

**Martin County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA)**  
**June 6, 2016**  
**Trimont City Hall-Trimont, MN**

The meeting was called to order by Randy Grupe at 5:15 p.m. Board members present were: Elliot Belgard, Brent Schultze, Larry Baarts, Elliot Belgard and Dan Schmidtke. Absent: Jerry Clark and Chris Pierce. Others present: Bryan Stading, Business Facilitator for Martin County EDA, Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Margaret Dillard, President of the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce and Sentinel Reporter and Members of the Trimont Chamber.

Grupe welcomed the Trimont Chamber of Commerce members stating that this is the first meeting of the Martin County EDA outside of the Courthouse in Fairmont, further stating that this an outreach effort by the Martin County EDA to go out to the communities throughout county to meet with the local business chambers, city EDA's, city councils and development groups to hear how the EDA can assist in local economic development issues and to provide information on the services the EDA can provide to the various governing bodies and agencies.

Each board member and staff introduced themselves, as well as the Trimont Chamber members introduced themselves.

Stading gave a brief presentation of the various services the EDA offers to individuals, business and cities and presented and reviewed the EDA's "Red Folders" which contain information and businesses resources for those who ask for business assistance. The services are free of charge to the customer/client.

Grupe further informed those in attendance that the EDA is involved in sponsoring the Area Career Exploration Event held on a yearly basis, bringing in students from all school districts in the county and surrounding counties, including Iowa. The EDA also supports the Martin County Leadership Program from September to May, which includes a leadership component taught by Riverland College.

After a question and answer session, Grupe stated his appreciation for the Trimont group's attendance at today's meeting.

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

Motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Schultze to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2016 regular EDA meeting. Carried unanimously.

Dillard gave an update on the ongoing "Brain Gain" project in Martin County, stating that a website [www.fairmontareallife.com](http://www.fairmontareallife.com) is in place promoting the Fairmont and the county and what the area has to offer. In addition, presented the new Visitor's Guide stating that it includes not only Fairmont recreational activities for visitors, but events outside Fairmont (i.e. City Festivals, Parks, etc.) happening throughout the county and actually the City of Trimont has a representation in the publication, but there could be more represented. Dillard further informed

the Board that the Blandin grant Social Media Breakfast training sessions continue to be a great success. The Business on line training continues to go well and was also funded by the Blandin Foundation.

After discussion, Grupe thanked Dillard for her report.

Stading gave the monthly business consultation report for May 2016 with 17 sessions totaling 21 hours.

Stading presented and reviewed the draft 2015 Annual EDA Report.

Higgins reviewed the May Progress report 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) and still working with Frontier Communications Inc., 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, and review survey data in July. 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.

Higgins presented and reviewed the bills.

Motion by Baarts, seconded by Schultz to ratify and approve the May 3, 2016- June 6, 2016 in the amount of \$4, 891.36. Carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the monthly CY2016 YTD Financial Statements for May 2016 and monthly activity report. Higgins stated that the fund balance as of end of May 2016 is \$224,258.20.

Higgins reviewed the general information in the board packets, which included meeting summary for the April 2016 meeting; thank you letter from SMIF, MAPCED 2016 Legislative Summary, informational brochure of the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnerships Multi Family Preservation Program, Martin County/Blandin Social Media training schedule, Fairmont Convention and Visitor's Bureau meeting minutes for April 2016, Trimont Chamber of Commerce May 2016 meeting agenda and minutes of previous meeting.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 1, 2016 at 5:15pm.

Grupe thanked the Trimont Chamber of Commerce members for attending today's 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.

Members of the Board toured the Towne Center, which included grocery and gas store, liquor store and Hardware store

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Randy Grupe, Board Vice-President

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Attest: Brent Schultze, Secretary/Treasurer