



AGENDA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (EDC)
Thursday, March 18, 2021
5:00 pm
Township Video-Conference

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Meeting ID: 846 0224 8258

Page #

1. Call to Order
- 3 2. Approval of Past Minutes
Moved by _____ and Seconded by _____
THAT the Minutes dated January 21, 2020 be approved.
3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
4. Delegations
- 7 4.1 Superburger Flag- James Nicolaou
5. Current Business
- 5.1 Future grant projects
- 5.4 Cycling project (verbal update from Angela)

6. Information Items

- 8 6.1 Business Issues Survey
- 29 6.2 Rural Economic Development Program – Ontario Announcement
- 31 6.3 Share the Road Discussion
- 32 6.4 Rural Economic Development Project List
- 6.5 Dufferin County Virtual EDC (Verbal Update)

7. Items for Future Meetings/Meeting Date & Time

- 34 7.1 Strategic plan implementation and EDC Mandate

8. Unfinished Business

9. Adjournment

Moved by and Seconded by

THAT the meeting adjourns at ___ pm and meet again on May 20th, July 15th,
September 16th and November 18th at 7pm.



MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (EDC)

Thursday, January 21, 2021

7:00 pm

Township Video-Conference

Present:

Angela McMonagle – Chair
Ruben Rindinella- Vice Chair
Janet Horner- Mayor
Jeanette McFarlane
Julie Pollock
David Spencer
Diana Morris
Tracey Atkinson – Secretary
Dustin Early – Committee Coordinator

Absent with Regrets: Ernie Lynch

1. Call to Order - The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm
2. Approval of Past Minutes

Moved by Spencer and Seconded by Rindinella

THAT the Minutes dated October 15, 2020 be approved. Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

4. Delegations

Rural Economic Development Grant – GrantMatch; Lynda Rickard

Ms. Rickard from GrantMatch presented an information report on the Rural Economic Development Grant and how it relates to further business opportunities. She stressed the deadline is February 1st as well informing the Committee that letters of support would be needed in a week, as well as quotes, and a project budget.

The following project ideas were discussed:

Local tree growing partnership planting trees for 50th anniversary Earth Day, electrical vehicle charging network, online business directory, Mulmur gateway signage.

Committee Member Morris informed the Committee that the Dufferin Board of Trade received a grant to work on a County business directory and invited Mulmur to use the system to save money on their own directory.

GrantMatch provided information to council including:

The history of the company, the rebrand from Fairtax, how the fees are structured, what grant amount makes sense to write for, do they write grants for small business and examples of RED grants GrantMatch have written.

As well the question was asked “Does RED cover recreational infrastructure?”. This opened the discussion to what should be the best approach for grants such as finding grants for a project vs finding projects for grant.

It was decided by the Committee that they are not ready for a grant this time around. The Committee will think about future grants with the advice of GrantMatch.

Secretary Atkinson informed the Committee that she is waiting on Karissa Downey to get back to her regarding signage.

Member Morris will be contacting the local municipalities shortly to reach out to businesses for the County business directory. Mulmur Staff can coordinate with the Committee to help with the business directory.

5. Current Business

5.1 Cycling Project Update – Chair McMonagle

Chair McMonagle provided an update on the cycling routes presenting the Frank Cowan Report presented to Council December 9, 2020. A discussion ensued regarding the motion and direction of Council and by the Road Safety Committee. Additionally, Member Horner provided an update from the County Planning, EDC, Tourism Committee regarding bike trails being a priority for the County in the future. There was a discussion on what ideas can the committee think about to bolster a Dufferin County lead bike trail program. Some of the ideas discussed were: Rest stops on bike routes with picnic tables and garbage bins, vending refreshments through food trucks & kiosks, a central bicycle hub and running large full-blown cycling events.

5.2 Broadband Survey

The Broadband Survey results were received and presented to the Committee by Secretary Atkinson. There was a discussion regarding where residents can go if they are not in the plan. There was a brief discussion on alternative internet options.

5.3 Strategic Plan (Pollock Table)

Committee Member Pollock presented her Strategic Plan Report highlighting the mandates of the Economic Development Committee.

There was a discussion regarding the strategic plan implementation at the Special Council Meeting February 17. Additionally, there was a discussion on making it part of the Strategic Plan to re-evaluate previous strategic plan goals as part of the process. There was further discussion regarding planning and its relation to the Strategic Plan. This included discussions on a current application in the pre-consultation phase for adding homes, the Township can open more medical and health care related opportunities through zoning, pursuing developers to provide more studies on servicing through the Official Plan, and getting an uptick in second dwelling interest.

Also, the Committee discussed providing greater services to an aging population as part of the strategic plan. Secretary Atkinson mentioned that this was supported by the responses from the recreation study showing a greater need for aging recreational activities.

6. Information Items

6.1 Canadian Agricultural Partnership Grant – Moving Mulmur Farmers Market (Verbal update)

Secretary Atkinson provided an update on the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Grant.

6.2 Mansfield Ski Club Development (Verbal Update)

Secretary Atkinson provided an update on the Mansfield Ski Club. A discussion ensued regarding the upcoming public meeting February 3rd at Council. There was a discussion regarding how the project lines up with Mulmur's ideals and residents needs through the Official Plan as a recreation area for Mulmur.

It was encouraged to members and all residents to raise their concerns with Council regarding the application to the public meeting February 3rd.

6.3 Dufferin County Labour Market (December 2020)

Member Morris clarified the data from Dufferin County Labour Market regarding the uptick of labour numbers in October relating to the end of the CERB program.

7. Items for Future Meetings/Meeting Date & Time

Dufferin County Economic Development Committee Meeting info. Chair McMonagle and Member Morris will attend.

Future items included: Business issues surveys results from Dufferin County, future grant projects, strategic plan implementation and the cycling project.

8. Unfinished Business

a. Primrose Business Park

9. Adjournment

Moved by McFarlane and Seconded by Rindinella

THAT the meeting adjourns at 8:51 pm. To meet again on March 18th, May 20th, July 15th, September 16th and November 18th at 7pm. Carried.

Approved by:

.....
Chair

.....
Secretary

DRAFT

James Nicolaou
Superburger
506269 Highway 89
Mulmur, Ontario
L9V 0N7

Attn: Tracey Atkinson
tatkinson@mulmur.ca

Re: Superburger Flag Request

Dear Township of Mulmur Development Committee:

I'm hoping you will consider the idea of flying a large flag with the beautiful new Mulmur logo on our 60 foot flagpole. Imagine a 12' x 24' flag flying high at the crossroads of Ontario in the hamlet of Primrose, viewed by all driving along Highways 10 and 89. Thousands of Ontarians and travellers from around the country and the world will see it.

I think it would be a spectacular way to promote our wonderful Township.

Sincerely,
James Nicolaou
416-239-5864



2021 Dufferin Business Issues Survey Results

December 2020

Introduction

The Dufferin Board of Trade (DBOT) is a non-profit community organization that serves, represents, and advocates on behalf of business in Dufferin County and the Headwaters Region. DBOT works to make the community better by helping local businesses thrive. When local businesses are succeeding the local economy flourishes and businesses can better support local charities, events, and their employees.

The annual Business Issues Survey took an even greater importance in 2020 given the global pandemic and its implications on business. The year's survey was open to all businesses operating in Dufferin and was promoted through DBOT's membership, social media, community partners, and the local municipalities.

The data collected is used to identify the issues impacting business in our region, and help our organization shape our strategic priorities. We focus on supporting businesses in the areas they need it most.

The Process

The Dufferin Business Issues Survey was distributed online, with responses captured utilizing an online survey platform. The survey was open from November 23rd until December 4th and 68 responses were collected. The survey consisted of 25 questions and covered five major sections (Business Information, Global Trade, Business Confidence, Economic Outlook, and Workforce).

Survey Results

This report contains a breakdown and graphical representation of survey response. In instances where data exceeds a total of 100%, respondents were permitted to select more than one answer on the survey.

Business Information

The survey was open to both Dufferin Board of Trade members and non-members, with 64.7% of respondents being current members and 33.8% non-members. Respondents were asked to indicate their organization's size and location. Figure 1 and Figure 2 represent the business size (number of employees) and location of respondents respectively. According to the 2016 Census, 89% of employers in Dufferin have few than 20 employees and our respondents are a reasonable reflection of that statistic.

