

Martin County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA)
March 7, 2011
Board Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order by President Sukalski at 5:21 p.m. Board members present were: Pierce, Clark, Potter (for Boler). Absent: Grupe, Baarts, and Schmidtke. Other present were: Scott Higgins, County Coordinator and Bryan Stading, RCEF Director, Jon Herzog, Business Facilitator for Martin County.

Sukalski introduced Commissioner Jack Potter as the interim replacement for Commissioner Gerald Boler. Also, Sukalski stated that Larry Baarts has been appointed to the EDA Board to replace Steve Pribyl and is expected to be in attendance at the April meeting.

Motion by Clark, seconded by Pierce to approve the agenda as presented. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Clark, seconded by Potter to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2011 regular meeting. Carried unanimously.

Sukalski stated the need to determine the logistics in getting together with other local units of government and businesses in Martin County to discuss ways for all to work together and save money in these economic times. Stading stated depending on what type of meeting you have, it is possible the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) may be able to help. Sukalski stated the need for a facilitator for such a meeting. Clark inquired if we are looking to bring someone in to provide us with information on what is happening from an economic standpoint. Sukalski concurred that this would be beneficial, further stating that any information on what the outcome should be would be helpful. Clark stated that it would be important that a facilitator be in place in order to help put this meeting together.

By consensus, the Board asked that Stading to develop a strategy in putting this meeting together for the next meeting.

Stading reviewed the monthly client report, stating that in the last month 43.15 hours of service has been provided in ten (10) sessions.

Clark asked that if there are "hot" or pressing items that need to be addressed right away, to send the general information so that the board can help if needed.

Herzog gave update on the previous and upcoming business/community visits, stating that they will be presenting and promoting IGNITE to the Truman City Council and Truman EDA tonight. Herzog stated that, along with Higgins, attended the quarterly JSEC meeting. The EDA website is up and running and in the process of transferring general information, reports, business templates on to the website. Herzog stated that he and Stading presented to the Martin County Leadership Program, that the LinkedIn

business seminar was a success; and will be cancelling the Principles of Manufacturing seminar due to lack of sign ups required for the seminar.

Clark inquired of the reaction of the city officials in the smaller communities regarding the existing economic situation when these community visits are made. Stading responded that they do appear to have a good understanding of their role as small communities and what they are up against competing with larger towns and cities. Stading went on to say, that interesting enough the issue of the need for broad band and what a difference that would make for these smaller communities like Ormsby.

The board reviewed the proposed one year IGNITE promotional radio programming from KSUM in the amount of \$3,560, which includes three minute interviews at \$35 each, a fourteen minute program at \$50 per program and KSUM home page at \$45/month.

Pierce suggested bringing in local business owners/leaders to be included in the programming.

Clark stated his support for the radio program, stating that it would be good for the EDA, but also to provide pertinent information to listeners and business community. Clark further stated the need to plan out each of the radio spots with various topics.

Pierce stated that it would be a good way to let people know what we are doing as an EDA, the challenges facing our local economy, and provide general information to help local businesses.

Sukalski suggested that the Board meet in a special work session to discuss and begin planning for both the radio promotions as well as to discuss the logistics for the economic development meeting.

Higgins presented the suggestion to include individuals to the EDA board meeting representing the schools, cities, townships, and other economic development agencies, in order to provide updates of what is happening in their areas. The idea would be to have one representative from each of the entities listed above. This would bring local governments and agencies of the county together once a month to discuss economic development issues and other related matters.

Discussion ensued that rather than have these individuals at each meeting, it may be better to invite these individuals to specific meetings throughout the year. It was determined to continue to consider the matter further.

Higgins stated that it has been three (3) years since the EDA conducted their first strategic planning session and suggested that it would be good for the board to review the priority areas as established.

Pierce stated the need to hold the summit meeting prior to reviewing the strategic plan, in which the results of that meeting may provide some further direction for the EDA. Consensus of the board was to hold the summit meeting prior to review of the strategic plan.

Stading informed the Board it appears the business facilitation grant for the three counties (Blue Earth, Martin, and Faribault) is included in the Governor's proposed budget, which is a positive thing, and that the amount of the grant is proposed to increase for the next biennium. This is good news.

Higgins presented the bills to paid for March 2011,

Motion by Pierce, seconded by Potter to approve payment of the March bills as presented in the amount of \$27,236-62. Carried unanimously.

The year to date financial reports were also presented and reviewed by the Board.

Motion by Potter, seconded by Clark to receive and file the year to date financial reports. Carried unanimously.

By consensus, the Board it was determined to set the special EDA workshop to discuss the logistics and planning of the EDA summit meeting and planning of the radio programming with KSUM for Monday, March 21, 2011 at 7:30 a.m. at the Ranch Restaurant in Fairmont.

With no further business to wit, the next regular EDA meeting will be held Monday, April 4, 2011, starting at 5:15 p.m. at the Courthouse (Fairmont).

Motion by Clark, seconded by Pierce to adjourn. Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Lawrence Sukalski, President, MCEDA

Attest: Randy Grupe, Secretary/Treasurer, MCEDA