

Martin County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA)
October 3, 2016
Martin County Courthouse, Fairmont, MN

The meeting was called to order by Chris Pierce at 5:21 p.m. Board members present were: Randy Grupe, Brent Schultze and Elliot Belgard. Absent: Larry Baarts, Dan Schmidtke and Jerry Clark. Also present Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, Bryan Stading, Director RCEF, Mike Murphy, KFMC/KSUM radio representative, Rod Halverson, KFMC/KSUM radio, Jason Sorenson, Sentinel Reporter.

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

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Schultze to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2016 board meeting. Carried unanimously.

Murphy proposed to cancel the annual contract for the EDA radio program and in order to help reduce the cost of the EDA monthly radio program, due to lack of new material and speakers and scheduling, propose to only charge for new radio programming as needed.

It was stated that the Board had taken action during the September 12, 2016 board meeting to go with the canceling of the annual contract and only be charged for new radio programs to be aired. There was no further action required at this time.

Stading reviewed the monthly business consultation report for September 2016 with 22 business facilitation sessions totaling 80 hours. Other project included recording the EDA monthly Business Talk radio program.

Dillard presented an update regarding the Brain Gain project, stating they are in process of recording testimonials of “coming back home”. Dillard further stated that the initial funding for the Brain Gain project will expire in March of 2017. Dillard is the process of asking for financial commitment outside the Fairmont. Dillard also reviewed the Fairmont Area Life promotion, which includes the entire county, stating that is a great information source promoting the county.

Pierce inquired if the project was able to obtain class lists.

Dillard responded that this has proven that this task takes time.

Belgard stated that his concern for the Brain Gain project is that there is someone continuing to work on the program to keep it going and stated that it is good to see the Chamber is committed to do the work.

Pierce stated that the Project is still in its infancy.

Dillard stated that we have recruited three families to the area. They were looking for affordability and smaller community and to be able to be connected.

Pierce inquired what kind of support are looking for this project.

Dillard responded, looking to share cost in printing of materials, approximately 4,000 publications, approximately \$2, 000.

Higgins reminded the board that is also has provided \$4,000 to the Fairmont CVB for promoting the county.

Grupe inquired of the timeline for printing of the material.

Dillard responded approximately six weeks should be out the first of the year.

Grupe inquired if the publication goes to the other communities. Dillard responded that we are working on that.

Pierce suggested that the board establish a committee to work on the Brain Gain project.

The following board members stated their willingness to be part of the committee, including Grupe, Schultze, and Pierce.

Dillard provided information on the upcoming Cyber Smart seminar and invited the board to attend.

Higgins presented the bills to be paid in September 12, 2016- October 3, 2016.

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Schultze to ratify and approve the bills from September 13, 2016- October 3, 2016 in the amount of \$8,080.57. Carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the monthly CY2016 YTD Financial Statements for September 2016 and monthly activity report. The fund balance as of end of September 2016 is \$237,455.67

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Schultze to receive and file the September 2016 monthly financial statement. Carried unanimously.

Included in the informational section of the board packets are as follows: Fairmont Convention Visitors Bureau (CVB) monthly financial statements: copy of the EDA by Laws; 2016 CVB Key Initiatives.

The board reviewed the information included in the board packets, including announcement of the upcoming SMIF Annual Luncheon scheduled for October 12, 2016; copy of the approved CY2017 Preliminary EDA budget; Thank you letter from Martin County West Public Schools for Blandin Grant; and copy of CyberSmart seminar brochure.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 7, 2016 at 5:15pm, Martin County Courthouse (Fairmont, MN).

With no further business to wit,

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Grupe to adjourn. Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

Chris Pierce, Board President

Attest: Brent Schultze, Secretary/Treasurer