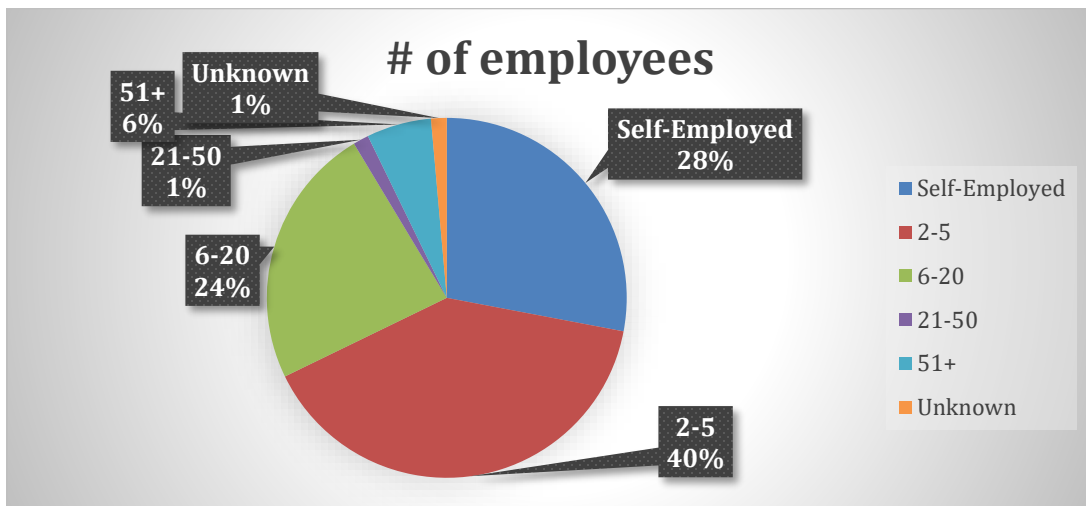


Figure 1: The Number of Employees

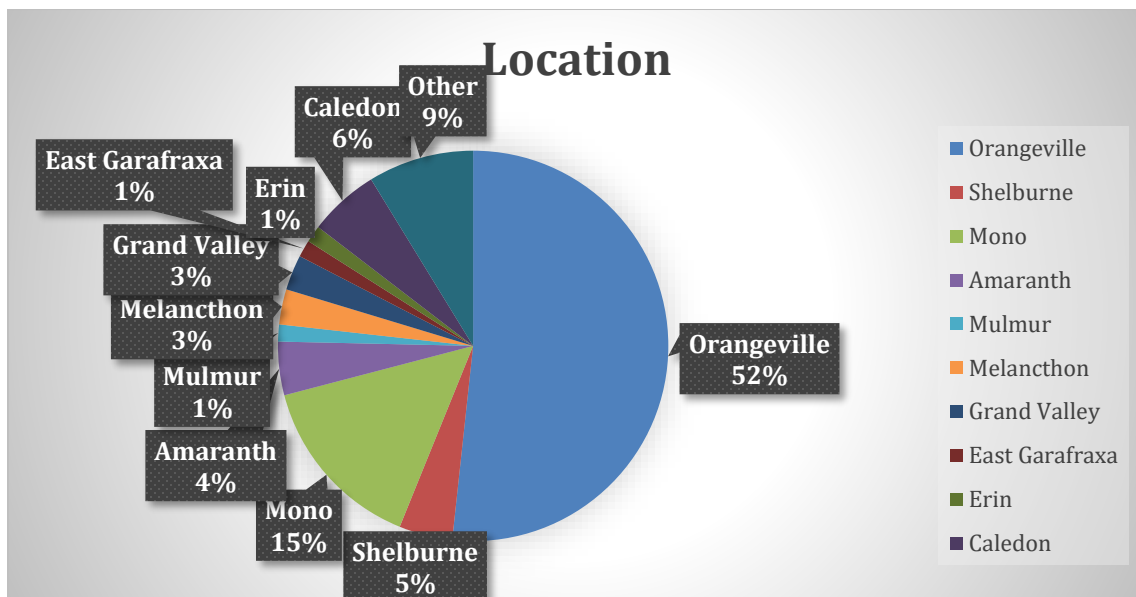


Figure 2: Locations

Position in the Company

64.7% of respondents were the business owner or partner, 11.7% were the President or CEO, 16.1% were Managers, 4.4% were an employee, with the remainder electing not to say.

Business Status

Covid-19 forced many businesses to close, modify their operating hours, or move to (or increase) online sales, as shown below in Figure 3.

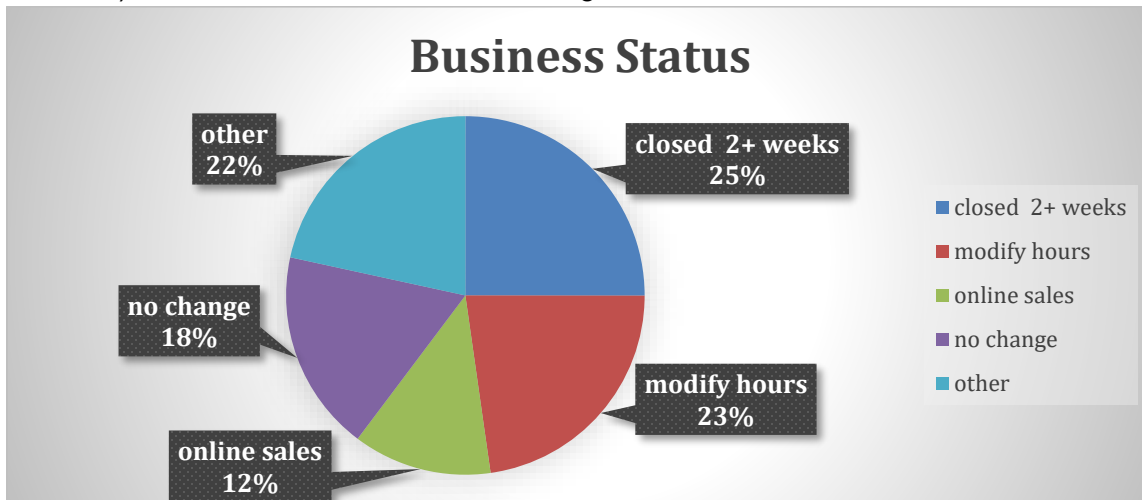


Figure 3: Business Status Due to Covid-19

The “Other” responses included: modifying delivery of services; changing to curbside pickup; moving to work from home; and others (see Appendix for full list)

Global Trade

The vast majority of businesses surveyed are not involved in Global Trade, and this has not seen much change over the past three years. Of respondents, 78% were not involved in global trade and 15% were involved in some form of global trade. Of the businesses that were involved in global trade, 50% were involved in export, 42% were import, 17% were involved in online information and 33% were involved in other forms of global trade.

Many businesses who are involved in Global Trade have been impacted by the pandemic, with 42% reporting a very negative or moderately negative impact. On the contrary, 33% have seen a fairly positive impact, and 25% have not had their Global Trade impacted by Covid-19. (Figure 4)

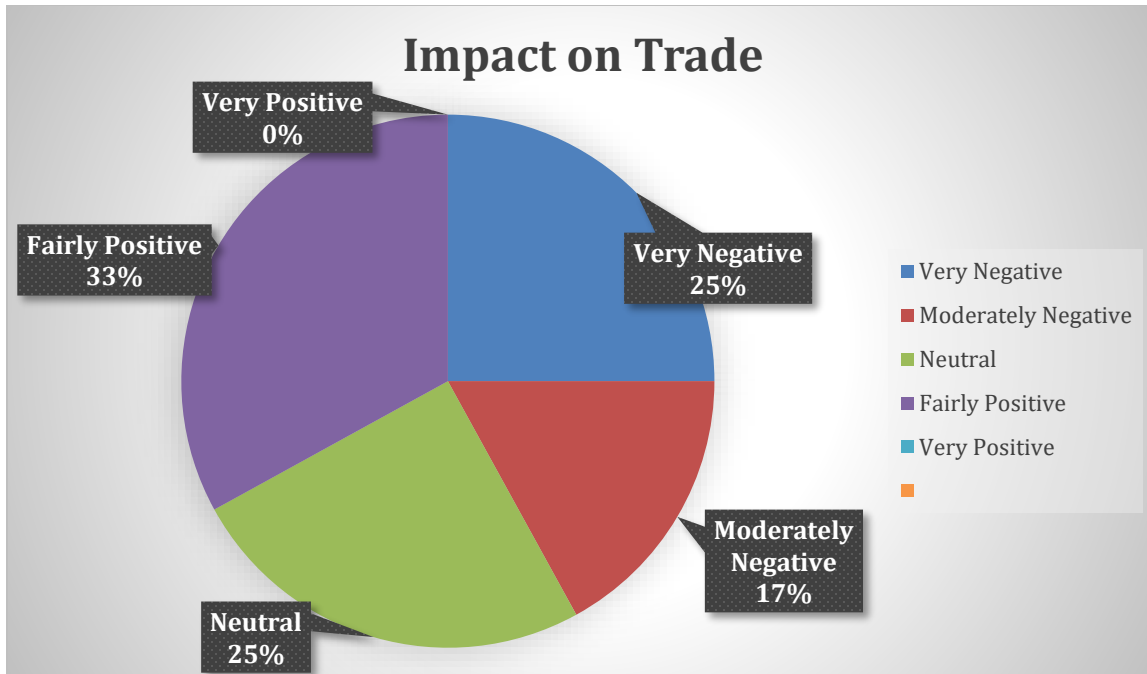


Figure 4: Covid-19's impact on Global Trade

Business Performance

The impact of Covid-19 on business performance has been negative for 54% of respondents, neutral for 26%, and positive for 19%, as shown in Figure 5

