

**Board Minutes of the
Martin County EDA
October 7, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Martin County Economic Development Authority was called to order by Steve Fosness at 5:150 pm. Those present were: Wes Anderson, Tim Terfehr, Larry Baarts, Richard Koons and Elliot Belgard. Absent: Brent Schultze. Also present were Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Mike Sheplee, County Assessor, Scott Bohler, Frontier Communications, and Bryan Stading, RCEF.

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

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Terfehr to approve the minutes of September 10, 2019 regular EDA Board meeting. Carried unanimously.

Stading stated he has been working with Kurt Mendel on an exciting project. Mendel was present to speak to the board about Fountain Shelter –soup kitchen and stated he and others have begun soup kitchen here in Martin County. The purpose those in need and to give those hope for the future.

Fosness stated that the soup kitchen is using the Legion kitchen and has expanded from there.

Stading stated that SMIF is on board with this and the challenge is how you pay it back.

Anderson stated that it sounds like a great project.

Mendel stated that the kitchen is run by volunteers. Mendel stated the Martin County Historical Society has allowed us to use their building once a month to serve meals. The need in the community is greater than I realized.

Sheplee stated that if you were to find a building, it could be tax exempt deepening on the situation.

Bohler was present to give and update on the countywide broadband project in Martin County. Bohler stated we have completed construction and needless to say we had weather issues throughout the project. We have one last site to install located in the South Silver Lake. We have had a few issues with electronic equipment.

Koons stated concerns of landscaping that needs to be done in the South Silver Lake area and that needs to be repaired.

Bohler stated that they will address the matter. Bohler stated it sounds like the Northrop landscaping has been taken care of.

Mr. Thompson (South Silver Lake area) was present and provided photos on areas where the landscaping needs to be repaired by Frontier Communications. The Board reviewed the photos.

Fosness thanked Bohler for the broadband project update.

Sheplee presented and reviewed examples the effects of tax abatement on the local levy and property taxes. Sheplee stated that the difficulty in the recent awarded tax abatement request with CHS, that it would affect the taxpayer. Sheplee stated this is not true, unless there were added improvements to the property and proceeded with showing the effects on the tax payer through the report.

Anderson stated his concern was the cost for road improvements due to increased use.

Fosness thanked Sheplee for the report.

Discussion ensued on the proposal for countywide single and multi-family housing tax abatement. The City of Fairmont is working on a proposal for multifamily housing tax abatement only.

Koons stated it would be best to have two separate policies for the tax abatement program. One for single family and the second for multi-family housing. Terfehr and Belgard concurred.

After further discussion, it was determined to continue to look at developing a policy for single and multi-family home tax abatement program.

Stading reviewed the September 2019 business consultation report with the Board. There were a total of five clients for a total of 13 hours.

Stading gave an update on the proposed legislation for continued funding for entrepreneurial business facilitation services, stating that the RCEF Board is still working through the grant. There needs to be an MOU in place with Martin County as the host/fiscal agent for the grant. Stading stated that the in kind match needs to be addressed.

Higgins presented and reviewed the bills for approval and ratification for September 11, 2019-October 7, 2019 in the amount of \$9,097.38.

Motion by Koons, seconded by Belgard approve and ratify the bills for September 11, 2019-October 7, 2019 in the amount of \$9,097.38. Carried unanimously

The Board reviewed the September 2019 Year to date financial reports, with a listed EDA fund balance of \$283,515.15.

Higgins reviewed the following information included in the board packets; CY2020 approved preliminary budget for the EDA.

The next board meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2019 at 5:15pm at the Courthouse.

With no further business to wit,

Motion by Terfehr, seconded by Koons to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43pm

Steve Fosness, Board Vice President

Larry Baarts, Board Secretary/Treasurer