

**Board Minutes of the
Martin County EDA
January 9, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Martin County Economic Development Authority was called to order by Randy Grupe at 5:15pm. Those present were Larry Baarts, Brent Schultze, Elliot Belgard, and Dan Schmidtke. Absent were Chris Pierce and Steve Fosness. Also present were Scott Higgins, Bryan Stading, RCEF, Jason Sorenson, Fairmont Sentinel Reporter.

Grupe presented on behalf of the Board presented former member Jerry Clark with a recognition plaque for his service as an inaugural member of the Martin County Economic Development Authority. Clark thanked the board,

Grupe called for nominations for election of Board President,

Schultze moved the nomination of Chris Pierce as Board President for the year 2017, seconded by Belgard, after no further nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast for Chris Pierce for Board President.

Grupe called for nomination for Board Vice –President,

Belgard moved the nomination of Randy Grupe as Board Vice-President, seconded by Baarts, after no further nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast for Randy Grupe as Board Vice President.

Grupe called for nominations for Secretary/Treasurer,

Schmidtke moved the nomination of Brent Schultze as Board Secretary/Treasurer, seconded by Belgard, after no further nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast for Brent Schultze as Board Secretary/Treasurer.

Motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Schultze to approve the agenda as presented with one deletion of 7.1Bill payments. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Baarts to approve the December 12, 2016 regular board minutes as presented. Carried unanimously.

No Old Business

Stading reviewed the December 2016 business consultation report with the Board. There were a total of eleven (11) facilitation sessions for a total of 18 hours.

Stading gave a brief update on legislation being drafted for continued funding for business facilitation and would involve the SBDC (Mankato).

Higgins stated that annually the Board set the board per diems and expenses. The current per diems is at \$30 per meeting, including other EDA related meetings, mileage reimbursement for EDA related business meeting and activities follows the IRS rate, which is .535 cents per mile, meal expenses are \$30 per day (to include 15% gratuity, rounded to the nearest dollar).

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Schultze, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Economic Development Authority, hereby approved the following board per diems and reimbursable expenses for CY2017 for related business meetings and activities; to include \$30 per meeting; mileage reimbursement to follow IRS rate, which is currently set at .535 cents per mile; and meal expense reimbursement not to exceed \$30 per day (to include 15% gratuity, rounded to the nearest dollar); Carried unanimously.

Higgins stated that the Board annually sets its regular board meetings for the year. Currently the regular board meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of each month.

Motion by Baarts, seconded by Schmidtke, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Economic Development Authority hereby approves and establishes the regular meeting dates of the Martin County EDA Board on the first Monday of each month, starting at 5:15pm, at the Martin County Courthouse located at 201 Lake Avenue, Fairmont, MN. Carried unanimously.

Higgins reviewed the EDA's strategic plan priority areas, established in October 2014, including the 2014 survey that was sent out to board members and other public and private agencies. The priority areas include the following: continued contact/visibility with all businesses through the county, placing economic news on social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, etc.), including news in local newspapers, connecting businesses to financial resources, maintaining a community profile on the web, promote shop local programming, and tourism development.

After discussion,

Motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Belgard to approve the EDA Officers to review the strategic planning priority areas and formulate recommendations to the full board of priority areas for 2017. Carried unanimously.

Higgins gave a brief update on the broadband grant application that the county submitted to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) - Office of Broadband - Border to Border Grant Program, stating that a grant application was submitted for the amount of \$1,757,323, for a total project of \$3,514,646. However, due to some needed revisions to the grant application (included addresses that did not meet the requirements of the grant); the grant application was reduced down to \$1,677,823, for a total project of \$3,355,646. Frontier Communications Inc. will provide the grant match requirements, since Frontier Communications will be upgrading their broadband infrastructure in the various parts of the county. Higgins further stated that there were 62 grant applications submitted for a total of \$55 million dollars. The total amount of the grant available is \$35 million. We anticipate that the county should hear from DEED regarding grant awards in next a few weeks.

Higgins informed the board that two proposals were received for EDA project signs to promote the EDA and the project assisted by the EDA. After further review and discussion of the two proposals, by consensus the Board asked that a mockup of the sign and wording be presented at the next board meeting.

There was discussion on providing a small placard to leave with the business and congratulate and wish them success in the future. It was discussed the size of the of the placard would be a 3 x 5. Higgins stated he will bring a mock up to the next board meeting.

No bills.

The Board reviewed the CY2016 Year to date financial reports.

Higgins reviewed the information included in the board packets as follows, MCIT Coverage renewal letter, information letter MCIT Coverage Review webinar, CY2017 EDA approved budget.

The next board meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2017 at 5:15pm at the Courthouse.

With no further business to wit,

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Schultze to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm

Randy Grupe, Board Vice President

Brent Schultze, Board Secretary/Treasurer