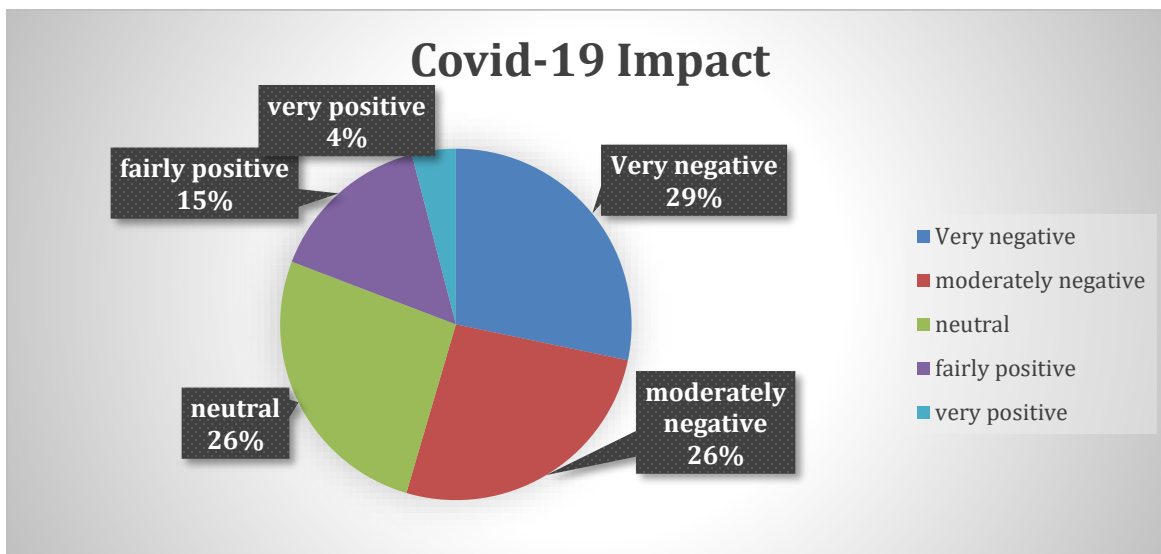


Figure 5: Covid-19 Impact on business performance

For 44% of respondents, their business performance in 2020 was worse than 2019, 10% performed about the same, and 25% performed better in 2020 than 2019. (Figure 5). In responses from the previous two surveys, only 12% of business stated they performed worse in the current year than the previous year, and 35% performed the same year over year, as shown below.

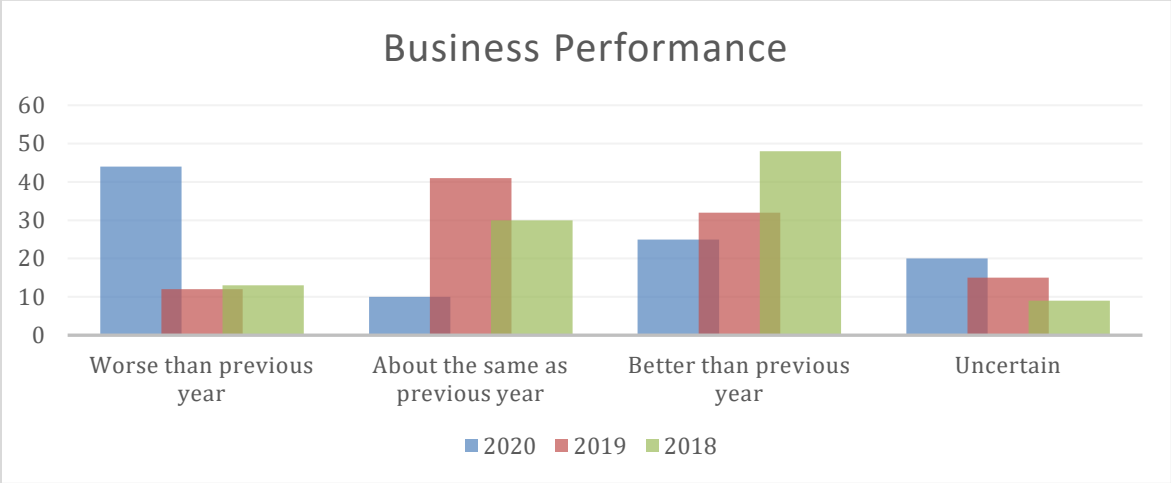


Figure 6: Business Performance year over year

2021 Projections

Optimism for a better 2021 was low at 31% compared to the 2019 and 2020 surveys where 54% and 40% of respondents felt that their business would perform better next year than the current year. Respondents who felt that 2021 would be about the same as 2020 was comparable to previous years' at 38%, and respondents predicting 2021 to be worse than 2020 was similar to previous years' at 10%. The number of businesses who were uncertain was high at 20%, compared to 8% & 14% in previous years.

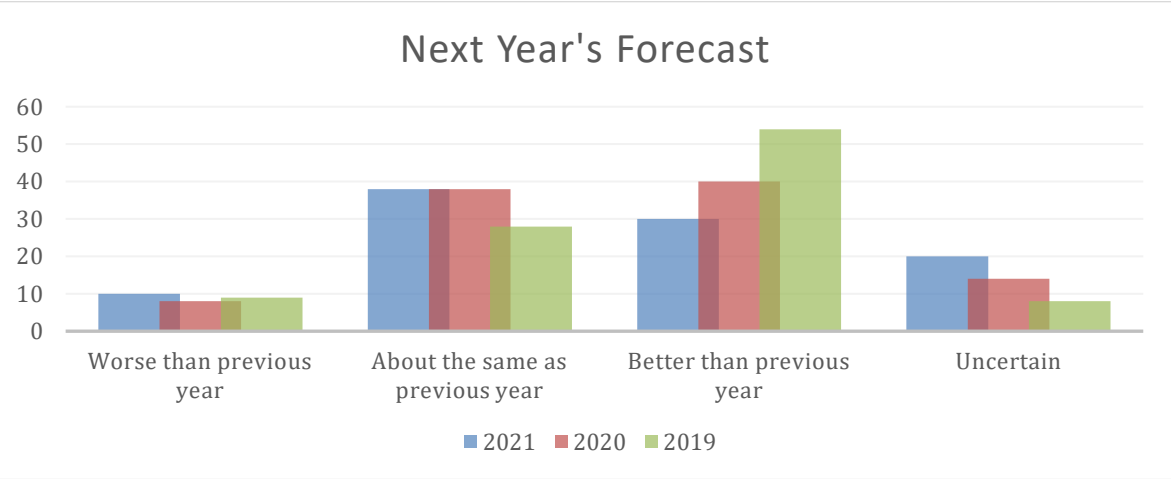


Figure 7: Business Forecast for next year

Business Priorities & Concerns

Top Priorities

Respondents were asked to give the top five priorities their business will focus on in 2021. The top five priorities identified are: strategic planning and focus (63%), reducing operational costs (52%), marketing and advertising (51%), getting connected in the local business community (31%), and better leveraging technology for business (30%).

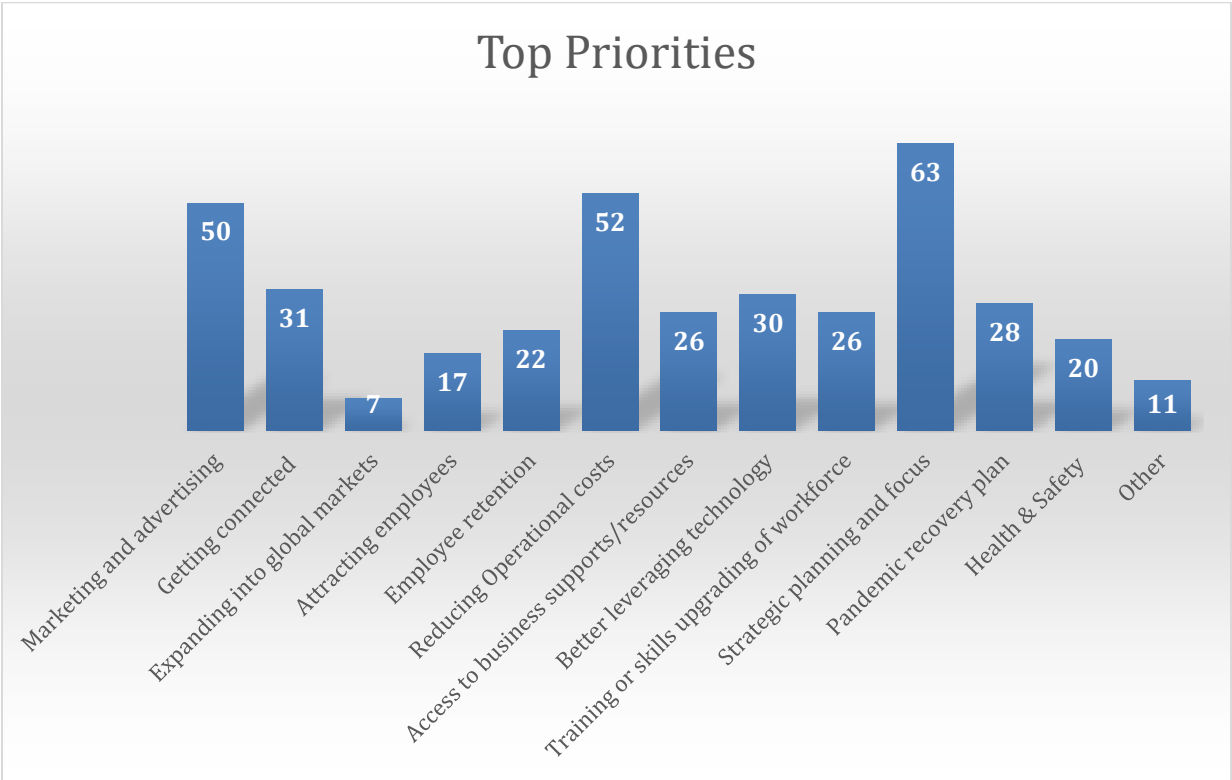


Figure 8: Top Priorities

Biggest Concerns

Respondents were also asked to share the five biggest concerns they feel their company will face in 2021. Red tape and regulations (44%), access to business support programs and resources (39%), business taxes (37%), cost of rent/lease/purchase space (31%) and decreasing consumer confidence (31%), were the top five concerns identified.

