

**Board Minutes of the
Martin County EDA
September 14, 2020**

The meeting was called order by Brent Schultze, at 5:16pm. The meeting was set up for videoconferencing via WebEx due to the covid19 pandemic. Those present were Tim Terfehr, Wes Anderson, Steve Fosness, Richard Koons, Elliot Belgard, and Elizabeth Miller. No individuals participated via WebEx. Also present were Bryan Stading (RCEF) and Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Steve Hawkins and Jason Subbert representing Martin County Bacon Capital USA and the promotional trailer and Jim Beattie, BcvComm General Counsel and Government Affairs Director.

Motion by Koons, seconded by Terfehr to approve the agenda with the additions as follows, Consider of Letter of Support for Broadband Border to Border Grant application. Carried unanimously.

Elizabeth Miller was introduced as the new Board member to fill vacancy of Larry Baarts. Miller gave a brief summary of her background. Schultze welcomed her to the Board.

Motion by Koons, seconded by Anderson to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2020 regular EDA meeting. Carried unanimously.

Hawkins gave an update on the status of the Martin County Bacon Capital USA promotional trailer, which the EDA is a sponsor of the promotional trailer. The Board toured the Bacon Capital USA trailer. Hawkins informed the Board of the events that the Bacon Capital USA has been a part of in the last year, including Gopher Football game vs Nebraska, Halloween Part on Woodland Ave (Fairmont) and participated at the County Fair a year ago, Hawkins stated that there has not been much promotional opportunity since the Covid19 pandemic hit last March. Hawkins stated that the group is working toward a few goals in promoting the pork industry including post cards, Beer and Bacon Fest, marketing billboards, social media marketing and other promotional events and activities.

Schultze thanked Hawkins and Subbert for their presentation.

Bettie stated that BevComm is seeking letters of support for a new grant application to the Minnesota Border to Border Grant program, which will serve a portion of northeast Martin County. The total project will cost \$3.9 million, and we would be seeking a grant in the amount of a little over \$1.5 million. Most of the grant area is in Faribault County, but a portion of the grant area is in Martin County, and hit approximately 35 homes and businesses in Martin County.

Beattie gave an update on the fiber build in Truman, Trimont and Welcome within the next few months, capable of providing 1 Gig of broadband service and should be finishing up our fiber build in Truman, Trimont and Welcome within the next few months.

After further discussion,

Motion by Elliot Belgard, seconded by Steve Fosness Be It Resolved that the Martin County Economic Development Authority, in support of BevComm' s proposed broadband project, for which a portion of the project is n Martin County, and BevComm' s Border to Border Broadband Development Grant Program application to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)-Office of Broadband, hereby approves and authorizes the Board President to sign a letter of support for the anticipated 2021 BevComm broadband project. Carried unanimously.

Beattie further stated that they are requesting a grant for the project in the amount of \$5,000, if approved. Local government financial involvement and partnership is looked upon favorably through the grant process and receive additional points for financial contribution. The financial contribution will help defray costs of the project. Beattie stated it is totally up to the Board if you wish to contribute this project.

Terfehr stated that allocating a grant of \$5.000 would be a good gesture of support toward the grant application and BevComm for the amount of investment they have made in the county for broadband.

After further discussion,

Motion by Steve Fosness, seconded by Brent Schultze, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Economic Development Authority, in support of BevComm' s proposed broadband project, for which a portion of the project is in Martin County, and BevComm' s Border to Border Broadband Development Grant Program application to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)-Office of Broadband, hereby approves to allocate and expend \$5,000 for the anticipated 2021 BevComm broadband project. Carried unanimously.

Higgins gave an update on the status of the grant application through the US Economic Development Administration Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) provides Revolving Loan Fund grants is in process and look to complete it soon. These grant funds are available to eligible recipients to capitalize or recapitalize lending programs that service businesses that cannot otherwise obtain traditional bank financing (and in limited situations to governmental entities for public infrastructure). These loans provide access to capital as gap financing to enable small businesses to grow and generate new employment opportunities with competitive wages and benefits. Financing also helps retain jobs that might otherwise be lost, create wealth, and support minority and women-owned businesses. There may be an expected cost share or matching requirements for the program.

