

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Chair Jurchen, Commissioners Roggenkamp, Rieck, and Merritt

Members Absent: Commissioner Stroot

Others Present: Chris Lindholm, Pequot Lakes School Superintendent; Sandy Peine, City Clerk/Treasurer; David Sjoblad, Mayor; and Nancy Malecha, Finance Administrator/Deputy City Clerk

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Approve EDC Minutes

**COMMISSIONER ROGGENKAMP MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 21, 2015 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES. COMMISSIONER MERRITT SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

3. Update on Broadband in Rural Minnesota

4. City of Pequot Lakes Marketing Plan

6. School Update – ISD 186 World’s Best Workforce Plan

Chair Jurchen noted that agenda items 3, 4, and 6 coincide with one another and will be discussed together.

Chris Lindholm discussed the following report handouts regarding the Pequot Lakes School District.

- a. Revenue and expenditure reports for fiscal year 2013-2014 – Mr. Lindholm noted that the District ranked 318th out of 335 in revenue received per student from the State of Minnesota and explained how the District has made up for the funding gap.
- b. Local Optional Revenue reports – Mr. Lindholm stated that the District is spending \$500,000 more than what it receives in funding. The District has the authority to levy up to \$424 more per pupil which would generate \$768,627. He explained the impact to the District’s taxpayers and noted that 54% of these taxpayers own seasonal recreational property.
- c. World’s Best Workforce Plan – Mr. Lindholm explained that historically school systems were modeled like a production assembly line and this does not prepare students. The District has implemented this strategic Plan which consists of the following.
  1. Personalized, rigorous, and relevant learning experience for each student,
  2. Effective operations, continuous improvement systems, and professional development, and

3. Communications and partnerships.

Mr. Lindholm noted that teachers have already built the curriculum and the District is looking at ways to subsidize Google Chromebooks for each student to own at the secondary level. The plan is to have 100% saturation of devices for students in the secondary level.

Chair Jurchen noted that the challenge is the change in the paradigm of replacing textbooks with electronic devices. Chris Lindholm stated that the District has been moving textbook dollars toward technology devices in the classrooms and it is an appropriate time to implement this new paradigm.

Commissioner Rieck noted that this vision could excel students' passion for learning in the subjects that they enjoy. Chris Lindholm stated that technology is an accelerator for learning if a student loves the subject.

Chair Jurchen noted that the education system is using technology as a learning tool and broadband providers need to step up to the plate to provide the needs for the high concentration of people that could benefit.

Commissioner Merritt wondered in the Committee would like to hear from Charter Spectrum representatives on the broadband needs in this area. The consensus of the Committee was that this would be a good idea.

Chair Jurchen stated that TDS needs to be brought before the Committee to address the broadband concerns. If the Pequot Lakes area continues to be under-serviced, the FCC could be approached to offer other providers into the area.

Chair Jurchen turned the topic of discussion to the City's marketing plan and stated that a better job needs to be done to market the City by determining the message and who to market to.

5. 2016 Budget for Economic Development

No discussion took place.

7. Chamber Update

No update received.

8. BLAEDC Update

No update received.

9. Other Business

Mayor Sjoblad noted that with the upcoming TH 371 project the City will acquire 50 acres of land by the Pequot Lakes Industrial Park and this Committee needs to think about how to develop and market this area. Commissioner Roggenkamp stated that just like a business plan, objectives need to be determined along with strategies and steps to meet the objectives. Chris Lindholm noted that we need a vision for the 50 acres. Commissioner Rieck stated that we need to focus on the people who will frequent this area and what they need for accommodations.

Chair Jurchen questioned if local businesses should attend the next Committee meeting. Mayor Sjoblad noted that the new City Administrator should be on board by then and maybe the next Committee meeting could entail an introduction and visionary update of the Committee.

Chris Lindholm informed the Committee that a joint meeting with the School Board and the City Council is being planned for early next year to discuss re-locating the District's ball fields. Sandy Peine noted that at the next Committee meeting Tim Houle could put together a large map which would include the 50 acres that will be acquired by the City and the current industrial park. This would give the Committee the opportunity to see the layout and start the dialogue before the joint meeting next year.

The consensus of the Committee was to discuss the following at the next Committee meeting.

- a. Review the map provided by Tim Houle on the 50 acres of land the City will acquire.
- b. Develop a vision for this land.
- c. Review the multi-purpose fields sketch provided by the School District.

#### 10. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Malecha  
Finance Administrator/Deputy City Clerk