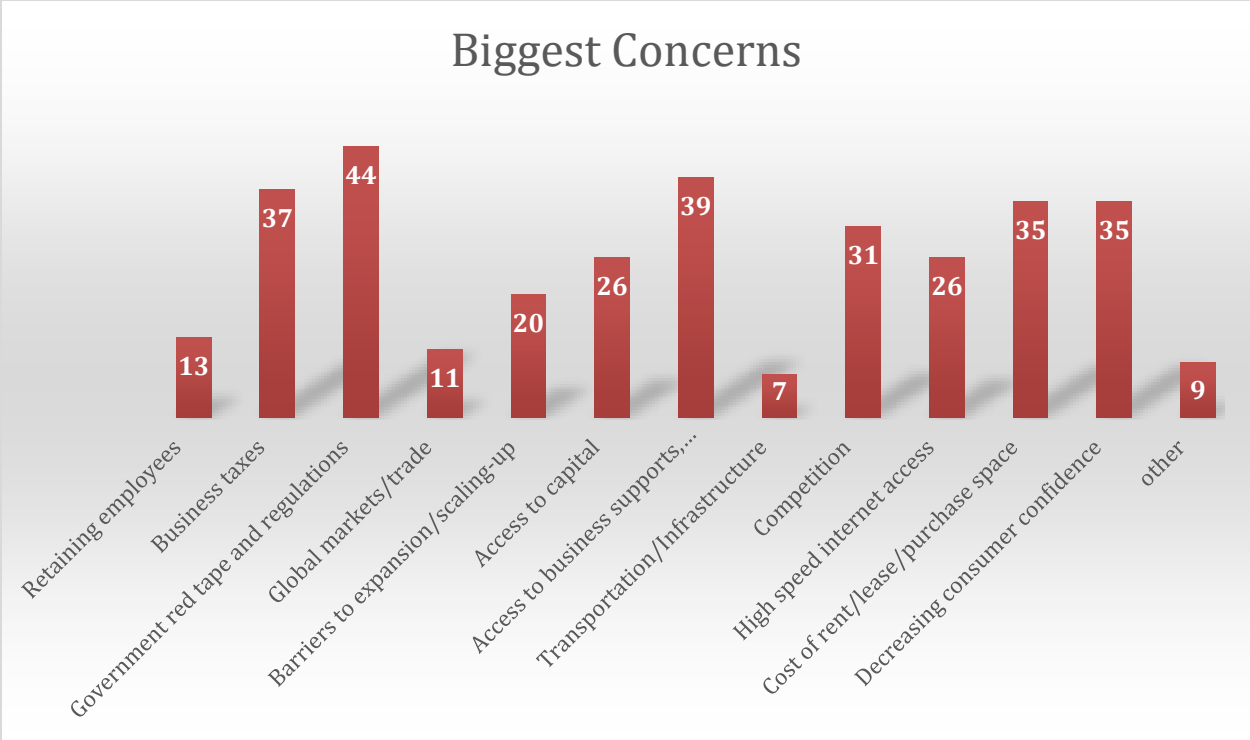


Figure 9: Biggest Concerns for 2021

Covid-19 Opportunities

When respondents were asked if they believe their business will see any additional economic opportunity from Covid-19, 59% said no, while 18% expect to see growth of their digital market, 15% in innovation, 9% through government assistance, 7% through a new product line, 7% other, and 2% in green technology.

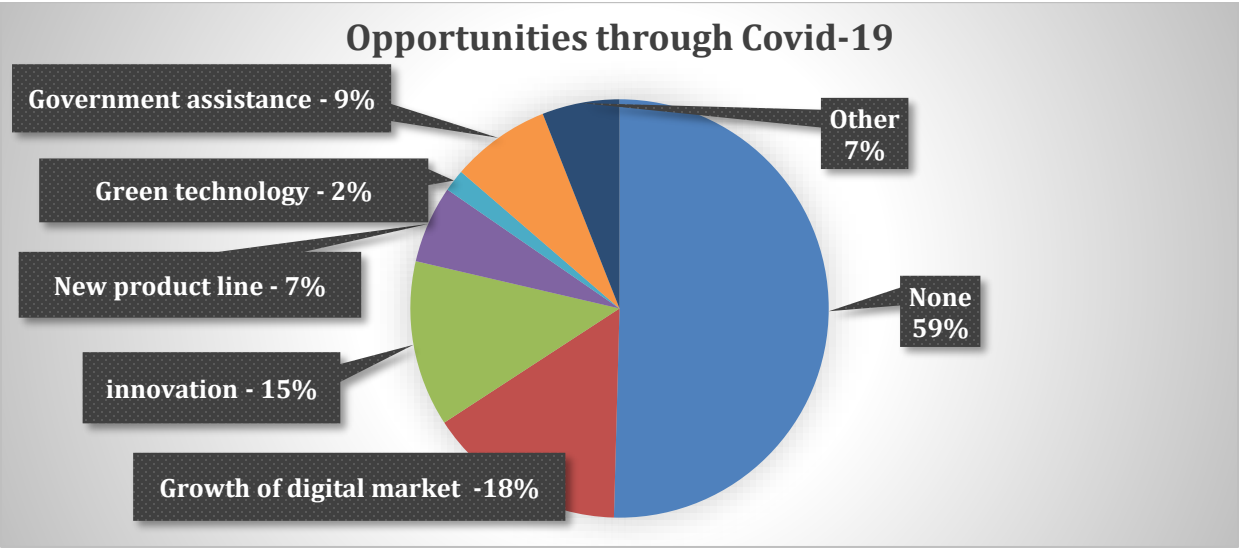


Figure 10: Opportunities through Covid-19

Economic Outlook

Respondents have a very mixed outlook on the economy for 2021 [Figure 11]: 26% believe that in 2021 the economy will perform about the same as 2020; 26% believe that the economy will be worse in 2021; 25% think that it will be better; and 22% are uncertain.

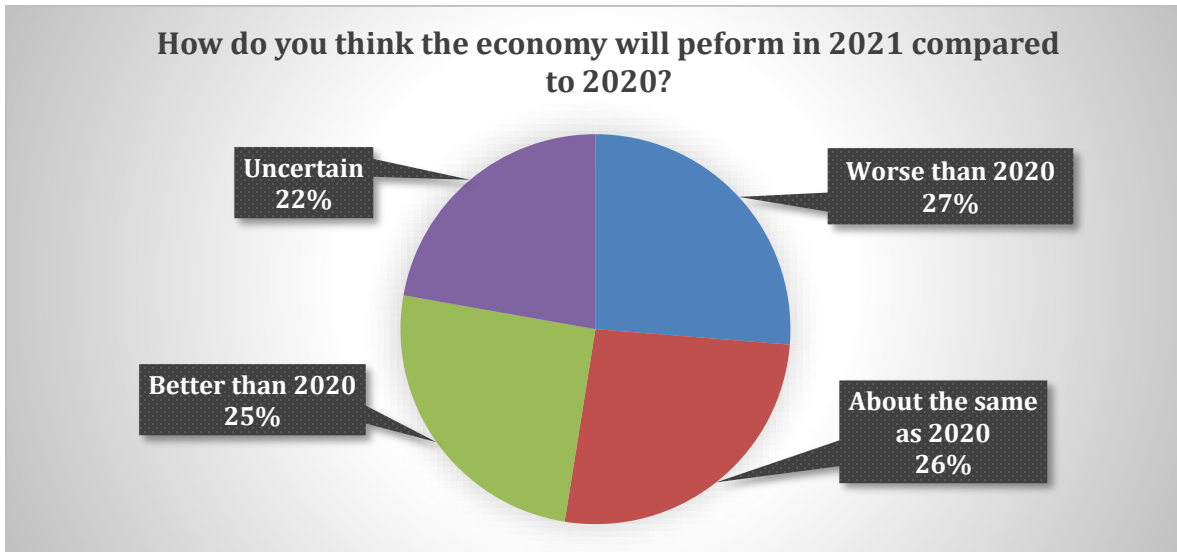


Figure 11: How do you think the economy will perform in 2021 compared to 2020?

