

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
APRIL 21, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Jurchen, Commissioners Rieck and Stroot

ABSENT: Commissioners Roggenkamp and Merritt

ALSO PRESENT: Chris Lindholm, School Superintendent; Sheila Haverkamp, BLAEDC; Dawn Bittner, Zoning Administrator

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jurchen at 8:04 a.m.

2. Approval EDC Minutes

COMMISSIONER STROOT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 17, 2015 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES. COMMISSIONER RIECK SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

3. Broadband Update

Chair Jurchen explained a conversation he had with the Mayor of Jenkins, Jon Lubke, where Mr. Lubke was concerned about availability of broadband for their residents. CTC has done a much better job of working with customers than TDS has. The EDC may want to initiate collaborative efforts regarding broadband with Jenkins and Breezy Point.

Chair Jurchen stated he recently reviewed a housing study where fast internet was one of the top 3 issues.

Sheila Haverkamp shared that BLAEDC has the CTC Room with enhanced technology that can be used for meetings. The EDC should hold a meeting there.

Sheila Haverkamp asked Chris Lindholm if students are struggling doing homework without internet available. Mr. Lindholm stated that teachers use digitized textbooks, but the students do not take them home. He is working with Best Buy to create a website that will only be available to Pequot Lakes students to purchase their own device. There would be different options to choose from with an option for students who receive free or reduced lunches. He further stated he has attended a meeting in the CTC Room and is looking to set up the Gathering Room with advanced technology and rent it to fill a niche in the community.

Commissioner Stroot stated he was surprised to see the article for Jenkins. TDS has stated that 100% of customers can get high speed internet. It would be

beneficial to have Council Member Randy Loukota attend an EDC meeting to help us understand why some customers do not have service. His attendance would be beneficial for his employer, TDS.

4. Crosslake – EDC/Empty Spaces

Dawn Bittner passed out the invitation from the Crosslake Economic Development Authority to attend a meeting May 6 at Crosslake City Hall. The topic of the meeting will be filling empty business or commercial spaces. Realtors from Positive Realty and Close-Converse Realty will be in attendance.

Chair Jurchen and Commissioner Rieck will not be able to attend; Sheila Haverkamp will attend.

5. Minnesota Design Team

Chair Jurchen explained Sandy Peine, Dawn Bittner and himself met with Andrew Mack on March 19. The City does not have the resources to gather the information to begin the process within the next several months with time being spent on the highway issues. This should be put off until next year. It is a very intensive process with hundreds of hours in preparation for the meeting. January, 2016 may be the time to approach this project. Mr. Mack will come back at that time.

6. U of M Programs

Chair Jurchen stated the 2nd Homeowners Survey Report contained a great deal of information. He has a .pdf of the report and will have Sandy Peine forward to all members.

7. City Banners

Dawn Bittner explained the City budgeted \$1,000 in 2014 to put toward the banners. There was no specific earmark for banners in the 2015 budget, although the Pequot Promoters count on it. The EDC budget includes \$2,000 for Marketing.

COMMISSIONER RIECK MOVED TO USE \$1,000.00 OF THE EDC BUDGET FOR BANNERS. COMMISSIONER STROOT SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Mr. Lindholm stated he will contact Barb Merritt and Community Action as the school plans to purchase banners for the parking area and they could be branded.

8. School Update

Mr. Lindholm explained the Legislature is discussing the funding cycle for schools. He is very disappointed as the percentage increase is not enough to cover actual expenses.

9. Chamber Update

There were no representatives from the Chamber attending the meeting.

10. BLAEDC Update

Sheila Haverkamp explained BLAEDC created a video and would like to present it to the City Council. The Execs are working on a program with the school for future entrepreneurs.

11. Other Business

Chair Jurchen urged everyone to look at the U of M Programs; the Retail Toolbox is important. The City is still discussing the turnbacks. E-Marketing is probably more important that signage to attract customers.

Mr. Lindholm stated the school has a new website and asked everyone to take a look.

With regard to E-Marketing, Commissioner Stroot stated this is the last year Louisiana will produce a state map.

9. Adjournment

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING AJOURNED
AT 9:17 A.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Dawn Bittner
Zoning Administrator/Administrative Specialist