

**MEETING OF THE PEQUOT LAKES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024 (DRAFT)**

Members Present: Commission Chair Matt Lottman; Commission Members Bradley Becklin, Michelle Lehwica, Mark Hallan, and Sheila Holley

Members Absent: All present

Others Present: Traci Pederson: Zoning Administrator, Scott Pederson: EDC Council Liaison, Mark Jurchen, Kurt Stumpf, Tyler Glynn, Colleen Faacks

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lottman at 8:05 a.m.

2. Consider Agenda

No changes.

3. Approve EDC Minutes

**COMMISSION HOLLEY MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE EDC MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 17, AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 24, 2024. COMMISSION LELWICA SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

4. School Update

Kurt Stumpf provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the failed referendum. The district gathered information from an outside source sending a survey to 500 random community members to collect thoughts on what they'd support and pay for vs. not for facilities. The district is now in the planning phase for possible next steps based on those results. They're still unsure when they'll go out for the next referendum, noting the earliest would-be April, but it could also be May or November 2025.

*Operating Levy/Referendum = operating expenses.* This is for salaries, benefits, curriculum; anything used for operating. This excludes seasonal/recreational taxpayers, this is a state decision/formula.

*Capital Projects Levy = State says this type of levy can only be used for specific things such as: maintenance, technology, and transportation.* This helps to offset the general funds' costs. Going for this type of levy shares the burden with *all* taxpayers in Pequot Lakes, year-round, seasonal and recreational taxpayers. Thus, reducing the impact to residential property taxpayers.

5. Workforce Housing Update

Mark Jurchen stated HOTGL closing dates for land purchases have been delayed. Hotel set to close by the end of October 2024, and the Apartments are now mid-January 2025.

6. BLAEDC Update

Tyler Glynn talked about the routing method for incoming emails from the EDC sites 'contact us' tab. Chair Lottman would like these to go to city staff (Traci Pederson) and an EDC member. Commission Holley stated she'd take on the emails for the EDC, in addition to Traci. BLAEDC will route them as such going forward.

Other updates from BLAEDC:

Tyler talked about their entrepreneur program. This is a free service BLAEDC provides where they serve as consultations for start-up businesses etc. This is the second year of this program, BLAEDC has found it very beneficial.

Chair Lottman introduced Colleen Faacks, our Pequot Lakes Chamber Director to all those in attendance. Faacks took a moment to introduce herself, stating she's excited about this opportunity and impressed with what she's seen and heard throughout the community in her short time in the role of Director. Lottman stated he's excited to work with Faacks and the Chamber. He's hopeful Colleen will be able to attend the EDC monthly meetings in which we'll include a 'Chamber Update' on the agenda going forward.

7. EDC Goals

Commission Hallan reported back on his snow removal findings for businesses after talking with Nisswa staff. The City of Nisswa staff currently does not remove snow for their downtown businesses. They're revisiting this topic to ensure whatever process is decided is most effective by cost and time, for their public works team.

*(Commission Hallan left, 9:07 am)*

Commission Lelwica asked if Public Works staff would be able to attend next month's EDC meeting to connect on the snow removal topic for downtown businesses in Pequot Lakes. We will have Nick Roy, Public Works Supervisor, attend to listen and provide his thoughts on the topic.

Commission Lelwica read her version of what could be considered an updated EDC Mission Statement:

*The Pequot Lakes Economic Development Commission (EDC) is committed to providing strategic direction and innovative leadership in economic development. We aim to cultivate, encourage and sustain growth in the commercial, industrial, and residential sectors. Our mission is to assist the City of Pequot Lakes in enhancing Pequot Lakes and the greater Brainerd Lakes area as a dynamic region for business prosperity, community development, and quality living, ensuring it remains an attractive destination for both new residents and long-term economic investment.*

**COMMISSION HOLLEY MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE UPDATED EDC MISSION STATEMENT. COMMISSION BECKLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

8. City Council Update

Commission Holley recapped the October 7 Council meeting.

9. Other Business

- a. Community Shuttle Update/Public Transportation
  - a. Interfaith Volunteers Program will be going in utility billing as an option for our community.
  - b. Commission Lelwica spoke with Jesse Dean, CWC Public Works Director. Jesse stated they're working on data and will have additional information next month.
- b. Cannabis Ordinance discussion
  - a. A Subcommittee has been formed, more information to come.

11. Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, COMMISSION HOLLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN THE EDC MEETING. COMMISSION BECKLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Traci Pederson  
Zoning Administrator