Respondents were asked to identify the top three most important factors driving Dufferin County’s economic growth and prosperity. Access and availability to high-speed broadband (49%) and Creating a live-work community (49%) tied for first, with the availability of affordable housing (36%) coming in second.

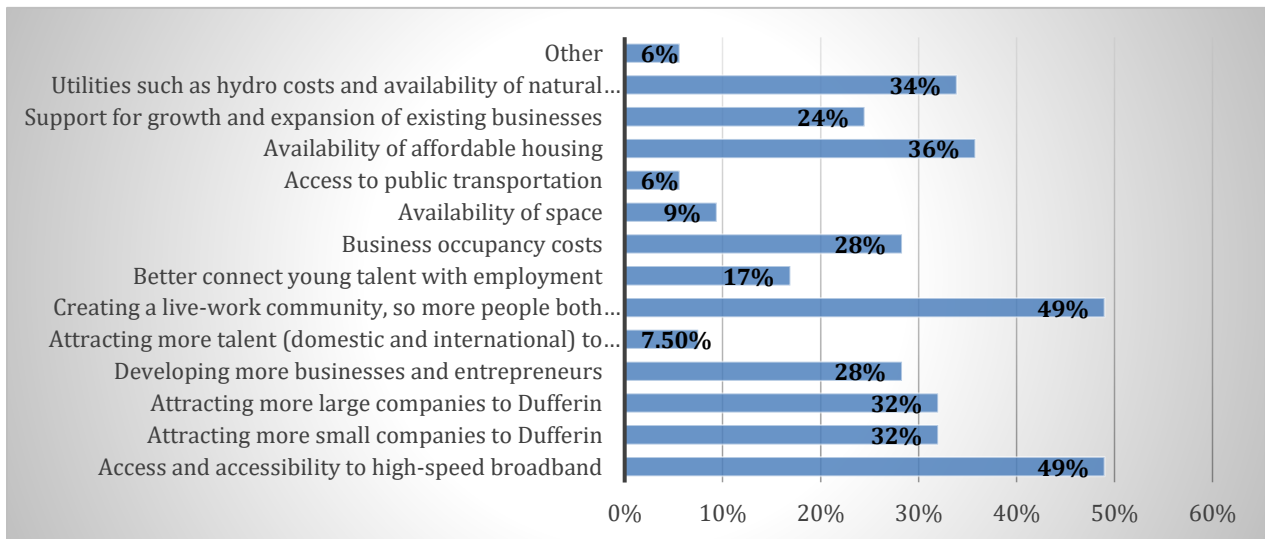


Figure 12: Most important factors driving the company's growth and prosperity.

Workforce

According to workforce statistics gained from the survey, 20.5% of businesses had employment levels lower than 2019, 47% remained about the same as 2019, 7.3% higher than 2019 and 25% were unsure.

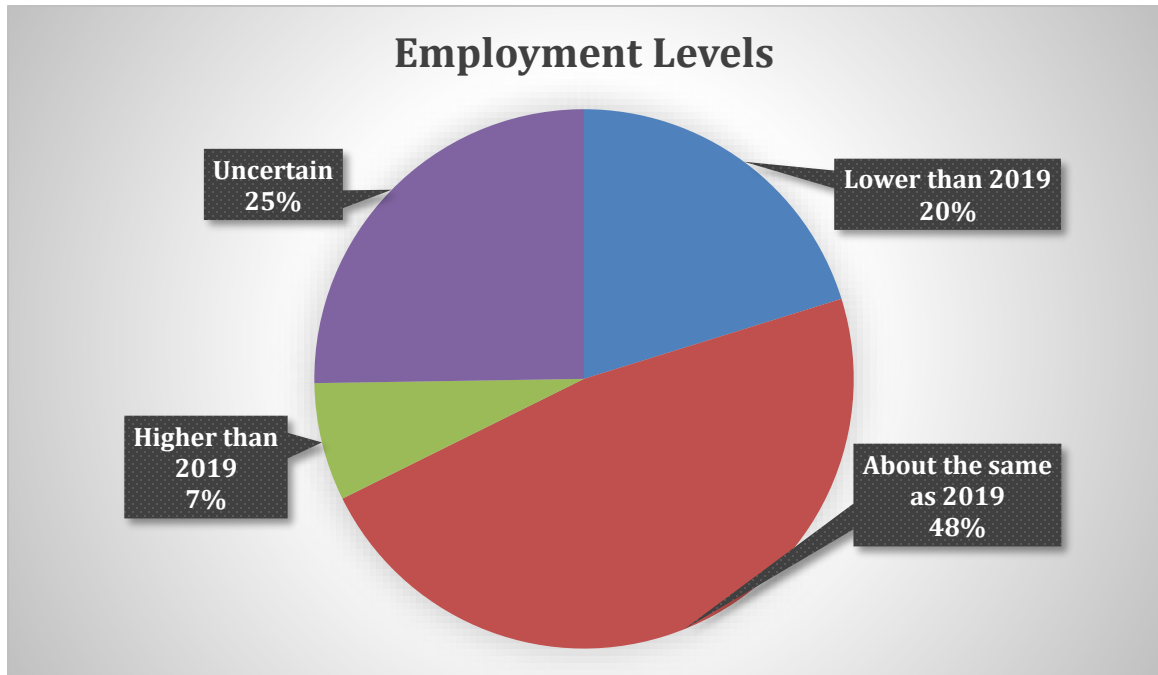


Figure 12: Employment levels within the company

Respondents were also asked if they had to make any workforce reductions (even temporarily) due to Covid-19. 44% of respondents had no reductions in workforce, 6% had a 25% reduction in workforce, 15% had a 50% reduction in workforce, 3% had a 75% reduction in workforce, and 7% had a 100% reduction in workforce due to Covid-19. See figure 13

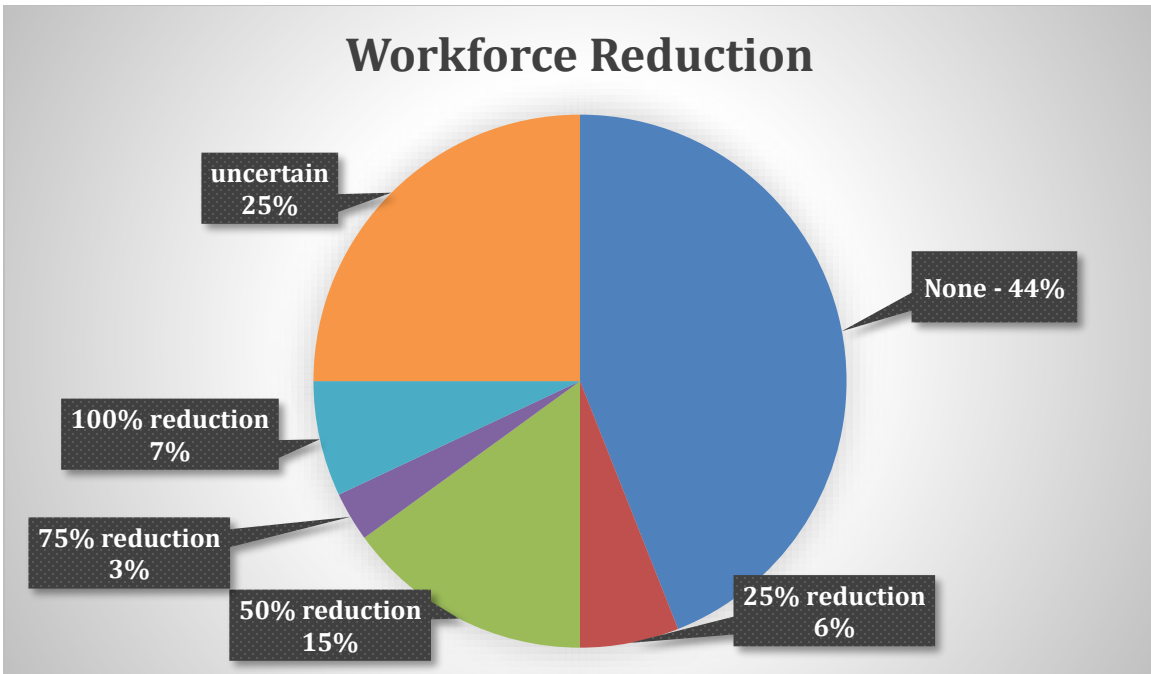


Figure 13: Workforce reductions due to Covid-19

In previous years we have seen approximately 42% of businesses struggling to fill available positions with candidates that met their needs and requirements. This year that number was about the same, however, only 40% of businesses reported that they had engaged in the hiring process this year.

