

**Board Minutes of the
Martin County EDA
October 5, 2020**

The meeting was called order by Brent Schultze, at 5:15pm. The meeting was set up for videoconferencing via WebEx due to the covid19 pandemic. Those present were Tim Terfehr, Wes Anderson, Steve Fosness and Elliot Belgard. Absent: Richard Koons and Elizabeth Miller. No individuals participated via WebEx. Also present were Bryan Stading (RCEF) and Scott Higgins, County Coordinator.

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Fosness to approve the agenda with the deletion of 6.1 – Presentation of Proposed Single Family Housing Development in the City of Ceylon, MN. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Terfehr to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020 regular EDA meeting. Carried unanimously.

Higgins gave an update on the on the status of the grant available through the US Economic Development Administration Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA), stating that the in talking with the regional contact we have been advised that there are at least six locations within our region that have received funding through this program and likelihood of the county receiving such funds is pretty slim. The City of Fairmont has received grant funds through this grant program and are available countywide. Higgins further stated that typically the funds go to entities that have an established revolving loan fund. It was suggested that the EDA put its efforts to other potential CARES or other suited development programs that may be more conducive to the EDA. Higgins stated that he will follow up with the representatives at the US regional level. A copy of the Fairmont Economic Development Authority CARES Act Revolving Loan Fund Guidelines was provided to the Board.

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

Stading reviewed the status of the state grant received by the county for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 (started December 2019), stating that there was a carryover \$80, 013.35 from the grant's first fiscal year.

Stading presented and reviewed highlights of the RCEF Performance Report FY2020-December 1, 2019-June 20, 2020, which included the number of clients served, jobs created and retained, number of consulting hours, along with business counseling sessions for COVID -19 related business issues.

Higgins informed the board that the county and City of Fairmont received in total 85 small business grant applications from businesses that were adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The county took up 41 small Business grants in the amount of \$367,623.70, (there are a couple of applications that still need to provide required information). This leaves a remaining

balance of \$382, 376.30. Therefore, it is recommended that the County open up a second round for the remaining County CARES funds for Small Business Grant Program. The county will conduct this round, since the City of Fairmont has exhausted their funds (\$250,000). For the second round, there a few revisions to the Eligibility Criteria and to the County Small Business Grant application.

Schultze, a member of the County CARES Review Committee stated his support for the second round to expend the remaining county allocated money to small businesses.

Terfehr also a member of the County CARES Review Committee concurred.

Belgard stated his support for a second round to accept applications and that we need to get it publicized.

Stading stated that RCEF could help with the getting the second round publicized.

After further discussion,

Motion by Fosness, seconded by Anderson, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Economic Developmne4t Authority, hereby makes a recommendation to the Martin County Board of Commissioners to open up a second round to receive applications for the Martin County CARES Small Business Program. Carried unanimously.

Higgins presented and reviewed the bills for approval and ratification for September 15, 2020-October 5, 2020 in the amount of \$26,075.90.

Motion by Fosness, seconded by Anderson to approve and ratify the bills for September 15, 2020-October 5, 2020 in the amount of \$26,075.90. Ayes: Fosness, Belgard, Anderson and Schultze. Abstain: Terfehr. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the September 2020 Year to date financial reports, with a listed EDA fund balance of \$272,584.12.

Higgins presented and reviewed a draft copy of the Martin County Emergency Covid grant award letters for the Board to review Higgins stated that letters and grant awards of \$1,000 would go out to those businesses who were awarded the grants this week.

The next board meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2020 at 5:15pm at the Courthouse.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

Brent Schultze, Board President

Tim Terfehr, Board Secretary/Treasurer