

**MEETING OF THE PEQUOT LAKES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2016  
PEQUOT LAKES CITY HALL**

Members Present: Chair Jurchen, Commissioners Lindholm, Lubke, Rieck, and Sjoblad, and Stroot

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Jenna Crawford, Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber; Sheila Haverkamp, BLAEDC; Dawn Bittner, Zoning Specialist; Jim Park; Sheila Holley, Greater Lakes Association of Realtors

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jurchen at 8:00 a.m.

2. Approve EDC Minutes

**COMMISSIONER LINDHOLM MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 19, 2016 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES. COMMISSIONER STROOT SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

3. Jim Park from Jack Pine Center and Country Corner

Mr. Park stated he had been hired as property manager by Dale Lindquist who owns the Jack Pine Center and Country Corner to do what needed to be done, when what he really wanted was someone to find tenants in both spaces. It is rare to have successful businesses in these locations. They have parted company and Mr. Lindquist may hire a real estate company as management.

4. Thriving Communities Initiative (TCI)

a. Assembly of Core Teams

Chair Jurchen stated individuals are being invited to the informational meetings. Dawn Bittner gave a brief update of the August 11 information meeting. Mayor Lubke requested a list of those who attended the August 11 meeting.

b. Funding Discussion

Chair Jurchen stated most of the needed funds have been secured for the TCI and that Region Five is anxious to contribute.

c. Application Process

Chair Jurchen noted the narrative is complete and Commissioner Sjoblad is completing the application.

Commissioner Lindholm stated he spoke with Dan Frank and will speak to the School Advisory Committee to collect additional information that can be used through the TCI process.

Chair Jurchen reported he met with Dean Brandt of Expressions Shoes. Mr. Brandt has been upset with County Road 11 being closed; his sales are down this year about 8%. Mayor Sjoblad had reported the Hungry Loon's sales are up this year, as well as Beau Hanson from Lucky's. The Wild Daisy reports sales are down. He is receiving mixed reports. Commissioner Sjoblad stated SuperValu's sales are down, but that is not affected by County Road 11; it may be the addition of Aldi in Baxter. Chair Jurchen noted gas prices are low and people may be traveling further from home; we may not have as many people traveling to this area. Small businesses need to know where their customers come from.

Chair Jurchen stated he had been approached by Country Financial who is moving to Pequot Lakes, whether there were any incentives offered by the City. An EDA is something the City may want to look at, maybe jointly with other local communities.

Chair Jurchen further stated as he prepared the narrative for the TCI application he found there were 900 jobs from the large employers in Pequot Lakes and Jenkins. We are not a tourist town any more, we are a regional community.

Commissioner Lindholm stated he is championing the Thriving Communities Initiative. Leadership is key; we need to be sure to get the message out.

Sheila Haverkamp had been contacted by a prospect who may move to the area regarding different financing paths and what incentives may be available. Several years ago Tommy Woog wanted to have a conversation regarding incentives. There is the traditional TIF, and JOBZ. What can the City do over the traditional incentives? We never got to the end of that discussion. We should reiterate that conversation at some point. That might come through the Thriving Communities Initiative, actions may be addressed and recommendations may come out.

Sheila Holley reported 6 properties sold since the last meeting and Pequot Lakes is terribly short of rental units.

5. EDC Vacancy

Dawn Bittner informed the EDC that one application has been received for the EDC vacancy. **COMMISSIONER LINDHOLM MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE CITY COUNCIL APPOINT SHEILA HOLLEY TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER STROOT SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

6. School Update

The athletes began training yesterday. The parking lot expansion project is under way. The repair to the retaining wall at Eagle View is a \$50,000 project and has not been started.

7. Chamber Update

The Chamber begins a new fiscal year in September. The Blue Ox Business Academy is underway. Pedal Pequot will be in September. The Chamber is involved with the Thriving Communities Initiative, as well as many visitors. Stars and Stripes Days and Bean Hole Day were successful. Next year will be the 35<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of Bean Hole Days.

8. BLAEDC Update

There has been an uptick in interest in starting businesses. Workforce development has gained a lot of interest. Career Recruitment is being developed where a talent recruiter would be hired to meet area needs for a talented workforce. Sheila Haverkamp would like to present this issue at an upcoming meeting.

9. City of Jenkins Update

Mayor Lubke asked Commissioner Lindholm how the school is recruiting. Commissioner Lindholm stated they had an elementary position open and received fewer applicants than in the past. The labor market tightness has hit the school districts. The Crosby School District is spending a lot of money on recruitment; Pequot is looking at recruitment also.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dawn Bittner  
Zoning Specialist