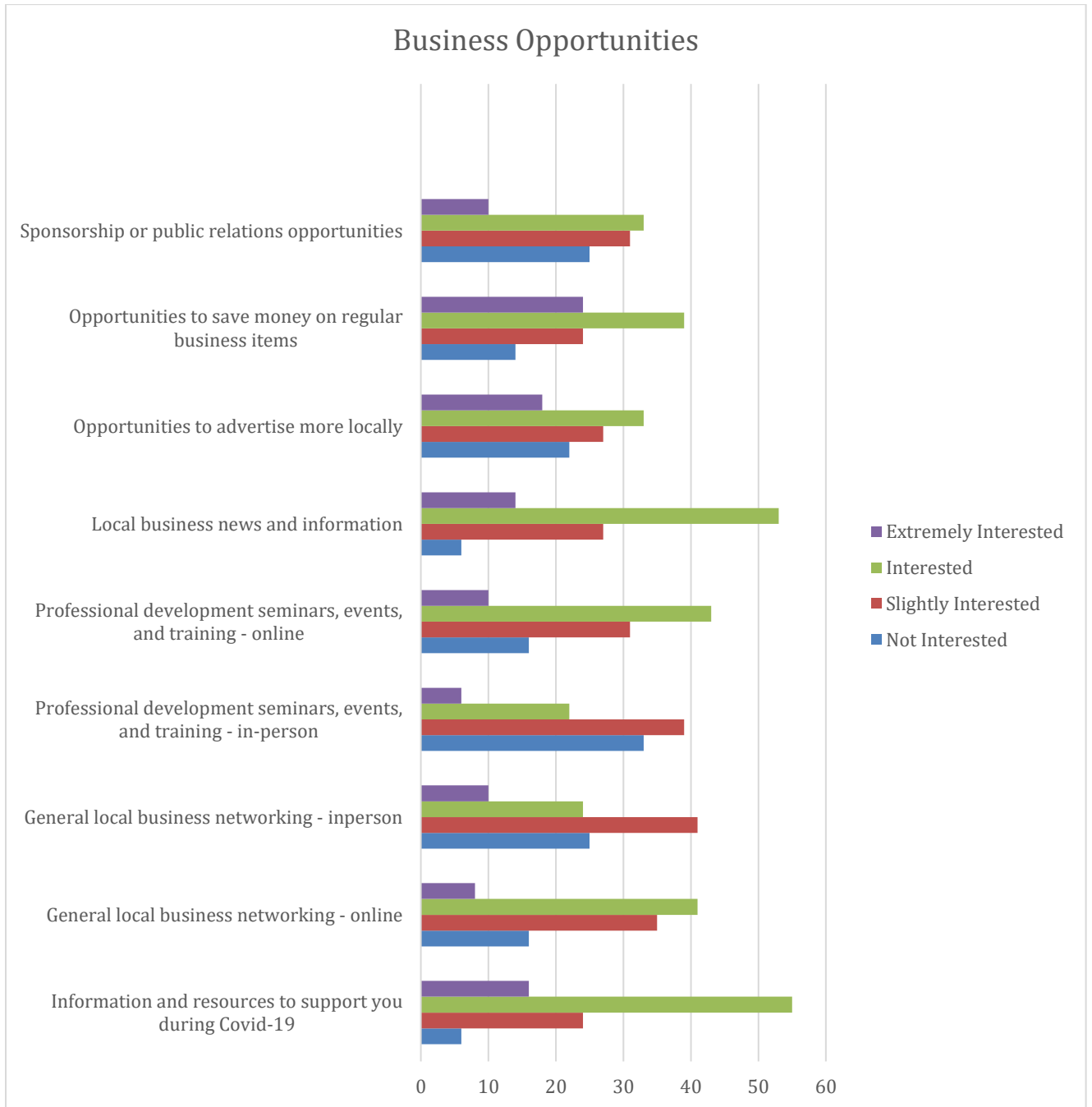
Employers were asked for the top three requirements for new hires. Most respondents focused on good communication and soft skills (50.9%) and Organizational culture fit (47%), while having experience in the field was a priority for 41% of respondents



Figure 14: What employers look for in candidates

Business Opportunities

Businesses were asked to indicate their interest in resources, information, and opportunities. Results indicate that businesses are keen to receive information and resources to support them during Covid-19, with 71% being interested or extremely interested. The other top selections were receiving local business news and information and opportunities to save money on regular business items. Details are below in figure 15



Policy & Advocacy

Respondents were asked: “What are the policy and advocacy issues that you believe the Dufferin Board of Trade should be focused on?” The top responses were: Economic Development was top at 54%, followed by Local government accountability/governance at 52%, and high-speed broadband and energy costs tying for third, with 48% each.

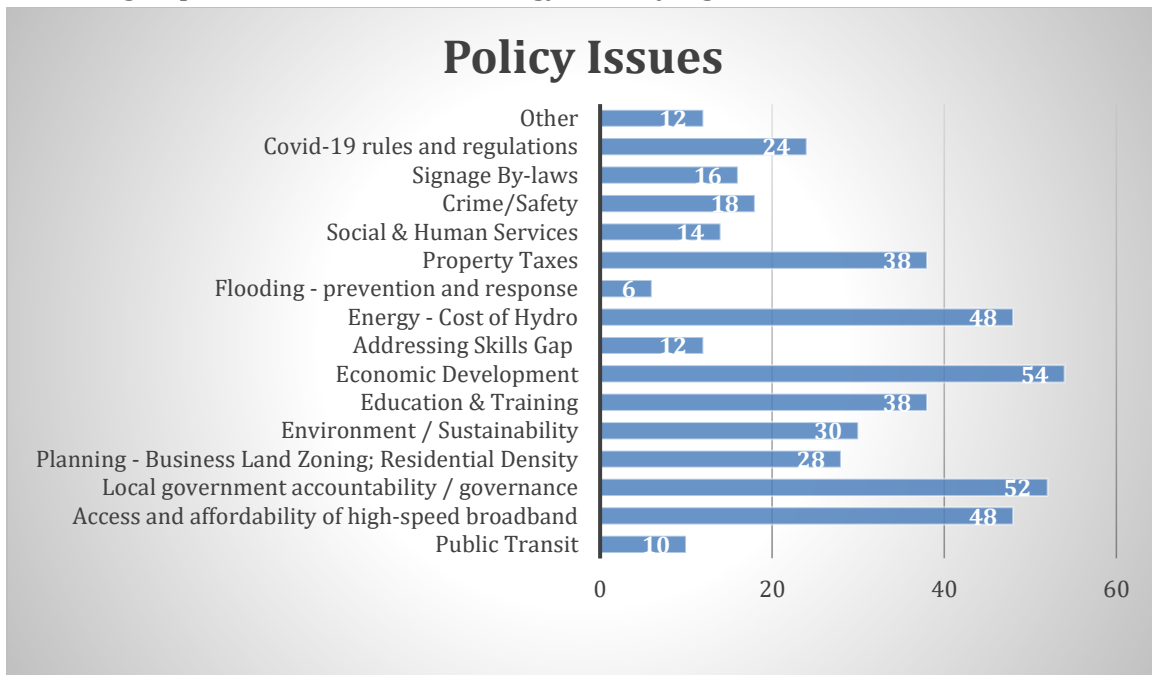


Figure 16: Policy and advocacy issues DBOT should be involved in

Respondents were asked to indicate if they felt policy advocacy is a very important function of the Dufferin Board of Trade. An overwhelming 98% indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed with that statement.

Appendix

Constant Contact Survey Results
Survey Name: 2020 Dufferin Business Issues Survey
Response Status: Partial & Completed
Filter: None
Dec 04, 2020 9:55:59 AM
3. Where is your organization primarily located? - Other responses
Answer
Various locations throughout Canada
Dufferin
Guelph
Toronto
Hillsburg
5. During this year has your business had to (please select all that apply): - Other responses
Answer
modify how deliver service
started another business to make up for lost revenue in main business
curb side pick up
shift to new category of sales
Hire more people for growth
spend \$\$\$\$ covid cleaning supplies, screen all who enter building
One division closed office permanently, only work from home
had to start work from home
moved to at home work
some consultant work, but less
Been twice as busy
I am not a business owner . I support the BIA as town councillor
we postponed elective procedures for a while
apply for wage subsidy
modify service delivery methods
online sales not possible for our business
The dynamics have changed. Our guest use to check in and rush out to attend a we
Be more careful to avoid covid
Staff hours are cut and all business is curb side
7. If yes, what kind of global trade is your business involved in: - Other responses
Answer

