

**Board Minutes of the
Martin County EDA
June 3, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Martin County Economic Development Authority was called to order by Steve Fosness at 5:18pm. Those present were: Larry Baarts, Tim Terfehr, Wes Anderson, and Elliot Belgard. Absent: Brent Schultze and Richard Koons. Also present were Scott Higgins, Bryan Stading, RCEF.

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

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Baarts to approve the minutes of May 6, 2019 regular EDA Board meeting. Carried unanimously.

Higgins stated that the EDA is being asked to financially participate in a broadband improvement project with the City of Fairmont for the Fairmont Industrial Park, in the amount of \$5,000. The City of Fairmont would also contribute \$5,000 to project, which has been approved by FEDA for a total contribution of \$10,000 between the two local units of government. This contribution is needed to help fill in the financial gap to help finance feasibility of the overall project.

Various businesses in the Industrial park approached the City with the need for better broadband accessibility and dependability of internet services for their operations, as well as reliability and redundancy. MidCo has offered to expand their services to the Industrial Park and is able to provide the needed services to the businesses.

Motion by Terfehr and seconded by Belgard, Be It Resolved that the Martin County EDA, approves the financial contribution of \$5,000 toward improving Broadband to the Fairmont Industrial Park; to partner with MidCo for installation broadband infrastructure to the Park for high speed, reliable, including redundancy in broadband services; and this shared expense is in conjunction with the City of Fairmont –FEDA and the Martin County EDA for a total of \$10,000 in shared costs. Carried unanimously.

Stading reviewed the May 2019 business consultation report with the Board. There were a total of twenty seven (27) facilitation sessions for a total of 40.75 hours.

Stading gave an update on the proposed legislation for continued funding for entrepreneurial business facilitation services by RCEF, stating that Representative Gunther has authored a bill in the amount of \$150,000 for RCEF and a host entity for continuing business consultation services by RCEF in the amount of \$150,000 per year for two years to RCEF. The grant requires a dollar for dollar match. Stading further stated that language in the bill allows expenditure of the grant on indirect costs (i.e. overhead costs).The services to be provided are to include the counties of Martin, Blue Earth, Brown, Watonwan, Waseca, Faribault, LeSuer, Nicollet, and Sibley. The eligible expenses include to payment of overhead expenses pre-venture assistance individuals starting a business and services for underserved populations, agriculture businesses and students.

This appropriation is a onetime appropriate available until June 30, 2021.

Belgard inquired that as a host county the idea is to employ RCEF staff and to provide benefits.

Stading stated that this would be ideal for sustainability of the program.

Further discussion ensued. No action taken

Higgins stated as part of the EDA's outreach to the local communities, Board members and Staff will present and review the services the EDA can provide to the local municipalities, Business Chambers and local Development organizations, etc. We will provide the "Red Folders" and review that program as well, along with our recent annual report. We have not met with City of Dunnell, Ceylon, Fairmont or Granada.

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Baarts, to approve scheduling the regular September 2019 EDA meeting as part of the EDA's outreach program; and to present before the City of Ceylon Council and other business or chamber group in City of Ceylon of the services the EDA provides countywide. Carried unanimously.

Higgins presented and reviewed the bills for approval and ratification for May 7, 2019-June 3, 2019 in the amount of \$6,306.49.

Motion by Baarts, seconded by Anderson to ratify the bills for May 7, 2019-June 3, 2019 in the amount of \$6,306.49. Carried unanimously

The Board reviewed the April 2019 Year to date financial reports, with a listed EDA fund balance of \$273,108.23.

Motion by Fosness, seconded by Baarts to receive and file the EDA April 2019 monthly financial reports. Carried unanimously.

Higgins reviewed the following information included in the board packets; update on the Bacon Capital USA promotion trailer, which the EDA sponsors.

The next board meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2019 at 5:15pm at the Courthouse.

With no further business to wit,

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:49pm

Brent Schultze, Board President

Larry Baarts, Board Secretary/Treasurer