks staying in their lanes on the curve.
- Peter Gosline complimented Rodney on the value and expertise he brings to the town. Peter emphasized the importance of focusing on the future; the end results and goals.
- Pamela Gleeson described her vision for Our Community Stores and the value it can bring to the downtown merchants.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Peter Brown brought attention to the recent revaluation process for all Peterborough properties. He noted that one of his commercial properties experienced a 49% increase in the assessment. Other expressed concern over the revaluation process.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Friday, October 14th at 7:30AM at MCH conference room 5 - Speaker to be announced later.

Adjournment:

Having no other business come before that meeting, the meeting was properly adjourned at 8:40 AM.

Laura Gingras
Secretary Pro-Tem