<i>Subsidiary in Europe</i>
<i>We do contract commodities abroad</i>
<i>Coaching Training</i>
<i>N/A</i>
8. If you are involved in Global Trade, how have you been impacted by COVID-19? - Comments
Answer
<i>We have had more global sales since September 2020.</i>
<i>Sales in some countries have sharply decreased.</i>
<i>It has affected our 2021 contracts to the negative</i>
<i>Product lead times have increased, sometimes greatly</i>
<i>We cannot serve any clients in the USA. Typically it is approx 30-40% of our revenue are sales to the US.</i>
9. How has your business been impacted by COVID-19? - Comments
Answer
<i>In the spring COVID crushed my business to the point where I had to lay off all 16 employees and do the work of those people on my own. 12 hour or more days were the norm and some time longer. I could not afford to have staff come in and hard to get hourly employees to come in when they can receive \$2000 per month to stay home. Devastating would be an understatement</i>
<i>I have lost at least 50% of my revenue, so I had to pivot and start another new business relevant to the times</i>
<i>Initially we were negatively impacted with lower sales, however the last 4 months sales have increased compared to same time last year.</i>
<i>I lost the majority of my clients who are not comfortable meeting via video conferencing</i>
<i>our enrollment for dance is half of what it normally is, we have not been able to offer as many classes as normal, we have had to cancel numerous events and completely shut down for months. We have had to spend \$\$\$ on PPE & cleaning products to ensure our students are safe and healthy, we have gone above and beyond what is required, we have lost teaching staff due to decrease in enrollment and we have had no rent relief.....</i>
<i>We are in the "essential services" realm, so not a dramatic change. However, our clients are "brick'n'mortar" retail. COVID has accelerated online shopping. WE need to find additional markets.</i>
<i>Revenue has dropped 68% from last year.</i>
<i>Expenses are the same.</i>
<i>We are an essential service business, so had to do some change to adapt but working out okay.</i>
<i>Some of our events were cancelled or impacted greatly.</i>

<i>Some of our programs saw an increase in revenue.</i>
<i>Increased costs</i>
<i>Supplies are in short demand. Cost of material has gone up and lead times have doubled</i>
<i>fairly consistent. things are declining now.</i>
<i>The BIA of Grand Valley has been very well supported by the residents and town council.</i>
<i>No longer able to attend live trade shows and presentations.</i>
<i>We had to close immediately after opening, so we were closed from mid March until the end of May. However when we opened back up in June we had a very positive response from the community.</i>
<i>We are still open but sales are down from recent years</i>
<i>We have seen both positive and negative impacts. Our fundraising streams have been negatively affected, but we have seen more opportunities to collaborate with other organizations on aligned goals.</i>
<i>Last few weeks have been very challenging, sales are down and Christmas inventory has already arrived with the bills to go with them.</i>
<i>We are in the business of bringing groups of people together. This is exactly the opposite of what is required in a pandemic.</i>
<i>We had to close for 3 months as a non essential business. We have had no change room allowed since March. Both have had a HUGE impact on our sales</i>
<i>Some customers are adversely affected by covid and shut down or delayed using our services</i>
<i>We rely on the travel industry for our animal boarding business to succeed. Our boarding business is operating at about 5% compared to other years.</i>
10. How has YOUR BUSINESS performed in 2020 compared with 2019? - Comments
Answer
<i>Way worse ... revenues are about 55 % but the taxes and mortgages still have to be paid</i>
<i>Without the new business I would be performing worse.</i>
<i>See # 9 for more details.</i>
<i>sales are marginally better</i>
<i>Some of the businesss did not open and struggled to survive over the summer months</i>
<i>n/a - we opened Feb 2020</i>
<i>We are a charity, but our program income and fundraising have both dropped as a result of COVID-19, as both were done in person.</i>
<i>Our revenues have effectively dropped over 75%.</i>
<i>Additionally our costs have not dropped to the same degree.</i>
<i>A little worse</i>
<i>I opened in 2020</i>

11. How do you think YOUR BUSINESS will perform in 2021 compared with 2020? - Comments
Answer
<i>not sure at this point ... trying to be optimistic is not easy in these times</i>
<i>Don't know.</i>
<i>Assuming that covid restrictions are lifted before spring.</i>
<i>We hope that we have adapted, and have found more efficiencies in work flows and overhead.</i>
<i>likely close, or limited business upcoming retirement.</i>
<i>Depending on pandemic and the unknowns of being shut down again. We are still recovering for being forced down for over 4 months.</i>
<i>We are seeing a decline in sales over the last month.</i>
<i>Depends on the pandemic trajectory. If things get back to "normal" we will do better.</i>
<i>Can't answer. Hope better but who knows, each week, each day is different and brings with it new challenges.</i>
<i>"Better than 2020" is conditional on a number of factors including:</i>
<i>1) a vaccine is a) available and b) delivered and taken by individuals.</i>
<i>2) that health and safety regulations allow people to congregate again</i>
<i>3) that people/customers "feel" confident to congregate with others again.</i>
<i>2020 was my startup year</i>
<i>If vaccinating the population is successful and people start traveling we should see a slight recovery. If the border with the US opens we can begin to send puppies to American families again.</i>
12. Select Top 5 - Which of the following do you anticipate to be TOP PRIORITIES your company will focus on in 2021? - Other responses
Answer
<i>lease a location</i>
<i>n.a.</i>
<i>Govt Travel Advisories</i>
<i>stable funding</i>
<i>securing funding to stay open</i>
<i>Succession planning</i>
13. Select Top 5 - Which of the following do you anticipate to be the biggest ISSUES OF CONCERN your company will face in 2021? - Other responses
Answer
<i>retaining customer base</i>
<i>Partisan and terrible lack of leadership from our MPP and her government.</i>
<i>These are some concerns I see as a councillor</i>

<i>overall operational costs</i>
<i>Having customers return</i>
14. Do you believe your business will see any additional economic opportunity spurred by Covid-19? - Other responses
Answer
<i>Infrastructure spending</i>
<i>Post COVID-19 recovery</i>
<i>increased charitable giving and community focus</i>
<i>Local housing demand</i>
15. How do you think THE ECONOMY will perform in 2021 compared with 2020? - Comments
Answer
<i>Thats the 20 million \$ question... I dont know that anyone knows the answer to that question...</i>
<i>our goal here at ADA Dance Co is the health and safety of our young dancers and this includes their mental health, our students require dance to relieve the stress and anxiety they have been experiencing during this time. Therefore dance should be considered an essential service.</i>
<i>Depending on pandemic unknowns</i>
<i>Once the Covid-19 vaccine is widley available.</i>
<i>Hard to guess whether the relief spending will be enough for business continuity, or whether it will catch up and compound the situation. Might be time to reassess "the economy" measure anyway.</i>
<i>However only just "better than 2020". So much is dependent on the timing and delivery of a vaccine as well as consumer confidence.</i>
<i>We don't expect business to be back to normal until mid 2022.</i>
16. Select Top 3 - Which of following are the most important factors driving Dufferin County's economic growth and prosperity - Other responses
Answer
<i>cost of water and taxes in Orangeville</i>
<i>na</i>
<i>Innovation in affordable housing</i>
17. What happened with employment levels IN YOUR COMPANY in 2020 compared with 2019? - Comments
Answer
<i>went from 16 full/ part time employees</i>
<i>to 9 only 2 full time and balance are part time.</i>
<i>NA</i>
<i>Self employed. No employees.</i>

<i>n/a - opened Feb 2020</i>
<i>All regular part time staff was let go beginning of pandemic and only bringing in a part timer every 2 weeks for production purposes</i>
<i>Employee was off sick for 6 months</i>
<i>Could not expand due to red tape, capital and startup expenses with no support from covid19 benefits for small businesses</i>
18. Did your company have to make a reduction in workforce (even temporarily) due to Covid-19? - Comments
Answer
<i>From march to June I was the only employee. gradually started late June to bring people back as needed ... some may never return..</i>
<i>NA</i>
<i>Temporarily reduced workforce at start of pandemic.</i>
<i>Self employed. No employees.</i>
<i>We reduced hours, not staff but it was very short term</i>
<i>Had one employee start (me), I was not paid while we were closed for a few months.</i>
<i>Employee was ill but not related to covid</i>
<i>For part of March and most of April it was 100% of our staff laid off. May-July we had 2 employees return with a huge reduction in hours. Currently 8/10 employees have returned all with fewer hours</i>
19. Within the last year have you been able to fill all of your positions with candidates that meet your needs and requirements? If Not, comment what issues you had. - Comments
Answer
<i>not hiring... still have people laid off</i>
<i>NA</i>
<i>Lack of skilled candidates</i>
<i>People don't want to work</i>
<i>Cannot find people either that want to work or have the proper qualifications</i>
<i>Struggling to find qualified people even at hourly rates between \$30-45/HR</i>
<i>Lack of capital and Covid19 hurt startup plans</i>
20. Select Top 3 - Please prioritize your hiring requirements for new employee candidates. - Other responses
Answer
<i>depends on department they are in</i>
<i>N/A</i>
<i>dance teacher training</i>
<i>Self employed. No employees.</i>
<i>n.a.</i>
<i>work on commission</i>
<i>not hiring</i>

N/A
Not applicable
online sales not possible for our business
N/a
21. Please rate your level of interest in the following: - Comments
Answer
many of the above do not apply to my specialized business
our goal here at ADA Dance Co is the health and safety of our young dancers and this includes their mental health, our students require dance to relieve the stress and anxiety they have been experiencing during this time. Therefore dance should be considered an essential service.
Na
I would be interested in in-person seminars, after the COVID crisis resolves. Maybe once we are all vaccinated.
.
this survey "timed out" on me while filling in comments in the last page (I did not leave my computer). All my comments were lost. I clicked on the "continue" button and realized I went too far. Now I discover there is no "back" button.
You have lost my comments and now I feel I've just wasted my time. This is very frustrating.
Training and skill development for certification
22. Select your top 5 - What are the policy advocacy issues that you believe the Dufferin Board of Trade should be focused on? - Other responses
Answer
what is consider essential and what isnt
Access to affordable housing
Increase housing
MP and MPP accountability/governance
Natural gas
Succession planning
22. Select your top 5 - What are the policy advocacy issues that you believe the Dufferin Board of Trade should be focused on? - Comments
Answer
Natural gas
re Flooding: Why are we allowing anymore building on wetlands and other areas prone to flooding?
Property taxes are way too high for our town.
23. I am aware of the Dufferin Board of Trade's involvement in policy advocacy issues? - Comments
Answer