Stading reviewed the August 2020 business consultation report with the Board. There were a total of six (6) facilitation sessions for the month.

There was no presentation for the proposed single family housing in Ceylon. There was no action taken.

Higgins stated that the EDA has received a grant from the Martin County Area Foundation (MACAF) in the amount of \$ 13, 650. These grant funds are to be used to assist businesses and other entities who assist businesses (i.e. Business Chambers), who have been adversely affected by the Covid19 pandemic. The Board determined that each grant would be up to \$1,000 per grant award. Applications were received by a variety of businesses throughout the county businesses that have been adversely affected due to the pandemic.

Higgins further stated that the EDA Executive Committee reviewed the applications and is recommending \$1,000 grant awards to thirteen businesses (listed); and is recommending that the EDA provide additional funding to award \$1,000 grant to additional applicants as listed.

After further discussion,

Motion by Belgard, seconded by h : Be It Resolved that the Martin County Economic Development Authority, having received funding from the Martin County Area Foundation in the amount of \$13, 650 to be granted, at the discretion of the EDA to business located in Martin County who have been adversely affected due to the pandemic, hereby approves and awards grants to be expended from the Martin County Covid-19 Emergency Response Funds in the amount of \$1, 000 grants to the following business, Fairmont Photo Press, Bean Town Grill, Edies Restaurant, White Orchid LLC, The Blazer Bar and Grill Inc., El Agave Inc., Welcome Legion Club, Ghost Town Tavern, D and S Trophies and Embroidery, Old Northrup Bar, Cutting Edge Fitness of Fairmont, MN, Shenanigans Cheer and Chow Inc., Korte's; Bar and Grill Inc.; and

Be It Further resolved that the Martin County EDA hereby approves to expend additional EDA funds for grants in the amount of \$1,000 for a total of \$12,000, as part of the Martin County Covid-19 Emergency funds to the following businesses; Hairdressers, The Crew, Jean Kabe, The Wood Shop Pat Bulfer LLC, Royalty Rides, D and R Repair, Blush Hair Salon LLC, Travis Winter Transportation, Associate Optometry, Douglas Larson Construction, Reiter Dental PA, Fairmont Mega Coin LLC; and to direct staff to notify all applicants as to the status of their grant awards. Carried unanimously

Higgins gave an update on the Martin County CARES Act Small Business Grant Program stating Martin County has received \$2,442, 295 in grant funds from the Federal Government Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The distributed funds are to be used for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) as described and defined by the official federal guidance for the CARES Act. These expenses needed to be incurred during the period of March 1, 2020-December 1, 2020.

Higgins further stated that the County Board of Commissioners have allocated a portion of these funds in the amount of \$750,000 to small business for grants up to \$10,000 for those small businesses who have been adversely affected by the Covid19 pandemic. The City of Fairmont has partnered with the County and allocated \$250,000 toward the program for a total of \$1,000,000 in grant available to small businesses. The County and City have been meeting to formulate eligibility criteria and application process for small businesses. Brent Schultze, Tim Terfehr and Commissioner Elliot Belgard have been a part of developing the County CARES Small Business grant program.

Higgins presented and reviewed the bills for approval and ratification for August 4, 2020-September 14, 2020 in the amount of \$59,907.24.

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Terfehr to approve and ratify the bills for August 4, 2020-September 14, 2020 in the amount of \$59,907.24. Carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the August 2020 Year to date financial reports, with a listed EDA fund balance of \$286,532.41.

Higgins reviewed the DEED Grant (RCEF) reimbursement request for July; MCIT estimated contribution notice letter in the amount of \$1,435; information for the TelecommuterForward! Certification, which Martin County is one of twenty three communities in Minnesota who have received the certification; tax abatement promotional brochure for single and multi-family housing tax abatement program; media release of ribbon cutting for the New Fit and Wellness Center in Fairmont.

The next board meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2020 at 5:15pm at the Courthouse.

After the new business tour and with no further business to wit,

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.

Brent Schultze, Board President

Tim Terfehr, Board Secretary/Treasurer