

**MEETING OF THE PEQUOT LAKES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020**

Members Present: Vice Chair Rieck; Commissioners Crochet, Holley, Lelwica, and Lubke attended virtually via Zoom; Commissioner Becklin attended in person.

Members Absent: Chair Lindholm

Others Present: Angie Duus, City Clerk/Treasurer and Jennifer Peterson, Administrative Assistant attended in person; Katie Wassermann, Pequot Chamber of Commerce; and Tyler Glynn, BLAEDC attended virtually via Zoom.

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Consider Agenda

**COMMISSIONER LUBKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER CROCHET SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

3. Approve EDC Minutes

**COMMISSIONER CROCHET MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 19, 2020 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES AND THE JUNE 1, 2020 SPECIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES. COMMISSIONER LELWICA SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

4. Council Action Update for Xcel Energy Business Proposal

4.1. Purchase Agreement

4.2. Tax Increment Financing District

4.3. BDPI Grant

Angie Duus informed the Commission that the City Council approved the Excel Energy Business Proposal at the June 2, 2020 meeting for Nancy Malecha to start the purchase agreement with Xcel Energy. Ms. Duus stated the City will be doing a TIF with the project and the process for that will begin in the fall. She also stated that the City Council approved the \$5,000 Business Development Public Infrastructure (BDPI) Grant Writing Services Contract with WSN and that process will begin immediately due to grant funds becoming available on July 1, 2020.

Commissioner Becklin verified Xcel Energy's cost per acre is \$45,000. Commissioner Lelwica asked where the money for WSN to help with the BDPI grant is coming from and Ms. Duus stated the funding will be taken from the Business Park Fund.

5. Business Relief Considerations

Commissioner Becklin stated that he is looking for ideas on how to help the businesses in Pequot Lakes and asked if anyone had any ideas or thoughts.

Ms. Duus informed the EDC Commission that the City Council offered some incentives to residents and businesses. She stated that in May and June they approved a two thirds reduction in businesses liquor licenses. She said that Crow Wing County had done something similar with their liquor licenses. The Council waived water and sewer late fees from March to June. Crow Wing County is offering a relief program to residents and businesses affected by COVID-19 to pay property taxes by July 15, 2020. Ms. Duus also stated that there are reference links on the City website for state programs or services to help businesses with loans or grants. She also stated that there is the Lakes Country Cares Website that contains a lot of resources for businesses.

Vice Chair Rieck stated the Initiative Foundation has a website that could be useful and she saw a grant called Hello Alice Emergency COVID-19 Grant which is for \$10,000. She said if she remembers right it was leaning towards women owned businesses and minority businesses. She stated according to the article in the Her Voice Magazine Pequot Lakes has a lot of female owned businesses in town that could possibly qualify.

Tyler Glynn said if the Commission has some additional people looking for resources they can get in touch with him. He stated BLAEDC has access to information on grants that are sitting out there. He stated that some of them are a little tough to find and with some of them the money runs out very quickly when the grant becomes available. Mr. Glynn stated another thing to potentially consider is if the CARES money comes through to the County and to the Cities, there will be additional funds that will be dispersed that only can be used for COVID-19 responses.

6. School Update

No update was given.

7. Chamber Update

Katie Wassermann stated the Chambers official press release was sent out to the media June 15, 2020 that they are moving forward with summer events in an adapted and a social distancing friendly way that follows the state guidelines. She said they eliminated all the Chamber planned activities, such as the parade and high touch activities like the corn hole tournament, bouncy houses, and a rock climbing wall. Ms. Wassermann stated there will still be fireworks, bands in

the park, and a craft fair. She stated that they are spreading the craft fair throughout the park and down streets. She also said they will have the food vendors and Water Wars. Ms. Wassermann stated that they are encouraging businesses to do individual activities and encourage everyone to follow all the state guidelines regarding social distancing.

Ms. Wassermann stated the Bean Hole Days will require people to sign up for time slots for the beans. She said the Chamber is also offering packages where people can get beans to go.

Commissioner Becklin inquired who would be paying for the Fireworks as well as where people can donate. Ms. Wasserman stated the Chamber will sell bracelets to raise the funds and accept funds that could come in. She said they also received a donation from the Sibley Lake Association in the amount of \$2,000 however the fireworks fund is still short \$2,000.

8. BLAEDC Update

Mr. Glynn wanted to commend the EDC Commission and City Council for moving forward with the Xcel Energy project. He stated BLAEDC has a key recruitment program and he sees encouraging signs for employment opportunities and our area economy.

Mr. Glynn stated they are looking at a couple loans for the Unified Fund which means businesses are still continuing with original plans with potential expansion and growth. He stated that he is getting less calls regarding funding relating to business relief considerations. Mr. Glynn said that with the grant program Brainerd kicked off they ended up granting out \$90,000. He said they had eight additional grant applications that did not meet the cutoff and they ran out of money but the Brainerd City Council approved another \$24,000 to provide \$3,000 grants to these other eight businesses that had applied. Mr. Glynn said the City of Emily also did a Minnesota Investment Funds where they were able to release and grant out money to some of their businesses as well.

Commissioner Lubke inquired where the funds came from for the grant program. Mr. Glynn stated the City of Brainerd held onto some MN Investment Funds that could be used for general operations instead of placing all of it into the Unified Fund. Mr. Glynn said they were able to utilize those funds for grants to local businesses due to the impact of COVID-19. He said the businesses that received the funds did need to utilize the funds for COVID-19 within a 2 month period and update the City on how the money was used.

10. City of Jenkins Update

Mr. Lubke stated the County is redoing County Road 145.

11. Other Business

Mr. Glynn asked the Commission how the activity is in Pequot Lakes. Commissioners Lelwica and Holley stated they have noticed there is a lot more traffic in Pequot Lakes. Ms. Wassermann did say that the door activity at the Chamber building has increased as well. She also said she has seen the foot and bicycle traffic on the Paul Bunyan Trail increase as well as vehicle traffic on Government drive.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, **COMMISSIONER HOLLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER LELWICA SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.** The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Angie Duus  
City Clerk/Treasurer

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