

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
APRIL 16, 2013
MEETING MINUTES**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Sandy Peine, City Clerk; Sheila Haverkamp, BLAEDC; Dawn Bittner, Zoning Administrator; and Mayor Adams

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jurchen at 8:01 a.m.

2. Approval of 3-19-2013 EDC Minutes

COMMISSIONER ROGGENKAMP MOVED TO APPROVE THE 3/19/2013 EDC MINUTES. COMMISSIONER MERRITT SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

3. Urban and Rural Taxing Districts

The EDC reviewed the Springsted proposal for the urban and rural district tax rate analysis. The EDC wanted to note that they would like to see the affect on the residential properties if the tax rates were the same in the urban and rural districts. The EDC stated that they would also like to see how the equalization of taxes would affect the commercial city tax rate. The EDC is interested in trying to lower the commercial tax rates.

It was the consensus of the EDC to have Springsted complete an analysis of a phase-in of the current rural tax rate to that of the urban tax rate and to outline the impact to various tax payers based on the following objectives:

1. That an analysis be done on as many property classifications as possible, but especially on the following:
 - A. Residential
 - B. Lakeshore
 - C. Non-lakeshore
 - D. Homestead
 - E. Non-homestead
 - F. Commercial
2. That the phase-in period for the urban tax rate to the rural tax rate is 6 years which is the same phase-in period used for the commercial property in the original annexation agreement.
3. That the tax rate is based on the 2013 levy with the knowledge that the tax rate will be affected by either an increase or decrease in the levy in future years.

4. That the study is done based on the assumption that all districts are receiving equal services.

4. Technology Issues

The EDC discussed the necessity of having cutting edge broadband infrastructure in the area. Chair Jurchen noted that the internet is getting slower and this is a time where it is very important to ensure that the area offers up-to-date fiber optics infrastructure. He noted that there is a need for more speed and capacity which would allow people to do work from home.

The EDC suggested surveying the community to see if their needs are being met in this area. The EDC suggested that the Chamber of Commerce could possibly conduct this survey. The EDC requested the Clerk to contact Bob Perkins to attend the June EDC meeting and provide an update as to where TDS is going with broadband infrastructure. The EDC also requested Sheila Haverkamp to attend the May meeting to provide some education for the EDC in the world of fiber optics and broadband.

The EDC would like to learn what the area of Pequot has and what the future holds regarding broadband infrastructure. The EDC would like to reach out to other companies like Landis-Gyr to see if their needs are being met.

5. Highway 371 Update

Chair Jurchen questioned whether the EDC wants to take an active role in this project or whether they want to be a support for the Chamber. Mayor Adams suggested that the Planning Commission take the lead on the Highway 371 project. She noted that the Planning Commission is already working on the corridors into the City. She also suggested that business owners be included in the process. The Mayor suggested that the City should communicate to all of the businesses in the City, not just the Chamber representatives.

Chair Jurchen suggested that the City keep in contact with the State Legislators to inform them of the importance of moving forward with this project. The Mayor noted that she has sent letters to all area legislators signed by Mayors from surrounding towns regarding the Highway 371 project.

Chair Jurchen stated it is important to keep pressure on the legislators and let them know the importance of completing this project.

It was the consensus of the EDC to offer support.

6. BLAEDC Update

Sheila gave an update on Technology companies in the area. Sheila also talked about a pilot project through DEED relating to a work study skills path called NCRC.

7. Chamber Update

Update by Mark Jurchen.

8. May Agenda Items

- Sheila Haverkamp - Technology Primer Class
- Urban rural taxation districts

9. Other Business

Sheila Haverkamp suggested that the Mayor and Chair Jurchen visit with the EDA Chair of Crosslake, Patty Norgaard.

10. Adjournment

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, VICE CHAIR JURCHEN
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:13 A.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Peine
City Clerk