

Martin County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA)
May 2, 2016
Board Room-Martin County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Chris Pierce at 5:18 p.m. Board members present were: Elliot Belgard, Jerry Clark, Randy Grupe, Brent Schultze, Larry Baarts, and Dan Schmidtke. Absent: Jerry Clark. Others present: Bryan Stading, Business Facilitator for Martin County EDA, Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Rod Halverson, KFMC/KSUM.

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

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

Stading gave a brief update on the Business Talk radio programming and schedule, stating that we are working more toward not only addressing business issues and topics, but to talk more of local and current events related to the businesses and the community. We will be inviting local business leaders throughout the county and as well as local city and county representatives to help promote our local economy. Stading further stated that if the Board has topics or subject items that they are interested in or would like to talk about, we would appreciate any input and ideas.

Stading gave the monthly business consultation report for April 2016 with 22 sessions totaling 40.5 hours; in addition gave an update with regard to non-client work, which included update on the monthly KSUM radio programming.

Higgins reviewed the Progress report #2 for ongoing county wide Broadband Feasibility study for Martin County. Higgins stated that overall the project continues to be on track and maybe slightly ahead of schedule. Our consultant firms Cooperative Network Services (CNS), has received most of the local internet providers inventory and location of fiber routes (maps) for the various providers, with the exception of Frontier, one of the major providers in the county. Upcoming tasks include reviewing of existing provider and network information (June), to review the initial network design (July), schedule on-site user-base meetings with Ag Coops, Electric Co-ops, Healthcare entities, committee members, commissioners to define gaps opportunities, existing providers, obtain franchise agreements from cities and cable providers, begin initial network design work, and other tasks as listed in report. Higgins stated that the primary focus of the feasibility study is to leverage the existing assets and ambitions of incumbent providers, and the potential for obtaining grant/public funds to expedite and improve broadband deployment in the county. Also included was a copy of the project schedule for board information.

Higgins presented and reviewed the CY2017 Preliminary Budget Procedures information packet, stating that the CY2017 budget process is now beginning and that the board will need to formulate preliminary budget request for next year and suggested that the Board officers meet

soon to put together budget priorities for the year 2017. The preliminary budget requests are due June 10th.

Higgins presented and reviewed the bills.

Motion by Schultze, seconded by Baarts to ratify and approve the April 5, 2016 – May 2, 2016 in the amount of \$1,125.61. Carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the monthly CY2016 YTD Financial Statements for April 2016 and monthly activity report. Higgins stated that the fund balance as of end of April 2016 is \$229,267.58.

Higgins reviewed the general information in the board packets, which included the information brochure on the upcoming Martin County Leadership Program year. Higgins reminded the board that applications for the Leadership program are due June 1, 2016. Higgins stated that the Fairmont Convention and Visitors Bureau board agenda for April and minutes for March are included in the information part of the packet. Also, a copy of thank you cards from students who participated in the Areas Career Exploration (ACE) event held last month, whose particular interest was in government. Finally a copy of the USDA Rural Development Report for last month.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 6, 2016 at 5:15pm at the Trimont Community Hall in Trimont, MN. There will be a tour of the new grocery and gas store in Trimont after the meeting. The Trimont Chamber of Commerce members are anticipated to be in attendance of the Board meeting.

With no further business to wit,

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.

Chris Pierce, Board President

Attest: Brent Schultze, Secretary/Treasurer