

Martin County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA)
April 4, 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, Randy Grupe, Brent Schultze, and Dan Schmidtke. Absent: Larry Baarts. Others present: Bryan Stading, Business Facilitator for Martin County EDA, Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Mike Murphy, KFMC/KSUM, Rod Halverson, KFMC/KSUM and Desiree Diaz, Reporter Fairmont Sentinel.

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

Motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Grupe to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2016 regular EDA meeting. Carried unanimously.

Dan Schmidtke arrived for meeting at 5:18pm.

Stading gave monthly business consultation report for March 2016 with 22 sessions totaling 39.5 hours; in addition gave an update with regard to non-client work, which included update on the monthly KSUM radio programming, review of the Biz Pitch event held on March 1, 2016.

There were no project reviews or updates.

An update was provided on the improving the EDA radio programming, which includes the Business Talk program and Shop local ads, stating the need to schedule individuals, that include local business leaders, civic leaders, and city, county and state officials and topics for discussion for the next twelve months beginning in May.

Pierce opened input from the Board, stating the need for subject matters pertinent to the time. Additionally, getting the involvement of Board members to record shop local ads and other individuals including those individuals in retail.

After further discussion, it was determined to have staff to develop a roster of topics and allow for sign up and/or recruitment of individuals to speak on pertinent topics, including signups for Shop Local ads.

Higgins stated that County received a Blandin Broadband Communities grant in the amount of \$20,000 (requires a dollar for dollar match) for a total project cost of \$40,000 this past summer. The Martin County Blandin Steering Committee engaged, with Blandin Consultants in development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Architect/Engineering Firm to conduct a countywide Broadband Feasibility Study.

The purpose of the study is to provide the County decision makers with information the availability of broadband throughout the county, and to provide information to ultimately configure, equip and install a broadband system to achieve high speed goals scalable to one gigabit with an alternate configuration providing for a 10 gigabit backbone with one gigabit

connection to entities throughout the county to include businesses, homes, schools, libraries, hospitals, public safety, cities, etc.

It is anticipated that the information provided through this study will provide information on the areas unserved or underserved with high speed broadband (internet) throughout the county and provide the county with estimated cost projections for the build out of high speed broadband (ie Broadband Fiber) network throughout the county.

There were 13 RFP's sent out to various consulting and engineering firms, we received 6 proposals, and interviewed 3 consultant firms. After careful consideration by the Steering Committee, Blandin Consultant and county staff, it is recommended that Cooperative Network Services (CNS) of Menahga, MN to conduct the countywide broadband feasibility study for Martin County.

After discussion,

Motion by Clark, seconded by Schultze, Be It Resolved that the Martin County EDA based on the recommendation of the Martin County/Blandin Broadband Steering Committee, hereby recommends to the Martin County Board of Commissioners, to approve and award the County wide Broadband Feasibility Study to Cooperative Network System (CNS) (Menahga, MN), as provided in the submitted proposal, not to exceed \$39, 500. Carried unanimously.

There was discussion on exploring the possibility of holding regular board meetings throughout the county as outreach effort by the EDA to inform local officials what the EDA has to offer the communities. It was stated that the Board could meet with local business organizations/groups or tour local businesses, organizations, etc.; and possibility to meet outside Courthouse once a quarter.

Grupe suggested that the Board be represented where things are happening.

Belgard suggested that the Board meet in Trimont for the June meeting.

By consensus, the Board concurred that the June board meeting be held in Trimont and to directed staff to make the necessary arrangements, including a possible tour of the new Town Center.

Higgins presented and reviewed the bills.

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Schultze to ratify and approve the March 8, 2016-April, 2016 in the amount of \$6,957.94. Carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the monthly CY2016 YTD Financial Statements for March 2016 and monthly activity report. Higgins stated that the fund balance as of end of March 2016 is \$236,259.76.

Higgins reviewed the general information in the board packets, which included the Area Career Exploration Event to be held at the Fairmont High School on April 13, 2016, 8am-12pm; Annual

Township Meeting to be held on April 14, 2016 at 6:30pm, at the Welcome Legion in Welcome, MN.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2016 at 5:15pm in the Board room (Martin County Courthouse).

With no further business to wit,

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Chris Pierce, Board President

Attest: Brent Schultze, Secretary/Treasurer