

Martin County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA)
June 28, 2010
Board Meeting Room

President Sukalski called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Board members present were: Pierce, Clark, Grupe, Schmidtke and Boler. Absent: Pribyl. Other present were: Scott Higgins, County Coordinator and Bryan Stading, RCEF Director. Kay Sauk, Sauk Media

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

Motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Pierce to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2010 regular meeting. Carried unanimously

Clark stated his disappointment for the lack of support by County Board representatives in consideration of the proposed Business Subsidy policy, stating that the EDA Board was unanimous in its recommendation to establish such a policy.

Schmidtke stated that he is not in favor of using taxpayer's money for business loans and grants.

Boler stated that there was an influence of one party situation and he had received a number of negatives calls regarding business subsidies.

Clark stated that if the board is unanimous on a matter, we should move forward and support the issue; otherwise if there is a change of opinion after a vote is taken, the issue should be readdressed by the EDA board.

Grupe stated that this issue (business subsidy policy) needed to be addressed in some manner in order to come up with some sort of proposal.

Pierce stated that he supported establishing a Business Subsidy policy, however, with the right safeguards in place.

Sukalski stated that it would be best to continue to work out a business subsidy policy that is palatable for the two boards. We have a couple of members on this board who have the expertise to be able to review business subsidy requests and help minimize the potential for risks.

Schmidtke stated it may be possible to put together some sort of plan.

Grupe stated the biggest issue seems to be what criteria are required in order to get it done.

Schmidtke reiterated that he is not in favor of loaning money from taxpayers; maybe a loan fund could be established with donations from the private sector and reminded

everyone that the EDA does provide a service to “connect the dots” for businesses who need assistance.

There was no further discussion regarding the proposed business subsidy policy.

Sukalski introduced Kay Sauk, Sauk Media.

Sauk stated her appreciation for the EDA and the EDA services provided through the Riverbend Center for Entrepreneurial Facilitation (RCEF) and the work of Bryan Stading. Sauk stated that these services have been helpful for her business. Sauk gave a brief summary of her business –Sauk Media and publication of two magazines, which include WomenInc and Care Giving. Sauk stated that like many other businesses, her business is not immune to the downturn in the national economy and is looking at long term plans for her business. Sauk inquired of available resources.

Sukalski stated the EDA can provide continued assistance through RCEF, and possibly Region 9. Stading stated that indeed he would continue to assist Ms. Sauk.

Clark stated that Sauk is doing what needs to be done in her business and stated some other possible business resources available to her.

Higgins presented the CY2011 preliminary budget for EDA, stating that Sukalski and Pierce met to put the budget proposal together. The Board reviewed the various budget line items. There was discussion on the need to continue to explore bringing on a staff person for the EDA. After discussion,

Motion by Pierce, seconded by Grupe to approve and recommend to the County Board of Commissioners the proposed CY2011 preliminary EDA budget. Carried unanimously.

Schmidtke inquired how business visits were getting done throughout the county and in talking with the smaller communities, have indicated that they have not received any type of business visits.

Sukalski stated that in talking with Garey Ferguson, MN Workforce Center they are visiting with the businesses. It was determined that it would be good for Board members to participate in these visits as well.

Stading reviewed the client report for May pertaining to business consultation services RCEF has provided to individuals looking to expand their business or start up new businesses.

By consensus, it was determined to hold the next meeting on Monday, August 2, 2010 at 5pm. in the Board Room.

Grupe reported on the status of schools in relation to the State’s budget woes. Sukalski reported on Minnesota Chamber of Commerce meeting held on June 9, 2010 and stated

that is expected the economic problem we are currently in will probably last another 3-4 years.

With no further business to wit,

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:02p.m.

Lawrence Sukalski, President, MCEDA

Attest: Chris Pierce, Secretary/Treasurer