

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 15, 2013
MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Jurchen, Barb Merritt, Cindy Rieck, and Cindy Roggenkamp

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Sheila Haverkamp, BLAEDC; Mayor Nancy Adams and 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 of 8-20-2013 EDC Minutes

COMMISSIONER RIECK MOVED TO APPROVE THE 8/20/2013 EDC MINUTES. COMMISSIONER MERRITT SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

3. Discussion on EDC Member Replacement

Mark Jurchen informed the Commission that Bill Stroot had agreed to fill the vacancy on the Economic Development Commission. No other individuals were pursued. Mr. Jurchen explained that although Mr. Stroot does not live in Pequot Lakes, he has spent many years involved in economic development in our community. Mr. Stroot would be a good candidate as we are beginning discussions on technology issues and Mr. Stroot worked for Arvig, CTC and TDS.

Cindy Roggenkamp pointed out that when the tax district issue was being discussed, the City hired an outside agency with expertise to offer guidance.

It was the consensus of the Commission to move forward with Mr. Stroot's appointment; it is prudent to bring in talent that is needed.

Chair Jurchen will attend the upcoming City Council meeting.

4. Technology Discussion

Mark Jurchen presented Annual Report and Broadband Plan from the 2012 Governor's Task Force on Broadband. The full report will be emailed to the Commission members. Even though the Commission has been informed that fiber is available in the area, Pequot Lakes is still in a black hole. Fiber needs to

be made available to homes and businesses. It may be prudent to partner with other entities, such as the school

5. Business Expansion and Retention

Sheila Haverkamp reported that Central Lakes College received a grant from the Department of Education to provide new curriculum for certificates and degrees for technology education. The area needs workers to fill existing jobs, to grow the industry sector.

Phones and IPADS vs. Computers – should the Commission be thinking more about Verizon than TDS? In some instances, phones download/upload information quicker than computers. Sheila Haverkamp explained that information is only mobile for a very short time, until it reaches the nearest fiber. Infrastructure is still very important.

6. BLAEDC Update

Sheila Haverkamp reported that the Exec's are launching a "Rent A Board" for small businesses that need the resource, but not ready for their own Board of Directors. The "Rent A Board" will act as advisory council.

7. Chamber Update

Barb Merritt reported that business has been great and stated Dean Brandt had reported things have been good. Mayor Adams stated she is disturbed with the empty buildings. The Commission discussed some of the larger buildings could be re-established as both retail and office. Parking could be an issue with office space. Parking should be discussed in the future.

8. November Agenda Items

- Continue Technology Updates
- Chris Lindholm, School Superintendent - update

9. Other Business

Mayor Adams informed the Commission that the two Business Groups are going to merge. They will meet on the last Tuesday of the month and will be called Pequot Promoters.

Mark Jurchen reported that he is representing the EDC at the Highway 371 turnback meetings. It is necessary for the City to examine the roadways they may be asked to take over at some future time. There will be considerable cost to the City for maintenance, etc. in the future.

10. Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Bittner
Zoning Administrator