



## Staff Report

**Report Title: November 2023 Manager of Strategic Initiatives Status Update**

**Prepared By: Michelle Goetz**

**Department: BED**

**Date: Nov. 6, 2023**

**Report Number: BED-2023-11-42**

**File Number:**

**C11 BED 23**

**Attachments: Ripley Medical Centre Concept 3, Concept 3 Cost Estimate**

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### **Recommendation:**

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information report number BED-2023-11-42, prepared by Michelle Goetz, Manager of Strategic Initiatives.

### **Background:**

This report provides an update from the Manager of Strategic Initiatives.

### **Discussion:**

#### **Women in Construction**

Implementation of the Women in Construction program is ongoing with the program wrap-up scheduled for March 2024, which is also our funding deadline.

Funding for Skills Development Fund 4.0 was recently announced with a deadline to apply of November 17<sup>th</sup> 2023. We've been working with Bruce County over the last few months to transition the program to them. Women in Construction is a regional program that supports participants throughout Grey, Bruce and Huron Counties.

We've had some uptake from Huron-Kinloss residents but the program is much farther reaching than we anticipated. The County is better set up to provide a regional program such as this. We will remain on as a partner of the program to ensure a smooth transition to the County. The other partners are also continuing to support the program – Fanshawe College, UBC Local 2222, and VPI.

#### **Ripley Medical Centre**

Our team met with Jason Morgan from Allan Avis Architects and members of Bruce County, the Kincardine Family Health Team and the Ripley Family Y to review and confirm how to move forward with this project. After a very successful meeting it was determined that concept 3 (attached) with a few amendments is the best option. We have circulated the attached to the partners for one last round of comments. The Kincardine Family Health Team and Dr. Murray have confirmed the main floor will renovations will work for them. We are waiting on confirmation from the Family Y.

Once we have confirmation from all parties, the architect will prepare the tender package for concept 3.

### **Govstack**

Our new website launched on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023; there were a few hiccups but the team worked diligently with our Account Manager to get things up and running as quickly as possible. It will take some time to work out a few glitches but we are confident the new system will be much easier for staff to navigate to ensure the content on the site remains up to date. The switch to Govstack will also reduce our annual licensing and support costs moving forward.

The Team is also working with our Treasury Department to finalize our online payment options, we hope to have that service available for residents in early 2024.

### **Investor's Dragon's Den Event**

Amy Irwin, Business and Economic Officer and I attended the Investor's Dragon's Den event in Toronto on October 5<sup>th</sup>. We applied to the program and were 1 of 10 municipalities chosen to attend the event. The event was well worth attending as we made some great connections with interested investors and received valuable feedback about how to pitch to investors, information to include, what questions we should be prepared to answer, and much more. Upon leaving the event, we made 3 connections that were interested in learning more about Huron-Kinloss. We will be following up over the next few weeks to invite them to tour the Township and learn about all the opportunities in our area.

### **The Hub**

After three years in operation the Hub will be closing its doors as of December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. I announce this with both pride and sadness because we've accomplished a lot over the last three years but I'm sad to see the doors close when there is still lots of work to be done.

Three years ago we secured funding through the NWMO and a Rural Economic Development Grant from the Province of Ontario, and at that time I don't think we fully understood the impact this project would have on our community and the greater Grey-Bruce region. We've supported hundreds of businesses, provided thousands of hours of training, consultations and support, piloted numerous

incubator programs, and developed meaningful relationships with community partners, entrepreneurs, and training providers.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Lauren Eby and Will LeGrand for leading this project with a true desire to support the business community. I applaud them both for what they've been able to achieve with The Hub.

A full report detailing our successes and challenges with this project will come forward in January 2024.

### **Ripley Industrial Park**

We are continuing to work with the Province on our Ontario Certified Site application, unfortunately due to some staffing turnover and shortages at the Province, there was a delay in finalizing the details needed to create our sell sheet and website page. They have now confirmed things are moving forward and we should have our marketing materials finalized in the near future. We will also be able to submit our invoices for reimbursement (marketing, surveys, legal fees, etc.).

#### **Financial Impacts:**

None at this time

#### **Strategic Alignment / Link:**

The information provided in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the Municipality's Vision & Mission. The recommendations contribute to the goals in achieving a prosperous, spirited, vibrant, environmentally conscious and accessible community.

#### **Respectfully Submitted By:**

Michelle Goetz, Manager of Strategic Initiatives

#### **Report Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer