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Grimsby BIA AGM required to enable major changes

Council recognizes factual errors but financial autonomy/procedure changes could proceed

**By Mike Williscraft
NewsNow**

Grimsby council approved a motion which could facilitate major changes to the structure of Grimsby Downtown Business Improvement Area's management practices but only after a series of requirements are executed.

At its meeting Monday,

councillors noted several inaccuracies in statements made in a presentation made by BIA chair Mark Wood and treasurer Daniel Vandersteen to its board members and during their delegation to council.

Even with that misinformation, council agreed to consider allowing a financial autonomy plan which

will separate the BIA from the town, create new annual, ongoing costs and responsibilities for the board and change the way it conducts business.

In the past, Wood has said he has no intention of calling an annual general meeting (AGM) on the matter, a point picked up on by Coun. Veronica Charrois.

"The recommendation of the clerk was (to) hold and AGM and gain majority approval on the BIA's financial transition plan and you did not want to do that. I am just wanting clarification as to why?" Charrois asked.

"I'll be very clear. There is no precedent of any kind set where a decision made by the elected board that

represents the BIA catchment area put out a referendum to the members to make a decision. It sets a very bad precedent," said Wood.

Wood further claimed that, at an AGM, the board does not have to allow any input by members if it chose not to do so.

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Lincoln strategic priorities on track, says Mayor Easton

**By Mike Williscraft
NewsNow**

The state of Lincoln is just fine, says Mayor Sandra Easton.

Easton noted several positive developments and the municipality's ongoing focus on strategic priorities at the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce's State of Lincoln luncheon on April 24.

Easton noted off the top that while economic development has been a constant area of interest it has been pushed to the back burner from time to time.

"Sometimes there's a break and then you take it up again, I think that's where we are now with economic development," said Easton.

In 2023, she said council renewed its focus on its longterm

strategic initiatives.

"We took significant strides to update council priorities to better align with the evolving needs of our community. The refreshed plan is aligned with a vision of a place to grow, a place to prosper and a place to belong. Those words came from the community," said Easton.

"It's focused on fostering a welcoming and connected, vibrant and prosperous, responsible and resilient community. These pillars serve as the foundation upon which we build a thriving future for all residents in Lincoln."

Key to any level of success, she said, was job creation.

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Lincoln Mayor Sandra Easton addresses the crowd gathered at Honsberger Estate Winery for Lincoln Chamber of Commerce's State of the Town luncheon.