

**Martin County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA)**  
**February 1, 2016**  
**Board Room-Martin County Courthouse**

The meeting was called to order by Chris Pierce at 5:16 p.m. Board members present were: Elliot Belgard, Jerry Clark, Larry Baarts, Randy Grupe, Brent Schultze, and Dan Schmidtke. Others present: Bryan Stading, Business Facilitator for Martin County EDA, Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Margaret Dillard, President Fairmont, Steve Hawkins, Chair of 1590 Project Committee, Ruth Cyphers, 1590 Committee Member and Desiree Diaz, Reporter Fairmont Sentinel.

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Baarts to approve the agenda as presented. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Schultze to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2016 regular EDA meeting. Carried unanimously.

Margaret Dillard, President of the Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce is requesting that the EDA again providing funding and sponsorship for the upcoming Area Career Exploration (ACE) event coming up this year in the amount of \$1,500. The ACE event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at the Fairmont High School.

High School sophomores from within the County and surrounding counties are invited to attend the event. This even creates awareness of job opportunities in the area, provides the students with face to face interaction with area employers, career options that match student skills and interests, develop job seeking skills to better understand what employers want and look for in employees.

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Clark, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Economic Authority hereby approves and authorizes an allocation of \$1, 500 for the 2016 Area Career Exploration (ACE) event. Carried unanimously.

Dillard thanked the board for support of ACE.

Dillard, presented a request that the EDA providing funding and sponsorship for the Martin County Leadership Program for 2016-2017. The board has provided an allocation of \$1,000 for previous years.

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Schultze, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Economic Authority hereby approves and authorizes an allocation of \$1, 000 in for the Martin County Leadership Program for 2016-2017. Carried unanimously.

Pierce asked how many participants are allowed to participate in the class.

Dillard responded that we can take up to twenty five participants. Tuition for the class is \$650.

Dillard thanked the board for their continued support of Martin County Leadership Program.

Dillard gave brief update on other Fairmont Chamber events/activities stating that the Brain Gain project continues to move forward. We are working with videographer to film and obtain testimonials of why Martin County is a great place to live and work.

1590 Group presentation-

Hawkins provided a handout of the various projects the 1590 Committee is working to accomplish. Hawkins further stated that the Committee conducted a public survey on what people thought was needed to in Fairmont. The Committee received 1, 700 ideas/suggestions, with 2, 300 people taking the survey. The Committee narrowed down or compiled the ideas and suggestions to the following: Multi-Purpose Trails, Reuse, Reimagine Vacant Buildings, Beautify and Maintain our Waterways, Destination Downtown Fairmont, Regional Wellness Center, Business Friendly Environment and Retail Business Recruitment, Celebrate Fairmont (festivals), Kids want to have fun (laser tag, indoor playground, mentoring, etc.,. Enhance Fairmont Natural Water Park (water recreation).

Belgard suggested that the Committee contact the County Engineer and work with the Park Board on the trail systems being proposed.

Dan Schmidtke arrived at 5:30pm

Cyphers added stated that there is an economic development group component of the 1590 Project and invited the members of the EDA board to be a part of this group.

Pierce thanked Hawkins and Cyphers for their presentation stating that the 1590 Committee has gotten a number of people involved for the community.

Stading gave monthly business consultation report for January 2016 with 14 sessions totaling 30 hours; in addition gave an update with regard to non-client work, which included update on the monthly KSUM radio programming, Biz Pitch event scheduled for March 1, 2016, and attended the monthly Brain Gain meeting.

Discussion ensued on establishing an Ambassador/Envoy of representatives from the EDA to be able to provide business owners with information about the EDA and the services the EDA provides. This could include continued business visits and/or attending business open houses and recognizing the business.

Grupe stated that if we want people to know who we are, we need to go the open houses and events throughout the county. No action taken.

Higgins states that the Blandin Foundation has awarded another grant to the County of \$5,000 for the providing businesses in the Martin County Area relevant social media training and online presence as part of Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. The grant application was submitted by the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce, who will conduct these business trainings. The grant

requires a 25% cash or in kind match, which will be expected to be provided by the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce.

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Baarts, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Economic Development Authority hereby approve and accept the Blanding Foundation grant award in the amount of \$5,000; on behalf of the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce; and that the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce will provide the required cash or in kind match for the grant; and to authorize the County Coordinator to sign the required documents for the Blandin Foundation “Business Training” grant. Carried unanimously.

Higgins stated that the Blandin Foundation has awarded another grant to the County of \$15,000 for the providing funds to Martin County School Districts, if they chose to participate, for technology upgrades (ie tablets, apps) for instructional purposes and trainings in internet security and safe use of the internet. The grant application was submitted by the County on behalf of the Martin County School Districts. The grant requires a 25% cash or in kind match or if purchasing equipment, the cash match is 50%. It is expected that the participating schools would provide for the required match to the grant be provided by the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce.

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Schultze, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Economic Development Authority hereby approve and accept the Blandin Foundation grant award in the amount of \$15,000; on behalf of the participating Martin County School Districts; and that the participating Martin County School Districts will provide the required cash or in kind match for the grant; and to authorize the County Coordinator to sign the required documents for the Blandin Foundation “School Technology” grant. Carried unanimously

Higgins informed the Board that the Convention Visitors Bureau would like an EDA representative on their Board of Directors. You may recall during the last board meeting, the EDA provided funding to the CVB to assist the EDA in a countywide effort in promoting and developing tourism in Martin County.

Motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Belgard, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Economic Development Authority, at the request of the Fairmont Convention Visitors Bureau (CVB), hereby approve and authorize per diems and expenses, and other related activities with the CVB on behalf of the Martin County EDA, for Board members to represent the EDA board and attend meeting of the Convention and Visitors Bureau (Fairmont); as the EDA’s priority areas to promote and develop tourism in Martin County. Carried unanimously.

Higgins stated that bill listing is not available for this meeting and would provide for board review at the March meeting.

The Board reviewed the monthly CY2016 YTD Financial Statements for January 2016 and monthly activity report. Higgins stated that the fund balance as of end of January 2016 is \$240,653.20.

Higgins reviewed the general information in the board packets, which included the Manufacturing Meeting on February 23, 2106, Biz Pitch Program scheduled for March 1, 2016

at the SMEC building, Thank you letter from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), Fairmont Chamber Business Nomination form.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 7, 2016 at 5:15pm in the Board room (Martin County Courthouse).

With no further business to wit,

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm.

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Chris Pierce, President

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Attest: Brent Schultze, Secretary/Treasurer