<i>[No Responses]</i>
24. I believe policy advocacy is a very important function of the Dufferin Board of Trade - Comments
Answer
<i>However your central organization's radical right wing stance on most issues misses an opportunity to look at issues with an open mind and build solutions that can work for the majority of citizens. You need to get off that partisan train, help bring Canadians together and lead by your example.</i>
25. General comments or feedback: - Responses
Answer
<i>thanks</i>
<i>our goal here at ADA Dance Co is the health and safety of our young dancers and this includes their mental health, our students require dance to relieve the stress and anxiety they have been experiencing during this time. Therefore dance should be considered an essential service.</i>
<i>Grand Valley is not a member of the Dufferin BOard of Trade .What assistance if any is available from the DBOT for these businesss ?</i>
<i>Very disillusioned with our local/federal government regarding the travel industry business as whole. We have been lobbying however most MP's and/or MPP's aren't even aware or understand our business model. Have sent email letters to Sylvia Jones with no response - Kyle Seeback states he is "listening" we requested Zoom mtg to discuss no response.</i>
<i>this survey "timed out" on me while filling in comments in the last page (I did not leave my computer). All my comments were lost. I clicked on the "continue" button and realized I went too far. Now I discover there is no "back" button.</i>
<i>You have lost my comments and now I feel I've just wasted my time. This is very frustrating.</i>
<i>You should publicly comment on the sustainability of government assistance due to covid. I believe Canada cannot afford to continue to spend at the rate that is happening. Government should encourage business to re-evaluate the viability of their business with a view to either shutting down or making changes to survive during covid with less help</i>

Ontario Announces Successful Applicants from the Rural Economic Development Program

February 24, 2021

Program will support business attraction, expansion, and retention.

WOODSTOCK - The Ontario government is helping communities diversify their economies, retain skilled workers, and create jobs by investing nearly \$800,000 through the Rural Economic Development (RED) program. Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs today announced the 16 local projects that were selected.

"This new targeted funding is just one of the many ways our government is supporting job creation and economic development across the province," said Minister Hardeman. "We're encouraging local economic growth by supporting projects that help expand businesses and provide skills development and training for employees. These kinds of investments are particularly important as we lay the foundation for our recovery from COVID-19."

This funding supports projects designed to enhance economic development efforts, such as:

- Mentoring, coaching, and helping youth in northern Ontario communities with job searches, hiring and starting businesses.
- Providing supports for business attraction, expansion, and retention as well as succession planning in order to overcome rural economic development barriers.
- Develop and support industry partnerships.
- To recruit and coach Indigenous women in non-traditional jobs throughout Northeastern Ontario increasing participation in the skilled trades.
- Introducing asset management strategies to 30 economic development officers representing rural, northern, and Indigenous communities in order to better operationalize potential investments and build economic development capacity.

The targeted intake was directed at upper-tier municipalities and not-for-profit regional organizations with a mandate of regional economic development. Qualifying projects were eligible for up to 70 per cent of total costs to a maximum of \$75,000 in provincial funding.

QUICK FACTS

- The intake was focused on projects that remove barriers to business and job growth, attract investment, attract, or retain a skilled workforce, strengthen sector and regional partnerships, and diversify regional economies.
- The RED program supports projects with tangible benefits to rural and indigenous communities that help to attract business, investment, and create jobs, while also providing greater value for taxpayer dollars.
- The RED program is helping rural communities and partners create more competitive economic environments so they can diversify and grow their local economies - making economic growth more inclusive.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Rural Economic Development program](#)
- [COVID-19 in Ontario](#)

CONTACTS

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Successful Projects: Restoration of a historical building or structure, restoration of an established tourism attraction, trail rehabilitation, youth centre, agri-food hubs, beautification, Wi-Fi equipment for public use

THAT Council receive the report of Heather Boston, Treasurer, 2021 Budget Draft #3;

AND THAT the 2021 Operating and Capital budgets be approved as presented.
CARRIED

Moved by: Horner and Seconded by: Clark

WHEREAS Covid-19 restrictions have reduced the usage of recreational facilities;

AND WHEREAS continued high rates of infection are being seen in our health region despite current lock-down;

AND WHEREAS Mulmur desires to maintain recreational facilities and provide programs scaled in accordance with Covid-19 restrictions, in a cost effective manner to its tax payers;

Now therefore be it resolved THAT Council request that the NDCC consider all options to minimize facility and operational costs during the current and anticipate extended lock-down status.

CARRIED

3.0 DEPUTATIONS AND INVITATIONS – none

4.0 PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works provided an updated regarding the January 12 Cycling meeting and the cycling meeting direction to utilize “share the road” approach. Public Works also provided an update regarding the 9th Sideroad given roads. Council expressed support for a bike trail and the promotion of natural routes. Discussion also ensued regarding the cost of signage opposed to engineering review.

Staff advised that the water leak in the North-East corner of Mansfield has been fixed.

The following motion was introduced

Moved by: Hawkins and Seconded by: Cufaro

THAT Council direct staff to prepare into an agreement with the Mansfield Presbyterian Church to purchase a 20m ROW at a cost of \$2.00 for a portion of the 9th Sideroad.

CARRIED

5.0 TREASURY

RED (Rural Economic Development) Project List

- Beautification Project: Event Pavilion at the Municipal Office. Pole Barn/Gazebo. Available for rent to community for reunions, outdoor meetings, community events, small businesses....
- A walking/exercise path around the Municipal Office property, such as Warden's Park in Adjala
- Hamlet/Community Centre Refresh: “gardens or décor”, benches, historic site plaque – create a destination/rest stop for those touring Mulmur. Perhaps a “Tour Mulmur brand and passport – with connection to local restaurants, accommodation, farm markets, etc.
 - Honeywood: (Julie- any ideas?)
 - Terra Nova:
 - Primrose:
 - Mansfield:
 - Adjacent to pioneer cemetery
- Host a local (virtual) Home and Garden Show or workshop.
- Other ideas????

TRAILS Projects for Redirected Trails Funding

- Rest/stop resources offered to local merchants to attract or support customers – eg. TN Pub, Mansfield Ski Club, Fishing Reserve, Dufferin Main Tract, Kilgorie, Rosemont, others?
 - Bench, picnic table, small garbage bin
 - Mulmur or Dufferin-branded bike repair station – includes air pump, bike wrenches.
 - Mulmur or Dufferin-branded Bike rack
- Share the road and/or User Responsibility Code signs at popular locations around the township/county.



**COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2021
9:00AM**

Present: Mayor Horner, Deputy Mayor Hawkins, Councillors Boxem, Clark and Cufaro (all through video conferencing).

Staff Present: Tracey Atkinson – CAO, Marilyn Bidgood – Facilitator

1.1 Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Mayor Horner. The meeting was held using electronic “Zoom” application. The session was held with the capacity of up to 100 users by video and/or audio. Facilitator, Marilyn Bidgood, and one public user were present for parts of the meeting.

1.2 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We begin this meeting by acknowledging that we are meeting upon the traditional Indigenous lands of the Tionontati (Petun) and Treaty 18 territory of the Anishinaabe peoples. We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place and we also recognize the contributions Indigenous peoples have made, both in shaping and strengthening our community, province and country as a whole.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Clark and Seconded by: Cufaro

THAT Council approve the agenda.
CARRIED

1.4 Passing of the previous meeting minutes

Moved by: Boxem and Seconded by: Clark

THAT the Minutes of February 3, 2021 are approved.
CARRIED

1.5 Declaration of pecuniary interest - None

2.0 ADMINISTRATION

Strategic Planning Session facilitated by Marilyn Bidgood

2.1 Strategic Plan Review

2.1.1 Strategic Plan - Goals Template

2.1.2 Strategic Plan Implementation – Staff Report dated January 13, 2021

The facilitator provided the purpose, being to build upon the midterm review and report on progress to date and next steps. SMART goals were reviewed, and identified for next steps

Moved by: Cufaro and Seconded by: Clark

THAT Council endorse the facilitated session of Marilyn Bidgood.

CARRIED

Direction was given to schedule a second session with Marilyn Bidgood in March followed by monthly meeting agenda item.

3.0 PASSING OF BY-LAWS

Passing the following by-laws:

1) Confirmatory By-Law

Moved by: Hawkins and Seconded by: Clark

THAT By-Law 1 be approved.

CARRIED

4.0 MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Hawkins and Seconded by: Clark

THAT Council adjourns the meeting at 12:11 to meet again at 2:00 p.m. for a Special Joint Meeting of Mulmur and Melancthon Councils.

CARRIED